

Engineering for Everybody: A Review of the Books by Professor J.E. Gordon

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Book Review:

*"The New Science of Strong Materials: Or Why You Don't Fall Through the Floors", 1968, and
"Structures: Or Why Things Don't Fall Down", 1978.*

Both published by Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, England, in their Pelican Series.

Abstract: *The art of education lies in the ability to divert the interest and sympathy of the student onto the topics being presented. The art reaches its pinnacle when the subject matter is one for which the student instinctively feels that he has an "allergy". Whilst numeracy seems to present the greatest problem to the largest number of people, there are mental 'stumbling blocks' in all academic disciplines. It is the ability to simplify the intricacies and complexities of a subject, in order to help others over their difficulties, that distinguishes a great teacher. The subject of engineering has historically been sadly lacking in this respect, but two books by Professor J.E. Gordon go some way towards correcting this situation.*