

BOOKS

FOOL'S HAVEN

by C. C. Cawley
House of Edinboro, Boston \$2.75

AFTER A SUCCESSFUL engineering career, Clifford Cawley '32, M.S. '33, turned to writing several years ago. His first book, a collection of short stories called *No Trip Like This*, was published in 1951. *Fool's Haven* is his second book, and his first novel.

The fool's haven of Mr. Cawley's title is not, let it be made clear at the beginning, Caltech—though the school, and the city of Pasadena form the background of the story. Faith-healing is what Mr. Cawley here considers a fool's haven from reality.

The story concerns a Caltech junior, in about 1930, who falls in love with the 17-year-old daughter of the house in which he rents a room. The girl's mother, a widow, is a member of a religious sect (never named) which believes in faith-healing. On the eve of her wedding, the girl has

an attack of appendicitis. The mother refuses medical attention for her daughter, relying on prayer for a cure. The girl dies.

The mother, and the pastor of her church, are charged with manslaughter. The mother is convicted, the pastor cleared—on the grounds that it was the mother's legal duty to provide reasonable medical care for her daughter, but that the pastor who counseled her had no such duty.

The bitter, angry boy, at the end of the book, has decided to forget engineering and turn to the study of law.

Mr. Cawley's story is based on a legal decision, made in 1895, which is still generally followed in faith-healing deaths today.

It is, indeed, unjust that a parent who denies his child medical aid can be convicted of a crime, while the person who counsels that crime is considered guiltless. Apparently this particular injustice has been galling Mr. Cawley for a long time, for he writes about it with a good deal of heat and passion. If a reader finds it hard to match him in this regard it can only be that we have all become aware of a lot of even greater injustices in recent years.

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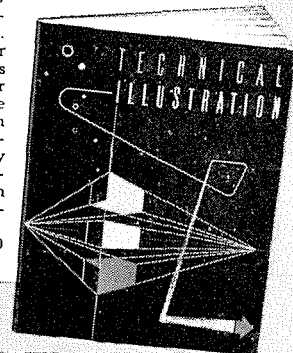
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