MONISM? THOUGHTS SUGGESTED BY PROFESSOR HAECKEL'S BOOK 'THE RIDDLE OF THE UNIVERSE'

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649486335

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

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MONISM?

THOUGHTS SUGGESTED BY PROFESSOR HAECKEL'S BOOK 'THE RIDDLE OF THE UNIVERSE'

BY

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R. W. FELKIN, M.D., F.R.S.E., BTC.
AUTHOR OF 'TROPICAL DISBASES IN AFRICA,' BTC.

'All that is wise and clever has already been thought; now we must try and think the thoughts again.'—GORTHE.



LONDON
REBMAN LIMITED
129 SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, W.C.
1907

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PREFACE

In the following pages the author has brought together some 'afterthoughts,' using the term in its widest sense. He lays no claim either to priority or to originality; should thoughts appear in this book which the reader has not met with elsewhere so much the better.

The author is well aware that he has only been able to consider afresh thoughts which have been considered already by countless thinkers; all he claims to do is to reconsider and restate thoughts which he has heard or read at any time or in any place.

Repetitions and at times a wealth of examples are intentional, in order to render clear thought more easy; the reader who does not need such aids will pardon them.

S. PH. MARCUS.

BERLIN.

TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

This little volume has been written with the object of stimulating men and women to think. I trust that it may succeed in this aim in its English dress also.

Materialism is spreading far and wide to-day, and it seems to me that this is largely due to want of sound thinking. The rush and hurry of modern life too often prevents deep or sound thinking, and leads many people to take their views of life and faith ready-made. A great name leads, or misleads, the popular ideas as to what is false and what is true.

Now, Haeckel has a great name (and justly so, for he is a great scientist), and hundreds of his books are being read with avidity by those whose training does not enable them to separate the wheat from the tares, with the natural result that they get mental and moral indigestion. On the Continent some thirty churches have been founded to worship his 'Mighty Atom'!

In this small book the author has sought to

provide, as it were, thought tabloids containing an antidote. He asks his readers not to skim hastily, but rather to absorb slowly and assimilate his tabloids. If they do so, they will doubtless find that, if they possess a moderate amount of common-sense, much can be said upon the other side in reply to that tremendous problem, 'The Riddle of the Universe.'

With regard to the translation, the author has been very anxious that it should be as literal as possible, and it may, perhaps, have suffered in the endeavour to fulfil his wishes. Be that as it may, it is offered with the conviction that no one can read it without perceiving the pitfalls into which some scientists lead their thoughtless followers.

ROBERT W. FELKIN.

London,

February, 1907.