Tono−Bungay
H. G. Wells

Tono−Bungay

Tono−Bungay is a realist semi−autobiographical novel.

It is narrated by George Ponderevo, a science student who is drafted in to help with the promotion of Tono−Bungay, a harmful stimulant disguised as a miraculous cure−all, the creation of his uncle Edward. The quack remedy Tono−Bungay seems to have been based upon the patent medicines Carter's Little Liver Pills and Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People....

As the tonic prospers, George experiences a swift rise in social status, elevating him to riches and opportunities that he had never imagined, nor indeed desired. The novel displays Edward's social climbing satirically, and also George's discomfort at rising in social class. The hero's personal life is narrated with unusual frankness for an Edwardian novel....

The empire eventually overextends itself and then collapses. George tries unsuccessfully to save his uncle and eventually ends up designing battleships for the highest bidder. (Summary from Wikipedia)

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