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"Philosophy's Fortunate Failure"

HOW Life or Judge should reach the editorial sancum of so staid a journal I scarcely knew. But certainly what I had read was humor unalloyed. Back to the cover I turned; and there flashed before me the twentieth-century wand, the label which magician-wise turns all varieties of modern counterfeit to coin current in the intellectual world of the day. It was "Science" for April 15, 1927. Now "Science" is a magazine held in high repute. It doesn't publish humor as such. A second reading of the article disturbed me a bit. A third - and I smiled at its author as I would at a child preferring to a Scot African brilliant a bit of window glass.

Mr. Davis, presumably a Harvard professor, undertakes an appraisal of Will Durant's "enlivening commentary on the 'Failure of Philosophy'" which appeared in the December 1926 number of Harper's Magazine. The critic calls his article "The Fortunate Failure of Philosophy". Irreconcilable is his variance with the man of The-Story-of-Philosophy fame because the latter seems to wish that philosophy might be restored to "her ancient scope and power". Mr. Davis bitterly laments the fact that a writer who saw so clearly philosophy's utter failure, does not seem "to recognize the inappropriateness of philosophical speculations as a basis