

A Boy Of The Balkans.

The life of Michael Idvorsky Pupin was another evidence that America at least used to be a land of opportunity, and another example of how a man of science may remain a man of faith.

A penniless boy of the Balkans, the son of illiterate peasants, he won his way to the United States at 16. At 21 he entered Columbia and was winning prizes for his Greek, mathematics and, if you please, his wrestling. He had Ph.D. degrees from English and German universities very little later: the forerunners of a long list. He became a member of the faculty of his alma mater before he was 31. He dies at 77, a world-famous inventor who attributed his success to the inspiration of his mother and to the institutions of his adopted country.

Nevertheless, the deeper that this authority in practical science delved into the mysterious world of matter, the firmer was fixed his belief in those explanations of the spiritual universe which had shaped his childhood. Pasteur asked for the piety of a Breton peasant—and achieved it. Pupin's piety never wavered.

The "Pupin Coil" might make the trans-continental telephone possible, yet its inventor—America's foremost expert in electromechanics—could say to Joseph Bucklin Bishop: "I still recite with assurance the Orthodox Prayer to die as I desire to live, in Christ's Church, in His Faith and in His Love."