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GOD ONLY KNOWS.

No eye has scanned the inner strife
That rages in the human breast;
No listening ear can catch the life—
The dying life, robbed of all zest.
To hope, to hope, is life, is heaven;
To grandly hope will be forgiven.
The life which wrestles long and late
With pitiless, unyielding fate,
May in the deepening shadows fall,
Deprived of hope, of heart, of all.
He may have bent his stedfast soul
On heights too lofty and too grand.
And barely missed his shining goal;—
God only knows how well he planned!

He may have strained each quivering nerve,
To grasp the treasure unattained;
Fixed as the rock that cannot swerve,
To clasp the trophy not yet gained.
His heart may rise with billowed hope,
And sink again within the deep.
As nearing joy reveals its scope,
Or grim despair draws near to weep.
So readily the surging breast
Obeys the storm's or calm's behest;
So easy swept by every wave,
In grief so faint, in joy so brave.
But through a long life, tempest-tossed
The chart of peace and compass lost,
What wonder if his eyes grow dim,
While mocked by hope which never brought
A perfect picture home to him?—
God only knows how well he wrought.

And though he folds his hands at last
To quit the now, and seek the then,
And catches from the vanished past
A glimpse of what he might have been;
Among the countless silent throng
That never sings the victor's song—
He knows, though never of that few—
He failed; though, failing, still was true.
If from the strife no laureled crown
Is borne away—an earthly prize—
Still as he lays his life-work down,
God only knows how well he dies.

E. A. BOYDEN in *Omaha Daily World.*

ELECTRICITY.

[We present herewith a full report of the first lecture on "Electricity," delivered under the auspices of the Students' Society of the Salt Lake Stake Academy, by Prof. Jas. E Talmage. The publication of the report has been intentionally delayed for some little time, so that it could immediately precede the report of Prof. Talmage's second lecture on the same subject which was delivered a week ago and will be published in an early issue. Ed.]

The title applied to the lecture of the evening is so broad and comprehensive, that we can hope to do little more than consider its general outline. It was some 600 years before the time of Christ, that the Grecian philosopher, Thales, rubbed a bit of amber on silk, and wondered at the result. We will repeat his experiment. Here is a bit of amber, in which, by the way, a fossilized beetle has been preserved in all its natural brilliancy of hue; I rub it briskly on a silk handkerchief; and now, as you see, it attracts this bit of wool and this tiny feather, much as a magnet or loadstone attracts a needle. This simple process when first performed, was the means of suggesting others by way of farther trial, and before long it was known that many substances shared with amber this peculiar property. The Greek word for amber was *Electron*; and from that our term electricity has been derived. It was not till 1600 A. D., that any system or classification was attempted in the study of this peculiar force; but in the year stated, Dr. Gilbert, of Colchester, England, published an extended list of substances possessing the electric property like amber.

I hold in my hand a glass rod; also a dark colored piece of silk. Both have been slightly warmed, so as to prevent the condensation of any vapor from the atmosphere of the room. I bring, as you see, the glass rod near this little ball of elder-pith suspended by a silk thread from a convenient hook. No striking effect is produced. Now I rub the glass vigorously with the silk, and once more approach the suspended ball of pith;—now you perceive that the ball is drawn towards the rod. (Fig. 1.)

There is no special virtue in the pith-ball used in this experiment, other than that of convenience.

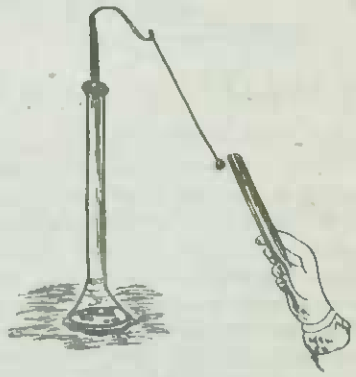

Fig. 1. Electric Attraction.

Any light substance would answer; a bit of cork, or a shred of paper, or as you see here, a hollow ball of brass; though in this last instance, the ball being heavy, considerable friction must be bestowed on the rod before its power of attraction is sufficient to move the ball. Let us now carefully repeat the experiment with the ball of pith; as before, the ball is drawn toward the excited glass rod; it touches the rod now; clings to it for an instant, and is then driven forcibly away. As I

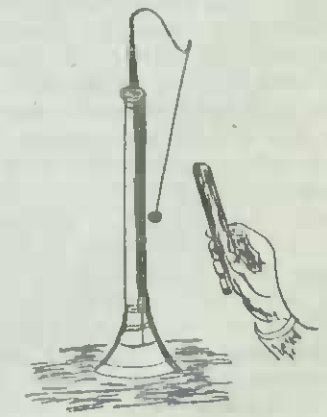

Fig. 2. Electric Repulsion.

bring the rod once more near, you notice that the ball is strongly repelled. (Fig. 2.)