THE LIMERATOMY. A COMPEDIUM OF UNIVERSAL KNOWLEDGE FOR THE MORE PERFECT UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUMAN MACHINE

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The limeratomy. A compedium of universal knowledge for the more perfect understanding of the human machine by Anthony Euwer

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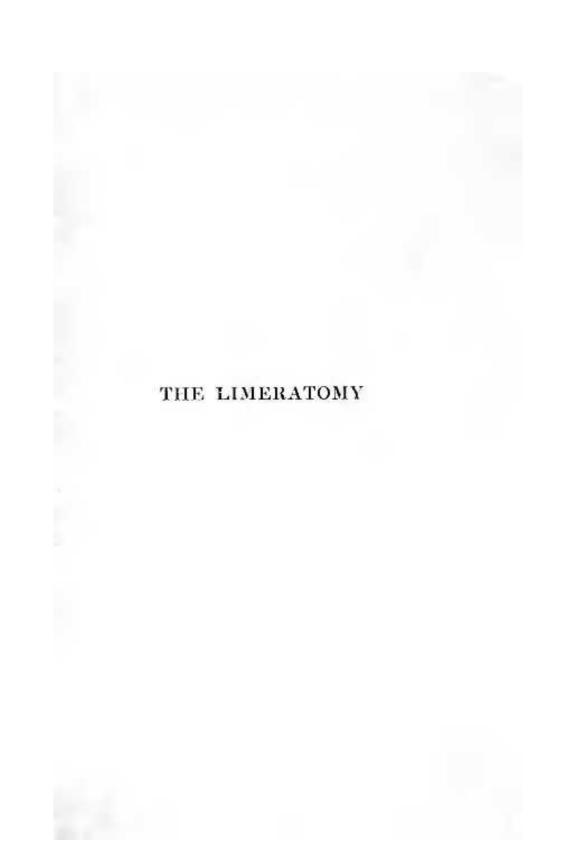
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ANTHONY EUWER

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As I lay in my bed on the flat o' me, I was shocked at the sight of the fat o' me, So to keep my nerves steady, I concocted and edited this luminous, lim'rick anatomy.

THE LIMERATOMY

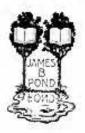
A COMPENDIUM OF UNIVERSAL KNOWLEDGE

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MORE PERFECT UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUMAN MACHINE

> BY ANTHONY EUWER

Done in the Limerick Tongue and Copiously Visualized with Illustragraphs by the Perpetrator



New York JAMES B. POND 1917

DEDICATION

When I get next to facts, I'm afraid I'm Inclined more or less to parade 'em, Hence I gladly inscribe To the medical tribe Whatsoever they find here to aid 'em. For the privilege of using a number of the limericks and drawings in "The Limeratomy," the author wishes especially to thank the publishers of Collier's for their courtesy. Also the Associated Sunday Magazine.

PREFACE

There is probably no order of verse that has met with higher-browed disdain than the lowly limerick. Some poeticians would place it beside the seacucumber in the scale of poetic animal life. Others go still further, terming it the Ford of poetic locomotion. True poetry-poets of the thirty-five cent magazines as well as newspaper rhymsters of low degree have conspired alike to accomplish its downfall. It has no place among the exquisitries of modern poesy. It has been banished from the councils of the profession. But the office-boy, the printer's devil, the man of the street—they have welcomed the waif. Honest, direct and unpretentious—it has found a lodging place in the heart of the multitude.

Many find joy in committing the limerick to memory, some commit them to the public, while there are those who prefer to commit them with other secret crimes in the innermost recesses of their own souls. Where is the man who has not committed the limerick in some form or other? Find him and you will find one whose heart is hermetically hardened—a boob, a billy goat and an undesirable citizen.

The spirit of the time demands a cipher code for the expression and recording of its impressions. The limerick is the logical outcome of that spirit. It is the crystalized answer to the universal need.

Just here one is reminded that there is still a certain faction whose conception of the limerick is somewhat incomplete and hazy. A couplet or a ballad or a sonnet perchance, if couched in sufficiently rollicking rhyme, may run a grave chance of becoming a limerick to the uninitiated. This is to be deplored, for the personality of the limerick rests largely on the preciseness of its form. Craving the patience of the more literate, the writer begs to submit the following constructive definition of the limerick.

> Once you've got a good notion with pith Then you rhyme it with something like "myth," Rhyming on a bit more In lines three and four, Matching up with the first in the fifth.

In a recent magazine article on phonetic spelling, there appeared a statement that read something as follows—"If introduced into the public schools, it would mean a saving of an hour a day for each pupil and about ten millions of dollars annually to the state."

What a tremendous saving might likewise have been accomplished, both for themselves and posterity, had some of our literary giants made straight for their goal on the wings of the limerick. Homer, Dante, Shakespeare and Robert W. Chambers! What a shrivelling of ponderous tomes! What robust years saved for useful pursuits! Had Shakes-