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PHILOSOPHY.

The return of Professor Palmer from his year's leave of absence gives the Department a roll of its professors that is, with one exception, complete. The exception is Professor Münsterberg, whose return next year is still a matter, not of absolute assurance, but of hope. Professor Delabarre of Brown University takes temporary charge of the Psychological Laboratory in Professor Münsterberg's place. Doctor Santayana, of the Department's instructors, is also absent on leave for the year, and his place is filled by Dr. C. M. Bakewell, Ph. D., '92, former holder

of the Walker Fellowship, and later of a John Harvard Fellowship. Mr. Lough continues as instructor in the Psychological Laboratory. Doctor Bierwirth, while now nominally engaged in work that is entirely within the German Department, coöperates, through his course in German Philosophy, with the Philosophical Department. During the present year the Corporation have appointed three assistants to carry on both literary and laboratory tasks in connection with the Department's work. Such is the statement of the purely personal aspect of the year's undertakings.

The courses offered have undergone considerable changes. Philosophy 1, indeed, retains the character of the former year's course, with the exception that Professor Palmer will this year take charge of the History of Philosophy in the second half-year. Notwithstanding that the somewhat exceptional plan adopted for this course has already led to a few minor practical problems, relating to the way in which the course is counted for the degree by students who take it under special conditions, or who failed in some one of its three half-courses, the Department sees as yet no reason to alter the announced plan of this elementary work. On the other hand, the more advanced courses of the Department have required some additions and readjustments. Professor James has resumed charge of the course on the Philosophy of Nature, thereby leaving the present writer free to undertake, as an experiment, a new course in Advanced Logic, for which there has seemed to be of late a small but genuine demand. Professor Palmer resumes charge of the Ethics, which is given as one of the "Systematic Courses." The Department, however, has long felt the need of a fuller list of "Historical Courses," and both the courses offered by Dr. Bakewell fall within this field. Of these, the course on Greek Philosophy is here of especial importance. It is intended, not as a substitute for any work naturally offered in the Greek Department, but as an introduction to ancient philosophy, designed both for the men who do not use Greek in their own reading, and for those Greek students who wish to approach the problems of the subject from the specially speculative as well as from the more philological side. The new undertaking has received a cordial and kindly personal encouragement from members of the Greek Department, although the Philosophical Department is of course alone directly responsible for the conduct of the present plan, and for its further development in case it should, as we warmly hope, meet our expectations.

The Psychological Laboratory is largely attended, and is at present still busy with the organization of several new lines of experiment. Professor Delabarre, as a former pupil of Professor Münsterberg, and as himself an independent worker of established reputation, is well prepared to keep the year's work of the laboratory in sympathy with the

spirit of Professor Münsterberg's former enterprises, and at the same time to give it an essentially independent personal guidance for the time. The other branches of graduate work, as well as the laboratory tasks, are reaping the benefit of the prosperous condition which this year promises to characterize the whole graduate department in general. Our seminaries contain larger numbers than usual, and the men are exceptionally strong. Professor James offers two courses for graduates, — one a seminary on Kant, one a half-course on Abnormal Psychology. Professor Palmer gives his Ethical Seminary. Professor Peabody continues the Sociological Seminary. The present writer has the privilege of undertaking a seminary in Theoretical Psychology which Professor James, through the exchange above indicated, has for the time left in his hands.

These outline sketches of possible and actual undertakings of a scholastic sort must in general seem dry enough reading to those outside the work of a department. There is more life and general academic interest in the mention of a problem which belongs to the future of philosophical study, and which, while it is not yet a very pressing problem for this Department, is likely, in the opinion of the present writer, to become before long of more immediate concern, not only to us, but also to others. Modern investigation is constantly developing the already large group of sciences which deal with Man, in a sense of the word Man too general to confine the range of such sciences to the field already covered by Philology on the one hand, or by the Anatomical or Physiological specialties on the other hand. Such new sciences have, notoriously, a considerable difficulty in getting appropriate names. One can best indicate the group meant by calling them the Anthropological and Sociological Sciences. Not only is the naming of these branches of inquiry a difficult task, but they have had a varied and capricious fortune as regards their place and recognition in the universities. Ethnology is a conspicuous instance of a study or sub-group of studies falling within the larger group here in question. Our own University at present recognizes an important branch of Ethnological study as suitable for the candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy; yet I suppose that nobody is yet satisfied with the relationship that such professional work has so far attained to the rest of our academic curriculum. It occurs to any one, who takes even the most superficial and general view of the present field covered by those sciences which relate to Man, that it is not enough for a university to recognize here and there an Ethnological or other Anthropological specialty, or the existence or even the vast importance of Sociological studies, but that sooner or later a serious effort must be made towards a fuller development and closer organization of all the academic studies thus relating to Man. Now many departments are

interested in the development of such studies, and the latter neither are, nor ever should become, the exclusive concern of any department. Yet there are reasons why the Philosophical Department is especially likely to have its attention called at an early day to the practical importance of coöperation with other departments for the organization and recognition of new, or partially new, courses of study leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and lying within the general field now indicated. The organization of our Psychological Laboratory invites to our ranks students who may combine in various ways studies that now lie in the Medical School (such as Neurological and Psychiatrial studies) with the training of the modern Psychologist. An analogous combination of work in the Psychological Laboratory with work in the Peabody Museum may prove to furnish the right basis for professional training in certain branches of Ethnology. The Comparative Psychologist, already recognized by science, will in future combine Experimental Psychology with Zoölogy in preparing for his specialty. In a different field, the new and still rapidly growing Comparative Science of Religions will demand some combination of Psychological and Ethnological learning with special Philological knowledge, and will in addition demand a large acquaintance with the history of speculative thought, and, to a certain extent, with the most abstruse of metaphysical inquiries. The specialist in Phonetics will, as I understand, ere long need to get part of his training in the Psychological Laboratory. That the student of social phenomena should also be a student of Ethics, is a fact already recognized by the courses of our own and a sister department. Nor are these the only combinations of Philosophical courses with those of other departments that may soon need to be recognized by the University as naturally leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. A considerable number of other combinations, already represented by researches and text-books of high scientific repute, will doubtless occur to the minds of others better informed than the present writer. Thus, in Germany, the Comparative Jurisprudence of Post and his allies seems to be a branch requiring a combination of Psychological and Philosophical with other extremely laborious studies.

It may be said that the University is already prepared to recognize new combinations of studies leading to the Doctor's degree in case properly equipped candidates present themselves, and in case combinations amongst the existing committees on Honors and Higher Degrees prove to be practicable for the purpose of judging the fitness of any individual candidate for the degree. But it has to be asserted, in answer, that the University ought not merely to wait passively for a candidate original enough and enterprising enough to fight his way to a new com-

bination of our now too artificially separated lines of study. Our candidates ought not to be forced to discover for themselves, and to teach us, how to bridge the decidedly accidental and artificial chasms which now separate our other Professional Schools from our Graduate School, nor how to recognize new branches of special study which the progress of science has at any moment created. It is we who ought to take the lead. Where existing science demands, it is we, and not our students, who ought first to take note of new provinces of learning.

In view of these considerations the present writer is disposed before long, on behalf of interest which he feels as a member of the Philosophical Department, to undertake some inquiries, addressed to colleagues and others interested, regarding the feasibility of devising plans for defining some new combinations of university courses such as may be suitable to candidates for the Doctorate who are aiming at professional work in the Anthropological and Sociological branches of science. Such mere inquiries, of course, can and will commit nobody who engages in them, or who suggests thoughts bearing on the problem, to any future course or policy. Should they lead to any promising practical suggestions, it might then be well to consider whether the time were not ripe for formally asking the Faculty of Arts and Sciences to take under consideration a matter which can hardly interest that body until the inquiry has advanced much further than its present stage, but which already seems to me to lie within the range of the practical interests of the Philosophical Department. I should be glad if this admittedly crude first statement of the problem as I see it were to lead to wiser suggestions from any of my readers.

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