It will lead into my subject most conveniently to contrast and separate two divergent types of mind, types which are to be distinguished chiefly by their attitude toward time, and more particularly by the relative importance they attach and the relative amount of thought they give to the future. The first of these two types of mind, and it is, I think, the predominant type, the type of the majority of living people, is that which seems scarcely to think of the future at all, which regards it as a sort of blank non-existence upon which the advancing present will presently write events. The second type, Wells begins by distinguishing between "two divergent types of mind," one that judges and attaches importance principally to what has happened in the past and one that judges and attaches importance principally to what will happen in the future. To the former he attributes the adjectives "legal or submissive," "passive," and "oriental," and to the latter the adjectives "legislative, creative, organizing, or masterful," and "active," calling it "a more modern and much less abundant type of mind." H.G. Wells, Anticipations, futures, future, progress, religion, Orwell, shape of things to come, future study, science fiction. The elements of future study that Wells inherited consist of five layers, each "deposited" somewhat earlier than the one above it. By far the earliest of the five was the investigation in Jewish and Christian theology of what will happen at the end of time, the discipline known as "eschatology." His first published book, The Time Machine, gave a terrifying glimpse of the far future, in which warfare between the classes had led to the permanent separation of humanity into two equally degenerate new species. It was a warning, more than a serious prophecy. A History of the Future is clearly an exceedingly well-researched work that would serve as a wonderful index for study â€“ The British Society for Literature and Science. "About the Subject of this book is futurology in all its forms, with brief mentions of literary futures introduced as needed. Even more than literary texts, â€“ Bowler relies on popular science writing, both in books and in magazines." Peter J. Bowler is Emeritus Professor of the History of Science at Queen's University Belfast. He is a Fellow of the British Academy, a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has published a number of books on the history of biology and several general surveys. Read more. Product details. Let us know whatâ€™s wrong with this preview of H. G. Wells - Discoverer of the Future by R.D. Haynes. Problem: Itâ€™s the wrong book Itâ€™s the wrong edition Other. Details (if other): Cancel. Thanks for telling us about the problem. Return to Book Page. Not the book youâ€™re looking for? Preview â€“ H. G. Wells - Discoverer of the Future by R.D. Haynes. H. G. Wells - Discoverer of the Future: The Influence of Science on His Thought. by. R.D. Haynes.