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PHILOSOPHY.

The most important change in the work of the Department of Philosophy, as planned for the current year, is the one due to the coming of Professor Münsterberg, from Freiberg im Breisgau, Germany, who is to take charge of the work in Experimental Psychology, and to conduct the Psychological Laboratory and Seminary. Our American public, aside from the students of Psychology themselves, seems to be still imperfectly informed as to the scientific prominence which within the past twenty-five years the experimental study of mental phenomena has assumed. To be sure, the researches of Helmholtz in Physiological Optics, and in the theory of the musical and of allied sensations, are now not only accounted amongst the classics of recent science, but are also frequently

mentioned and summarized in the popular literature of Psychology. The name of Wundt is also not unfamiliar to our general readers. Yet our graduates are still too often unaware that since Helmholtz's early investigations, and since the publication of the first edition of Wundt's "Physiological Psychology," in 1874, there has grown up a vast literature of experimental investigations concerning the nature and the laws of mental life, and that such investigations are regarded by all competent students as of the greatest theoretical and practical importance. The analysis of the sensations of the various senses, the study of the time-relations of mental phenomena, the investigation of the processes and laws of Association, and in general the whole range of inquiries bearing upon the physical relations and the natural conditions of mind, so far as these can be subjected to laboratory experiment, — such is the province of the Experimental Psychologist. His work has, therefore, the most extensive relationships and applications. The philosopher, the teacher, the physician, the biologist, all of them already owe to his specialty many important contributions. Few branches of inquiry promise at present a more rapid advance.

During the foregoing year the Psychological Laboratory was under the charge of Professor James. He has felt, however, the pressure of other and conflicting calls upon his time as a teacher and investigator, and, at his request, this new division of labor is made, and Professor Münsterberg appointed. The new officer has already attracted much attention in Europe by his published work, and is at present the central figure in a most animated discussion amongst the experts regarding some of his announced results and hypotheses. He is all the more likely on that account to make the Laboratory at Cambridge the scene of highly significant researches.

The new courses on Education and Instruction, by Professor Hanus, are accounted part of the work of the Department of Philosophy. Amongst the novelties in the list of Philosophical Electives to be offered during 1892-93 may be mentioned a course in the Psychology of Taste and the History of *Æsthetic Theories*, by Dr. Santayana. The Department now numbers seven professors and assistant professors, one instructor, and two assistants. During the current year Professor James is absent on leave.

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