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JACQUES LOEB

## CONTENTS

<i>Jacques Loeb</i> : DR. P. A. LEVENE, PROFESSOR W. J. V. OSTERHOUT .....	427
<i>The Subject-matter of a Course in Physical Chemistry</i> : DR. W. H. RODEBUSH .....	430
<i>The Harvard Botanical Garden in Cuba</i> : PROFESSOR E. M. EAST .....	433
<i>Scientific Events</i> :	
<i>Immunization against Pneumonia; Expedition to the Valley of the Amazon; Prizes of the New York Academy of Sciences; International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry; The Section of Mathematical and Physical Sciences of the British Association</i> .....	434
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i> .....	436
<i>University and Educational Notes</i> .....	439
<i>Discussion and Correspondence</i> :	
<i>Magnetization Curve, Names for its Parts</i> : PROFESSOR VLADIMIR KARAPETOFF. <i>The Learning Curve for a Snail</i> : PROFESSOR THOMAS R. GARTH .....	440
<i>Scientific Books</i> :	
<i>Allport on Social Psychology</i> : DR. F. L. WELLS.....	440
<i>The National Academy of Sciences</i> .....	442
<i>Science News</i> .....	x

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## JACQUES LOEB, THE MAN

JACQUES LOEB, savant, philosopher, mechanist, satirist, rebel, crusader, humanitarian—of whom shall I write these lines? The man is so big and still so near—too difficult to be embraced by a friend's eye, more so to be analyzed. I see his face, sunshine and shadows, smiles and frowns. How rapidly they interchanged, each capturing by its own force. Man-kind and its weaknesses were his concern and the thoughts of these brought on the clouds, but to him, nothing was so sad as to be void of the humorous and thus the very grief begot amusement. And then there was Science, the guardian, the hope, the weapon!

I see Jacques Loeb at his desk in his modest home among his devoted family and surrounded by pictures of his spiritual friends, Voltaire, Diderot, D'Alambert, the men who dreamed of a realm where Reason was supreme authority, where all the crudities of superstition and outlived traditions were no longer permitted to crush human aspirations and human ambitions, where tolerance towered above all virtues. In them Jacques Loeb found his inspiration, their dreams became his dreams, their ideals he sponsored and to them he remained loyal and true through all his career and under all circumstances. It may not seem credible that a man who in his main pursuit was led by pure intellect should be moved by a motive emotional, should be inspired by the fire of a poet, by the zeal of a crusader. But such is the truth.

The efforts of Voltaire, Diderot and the entire group of encyclopedists were not in vain. The great French Revolution is the monument to their lives. But years passed and new tyrannies arose, new superstitions superseded the old and some of the old took a renewed hold. Times have changed and the methods of the old humanitarians no longer fitted the new conditions. Words, beautiful as they may be, eloquent as they may sound, were not the weapon Jacques Loeb chose to use in his struggle against superstition, in his crusade for intellectual freedom and for mutual tolerance. His ambition was to convince by realities hidden from the common eye. Thus, Jacques Loeb espoused Science, not merely as a career, nor as a medium to satisfy his personal curiosities. Science became his idol, his armor and his armament.

I see Jacques Loeb in his laboratory, again simple, surrounded by very few instruments and apparatus. From the walls are looking at him his old friends,

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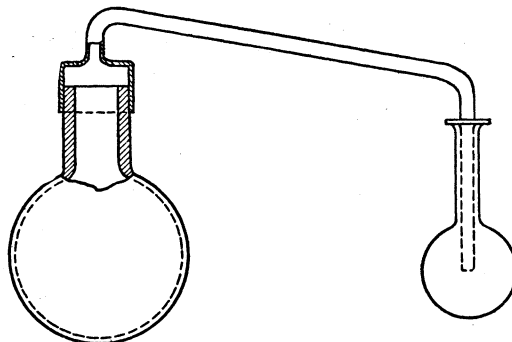
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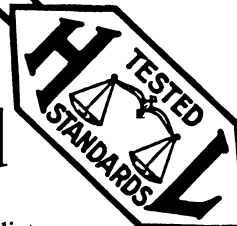
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