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VOL. II SUMMER 1949 NO. 2

IDEA OF PROGRESS: RABELAIS page 21

IDEA OF PROGRESS: ELIZABETHANS 23

The foregoing are abstracts of papers to be delivered before the Renaissance Section of the Modern Language Association at Stanford University on September 7-8

EINSTEIN'S 'MADRIGAL': A REVIEW 25

REGIONAL CONFERENCES 28

LIBRARIES 29

PROJECTS AND EUROPEAN NEWS 31

HISTORY AND LITERATURE

MUSIC

VISUAL ARTS

LATIN TRANSLATIONS 37

Rabelais and the Renaissance Idea of Progress

BY ABRAHAM C. KELLER

THE genesis of Rabelais' conception of progress illustrates the coming to terms of two divergent points of view in the sixteenth century, the humanists' belief in the past and the artisans' belief in the future. That a belief in the progress of knowledge played a significant role in the thought of certain fifteenth and sixteenth century precursors of the scientific movement has been well established. It seems equally certain that the idea of progress, though increasingly common among men who were engaged in the practical arts, had little appeal for most of the

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