



THIS may after all be the right track: to warn young people against books or at least against book collecting, for one may easily become enslaved and enveloped by books. In fact, beware of books. Some biologist has stated that if Nature could take her course, unimpeded, the world would be populated with elephants wallowing about knee deep in a seething mass of mice. This man knew nothing of books. As a species they are imperishable, and against their multiplication Nature has no chance whatsoever. The time will come when every tree has been felled for paper, every calf for leather and the few long-haired and ill-nourished people left in the world will be madly making card indices of the volumes which have filled every available cranny in which they can be stored. Laws will have been passed against their importation - only a quota of the French, German, Italian and Polish books to be admitted each year. For should you happen to leave a pair of foreign books alone on a shelf in the state known as their original wrappers, they breed with astounding rapidity. - from *THE DOCTOR & HIS BOOKS* by Harvey Cushing, 1926. Printed at The Arion Press for the May 1982 meeting of the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco, addressed by Arthur Lyons, M. D.