

"Philosophy [Department]," Harvard Graduates' Magazine, 4 (1895), pp. 246-247.

The Philosophical Department is placed, for the present year, in a somewhat difficult position by reason of the absence of two of its principal members, Professor Palmer and Professor Münsterberg. The former is now enjoying his sabbatical year; the latter, after receiving an appointment as Professor of Experimental Psychology, has returned to Germany with a leave of absence which will probably be extended for a second year. Meanwhile, Professor Münsterberg is not wholly separated from the current work of the Psychological Laboratory, in whose direction he officially assists by correspondence. The temporary changes that have resulted from the absence of these two officers appear in all parts of the work of the Department. Dr. Santayana gives, for the year, a course in the History of Ethics (with especial reference to Greek Ethics) in place of Professor Palmer's regular course in Constructive Ethics, and has dropped his former course in Aesthetics in order to do so. The course in the Philosophy of Nature, which Professor James has of late years been giving, has passed, for the time, into the hands of the writer of these lines, who has gained the room for this extra task by giving up for the year all work in Radcliffe. Professor James has undertaken the direction of the Psychological Laboratory, and is assisted by Mr. Lough and Dr. Singer. The reading course in the History of German Philosophy comes more fully into the charge of Dr. Bierwirth, who, during the first half-year, now has exclusive control of the work. The instruction in Psychology, outside of the Laboratory, is undertaken by Professor James, with the assistance, in one course, of Dr. Singer. In the course of Professor Peabody on Social Ethics, Dr. Rand is this year taking a special part as assistant, in addition to the work which he regularly does for the Department. But the most important novelty of the year in the philosophical teaching, is the presence of Professor Ladd, of Yale, who, coming to Cambridge once a week, takes charge of the Ethical Seminary, which Professor Palmer has heretofore conducted. The coöperation of Professor Ladd is especially welcome to his colleagues here, both by reason of his own quality and distinction as a philosopher, and by reason of the spirit of academic coöperation which finds expression alike in his

appointment and in his acceptance of the task. There is a not unphilosophical satisfaction in the thought that at the very moment when the athletic relations of Yale and Harvard are so unenjoyable, and when in consequence of this fact many hearts besides those of the athletes themselves are troubled with thoughts of estrangement and of misunderstanding, the philosophical departments of the two institutions are finding just the present sort of coöperation so natural and so effective in meeting our own needs. Herein lies a certain compensation for the otherwise difficult position in which the absence of our officers places us for the year. In the philosophical world, at all events, there are some scholars who have learned to play without scratching, and even to contend, on occasion, for the beloved prize of truth, without feeling the game to be in the least grewsome. Professor Ladd's Seminary, which is well attended, is devoted to a series of papers and discussions covering all the principal problems of Systematic Ethics. The Elementary course in Philosophy is conducted this year upon a somewhat altered plan, which permits each student a choice between two topics in his second half-year's work, and which secures a full half-year's work in each elementary topic presented. The change of plan has not reduced the number of those who take this course, and the alteration is probably in the direction, at least, of what will prove to be the best future policy of the Department in regard to the always difficult problem of the introductory course.

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