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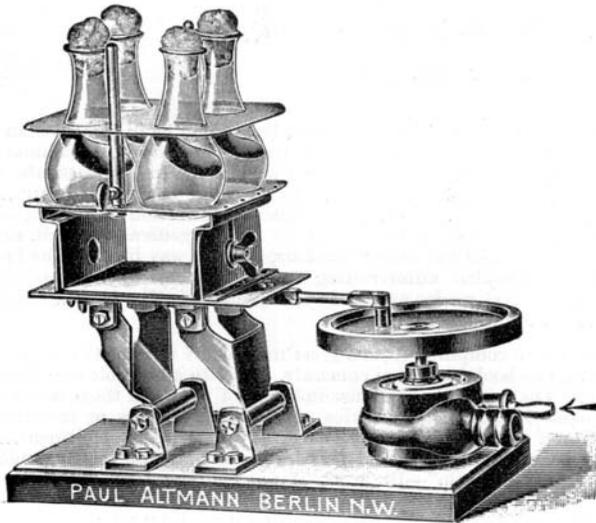
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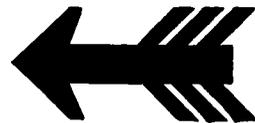
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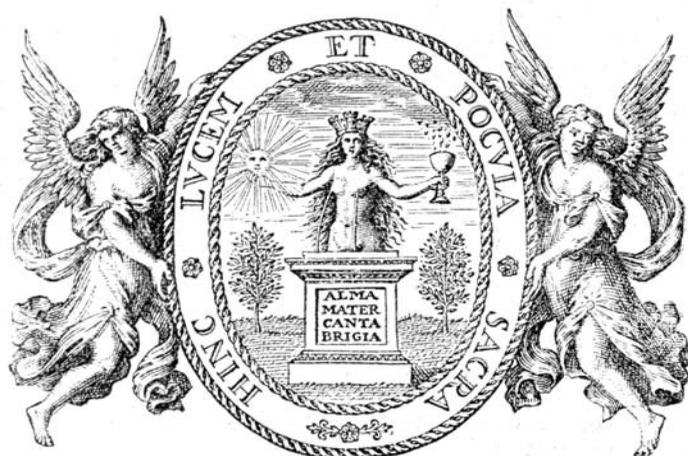
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Like all Chaucer students I am greatly indebted to the modern editors of *The Canterbury Tales*, especially Professor Skeat and Mr Pollard; and the Introduction owes something also to the interesting little book on Chaucer by M. Legouis, recently published in the series *Les grands écrivains étrangers*.

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*Extract from the Introduction*

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The trade of the East India Company presents peculiar difficulties as a subject for an essay by reason of its extreme complexity. It might have been possible to deal with each branch of the trade separately, collecting statistics and tracing commercial developments in a manner which would have been useful to the economist. I preferred, however, to trace the gradual development of the trading corporation into a political power, and to describe carefully the economic and other causes which led to this transformation. In Chapters V and VI, I have collected together various statistics and details of trade.

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*Extract from the Preface*

The development of the theory of cross-ratio is due, quite independently of each other, to Möbius and to Chasles. Some employment of its principles is met with in the various treatises on what is sometimes called Modern Geometry which have subsequently appeared, but as far as I am aware there is no English text-book exclusively devoted to it. The power of the method of cross-ratio, as an instrument of analysis, it is not easy to over-rate. In the facility with which it deals alike with the range and pencil, with the points and line at infinity, with questions relating to concurrency and collinearity, loci and envelopes, it can compare not unfavourably with the methods of analytical geometry, and in those questions to which it is specially applicable, the steps necessary to establish any result are few in number, and are mostly of the same character, dealing as a rule with the homography of certain ranges or pencils, with the additional advantage that the geometrical meaning of each step is in general obvious.

Again, in dealing with pairs of imaginary points, analytical geometry is generally content with the recognition of their occurrence owing to certain relations between the coefficients of an equation; but the theory of cross-ratio goes further, and not only gives us the geometrical conditions under which they occur, but it gives us the actual position of their mid-point, and the value of the rectangle formed by the segments joining them to a real point.

This treatise naturally divides itself into two parts. In Chapters I—X, which deal exclusively with the point and straight line, the only knowledge of geometry which the reader is assumed to possess is that of the fundamental properties of similar triangles and ratio, and I have thought it advisable to make this part of the subject quite self-contained. ...In the second part, beginning with Chapter XI, I have adopted B. W. Horne's method of applying the theory of cross-ratio to the conic.

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The book could not have seen the light, but for the very practical interest taken in the matter by the Council of the Royal Geographical Society, who not only paid for the reproduction of the maps, but also supplied the greater part of the funds necessary before the printing of the text could be undertaken. Towards this end assistance was also received from the Royal Colonial Institute, the African Society, and the Royal Meteorological Society; and I beg here gratefully to acknowledge the kindness of these four Societies.

A word as to the arrangement of the text. The maps are first dealt with, then the general climatic conditions are considered for each month, after which the various countries, colonies, and protectorates are treated in detail in separate sections, grouped into four great divisions—North, Tropical West, Tropical East, and South—the second being subdivided into a Northern and Southern area.

A paragraph on productions will be found at the end of each section, or group of sections, followed by climatological tables, the rainfall at selected stations being given last.

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This study has its origin in an attempt to set out the historical relations between the ideas about the thunderweapon which are known to have prevailed on Greek soil at various periods: in the Mycenaean age (the double-axe of bronze) in the early historical ages (the classical keraunos, the thunder-weapon of Zeus), and in modern ages (the stone axes). It proved, however, impossible to arrive at any well-grounded opinion from a consideration of Greek territory only, for the evolution in Greece did not become intelligible until seen in its connection with the corresponding ideas among other peoples.

The main reason why the ideas of Scandinavia, and not those of ancient Greece, were made the starting-point in the exposition, was the fact that no publication concerning them had hitherto appeared in literature. The greater part of the matter had first to be collected from the existing popular tradition. Many communications have been received through the *Dansk Folkemindesamling* (Danish Folklore Collection) in answer to an appeal in the papers. Another part of the material, which proved to be of the first importance in regard to the questions treated here, had also to be brought before the public from collections made at first hand, viz. the objects belonging to the thunder-stone worship in southern India, procured by Löventhal, a missionary, and sent by him, accompanied by his careful observations, to the National Museum.

The Danish edition of *The Thunderweapon* was published in 1909 by Tillge, Copenhagen, as No. 79 of the series *Studier fra Sprog- og Oldtidsforskning udgivne af det philologisk-historiske Samfund*. To the present book much new material and a number of new illustrations have been added. Some of the photographs were taken in foreign museums, and one in a remote mountain village of southern India.

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