

**THE WAGGONER ON THE FOOTPLATE**

**LONDON AGENTS.**  
**SIMPKIN MARSHALL LTD.**

**THE WAGGONER ON  
THE FOOTPLATE**

**BY**

**LIONEL BIRCH**

**CAMBRIDGE:**

**W. HEFFER & SONS LTD.**

**1933**

**PRINTED IN ENGLAND**

## THE WAGGONER ON THE FOOTPLATE

*A comment upon the survival of the superstition of scarcity in an age of plenty.*

"It is the survival, so to say, of the waggoner on the footplate of an express engine which has made the modern history of nations a series of such breathless adventures and hairbreadth escapes."

*Instincts of the Herd in Peace and War,*  
by W. TROTTER

FOR B. P.-J.

## PREFACE

THIS book does not pretend to be original, and it is in no sense a professional book. It is eclectic. It aspires to the position of a middleman of ideas. The ingredients are, almost without exception, old; it is at a partially new synthesis that an attempt has been made. Accordingly, I have not felt it illegitimate to quote literally *ad lib.* In most cases the debt owed to those from whom the quotations are taken will be implicitly apparent; but the amount of acknowledgment due in particular to two persons is not likely adequately to appear from the text.

To the lectures and writings of Mr. I. A. Richards, and to the lectures and conversations of Mr. Mansfield Forbes, I am more indebted than I can indicate.

## CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. INTRODUCTORY - - - - -	1
II. THE PARABLE OF THE WEEK-END -	5
SECTION I (A)	
III. THE AGE OF PLENTY - - - - -	10
IV. THE TWIN IMPLICATIONS OF THE AGE OF PLENTY - - - - -	14
V. THE "OBLIGATION TO COMMUNISM" - -	22
SECTION II (B)	
VI. THE DECLINE OF INSTITUTIONAL RELIGION	27
VII. THE SUBSTITUTES FOR RELIGION - -	33
VIII. DRUGS AND STIMULI - - - - -	39
IX. THE DRUG IN LITERATURE - - - - -	46
X. THE DRUG IN THE THEATRE - - - - -	66
XI. OTHER WEEK-END DRUGS - - - - -	78
XII. SUMMARY - - - - -	88
SECTION III (A and B)	
XIII. THE POINTS WHERE THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE AGE SHOWS ITSELF - -	90
SECTION IV (A)	
XIV. WHAT IS DESIRABLE - - - - -	98
XV. HOW POVERTY CAN BE ABOLISHED - -	103
XVI. THE FUTILITY OF POLITICIANS - -	115
SECTION V	
XVII. ON THE ABROGATION OF SISYPHISM -	124
XVIII. CONCLUSION - - - - -	132
EPILOGUE TO POLITICIANS - - -	142