

"Minute on the Life and Services of Professor William James,"
Harvard University Gazette, 6 (1910-11): 29-30.

Unsigned. According to Frank M. Oppenheim's examination of the records of the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences, this minute was prepared by George Herbert Palmer, Josiah Royce, and B. Wendell. The minute was placed on the records of the Faculty on October 18, 1910.

The Godkin Lectures

The Godkin Lectures for 1910-11 will be given by Professor Dr. Josef Redlich, of the University of Vienna. These lectures will be given in Emerson D, on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, November 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. They will be open to the public. The general subject will be "Austria and Hungary as a Federation." The dates and titles of the separate lectures are as follows:—

- Nov. 1.—The Historical Basis of the Union of Austria and Hungary, 1526-1723.
- Nov. 2.—Austria and Hungary from the Pragmatic Sanction to the Revolution of 1848.
- Nov. 3.—The new Foundation of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, 1848-1867.
- Nov. 4.—The Compromise of 1867 and its Development till the Present.
- Nov. 5.—The Dual Monarchy and the Modern Ideas of Nationalism, Imperialism, and Democracy.

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Distinction in the Classics

Students who are intending to take Honors or Distinction in the Classics, or to use Classical Courses in other programmes for the Degree with Distinction, are invited to confer with the undersigned.

C. B. GULICK,
Th., Sat., at 11, Sever 30.

E. K. RAND,
Mon., Wed., Fri., 12 to 12.30,
Classical Library, Harv. 3.

Minute on the Life and Services of Professor William James

The following minute on the life and services of Professor William James was placed upon the records of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the meeting of October 18, 1910:—

By the death of William James this University loses one who brought it high honor in many lands. As a man of science he left his mark on several departments of knowledge, while as a literary man he charmed all who read his lucid and picturesque pages. In him science and humanism were singularly combined. Learned as he was, he had none of the pedantry of the scholar. His books, besides illuminating their subjects, were creative of character, and through them he became one of the chief spiritual forces of our time.

He was born in New York, on January 11, 1842, of devout and independent parentage. Throughout life his studies were much disturbed by ill health, to which his dauntless spirit refused to bow. But a somewhat irregular education suited well a nature which was always fretted by routine and profited by whatever was unusual, diverse, and expressive of individual character. In his youth he attended a Lycée in France and afterwards the University of Geneva, there gaining an unusual command of French. His German he acquired a few years later at

the University of Berlin. In 1862-64 he was in the Lawrence Scientific School; then for four years in the Harvard Medical School, from which, two years later, he received the degree of M.D. He studied with Agassiz in the Cambridge Museum, and accompanied a scientific expedition to Brazil. He worked at painting under William Hunt, with John La Farge as a fellow pupil. His home training gave him power of expression, for in that home brilliant conversation and literary skill were traditional; while philosophy was at the same time set before him, on the one hand by his theological father and on the other by his rationalistic friend, Chauncey Wright. He early showed a strong distaste for such idealistic modes of thought as he believed obscured the concrete realities of experience.

The progress of his mind can be traced in the successive topics of his teaching. In 1873 he became an instructor in Anatomy at Harvard; but soon, finding greater interest in Physiology, he accepted an Assistant Professorship in that subject, in 1876. For the next three years, in addition to teaching Physiology, he offered a course on the theory of Evolution in the Department of Philosophy. In 1880 he abandoned Physiology altogether, becoming in that year Assistant Professor, and in 1885 Professor, of Philosophy. He now gave himself enthusiastically to Psychology, and under his energetic guidance a psychological laboratory was established here. But after the publication of his treatise on Psychology, in 1890, his interest in it declined, and he turned more toward the history of Philosophy and the theory of knowledge. In 1892 he resigned the directorship of the laboratory, and after 1897 was never willing to offer a psychologic course. Religion and Metaphysics claimed him, and his last years were devoted to the elaboration of a comprehensive philosophy in which the portion known as Pragmatism has occasioned wide discussion.

While unusually successful as a teacher, Professor James's greatest enjoyment and influence came from his writings. For ten years before his death he taught either not at all or but a single course, and in 1907 he resigned his professorship in order to devote to writing whatever strength his ever weakening heart allowed. Throughout his academic career, with characteristic courage, he put out a series of papers filled with large learning, aggressive originality, popular sympathy, and delightful language. Through continual practice he had made himself the master of a style which so fascinated the reader by its clearness and pungency that he was able by its aid to break down the distinction between technical and popular appeal, and render abstract subjects intelligible to the common man. Whatever he wrote, said, or did, was instinct with abounding life. Whether readers agreed with his books or dissented, all perceived that they vitalized their subjects. Several obliged a kind of new departure of human thought in their respective fields, the most notable being "The Principles of Psychology," 1890; "Talks to Teachers on Psychology," 1899; "The Varieties of Religious Experience," 1902; and "Pragmatism," 1907. Perhaps four short papers should also be mentioned: "The Feeling of Effort," 1880; "The Dilemma of Determinism," 1884; "Is Life Worth Living?" 1895; "The Will to Believe," 1896.

The honors received by Professor James were many and great. He was a member of National Academies

in America, France, Italy, Prussia, and Denmark; was a Doctor of Letters at Padua and Durham, of Laws at Harvard, Princeton, and Edinburgh, of Science at Geneva and Oxford. He delivered a course of Lowell Lectures in Boston, of Gifford Lectures in Edinburgh, of Hibbert Lectures in Oxford. He was one of the founders, and always a chief supporter, of the Society for Psychological Research, a subject which profoundly interested him. More than once he was President of the American Psychological Association and of the Boston Natural History Society.

Yet all who knew William James thought less of his learning and renown than of his massive and inspiring personality. The universal admiration given him was ever mixed with love. From him men drew their ideals of human character and were grateful to him for being what he was. They found him the best of comrades—simple, engaging, generous in his estimates of others, tender as a woman, fair-minded, playful, reverent, and unconventional, with a natural elevation of thought and manner which made all excellence easy in his presence. As we now recall that erect form, alert bearing, kind eye, and masterful voice, we perceive how, in spite of his aversion to anything like intentional consistency, "his words and works and fashion too" were "all of a piece, and all were clear and straight."

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Book Exhibitions

In connection with the course on the History of Printing given in the Graduate School of Business Administration, exhibitions illustrating the work of the great printers are held from time to time in the Treasure Room of the College Library.

The next exhibitions will be as follows:—

- Oct. 27-29. Early German printers: Mainz and Strassburg.
- Nov. 3-5. Early German printers: Nuremberg and Basel.
- Nov. 10-12. Venetian printers: Jenson, Ratdolt, and Aldus.
- Nov. 17-19. Early English printers.

Succeeding exhibits will illustrate the work of the Estiennes, Plantin and Moretus, the Elzeviers, and other later printers.

The Treasure Room is open from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. to members of the University. Other visitors will be welcome in the afternoon on application at the Delivery Desk.

The GAZETTE is published by Harvard University every Friday. Contributions and Announcements must reach the Publication Office, 2 University Hall, Cambridge, Mass., not later than Wednesday of each week. Subscription price, \$1.00 a year, payable in advance; check or money order, made payable to the order of Harvard University, should be sent to the Publication Office.

PHYSIOLOGICAL SEMINAR

Professor W. T. Porter will give a physiological demonstration and an informal lecture every Monday and Thursday afternoon, from five to six o'clock, in the Harvard Medical School, Room 352, Building C. Open to members of the University.

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

The qualifying examinations for the Rhodes Scholarship will be held in Room 207 of the Administration Building, Harvard Medical School, on October 25 and 26, 1910, as follows:—

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

- 9.30. Candidates assemble.
- 10-12. Translation: Latin to English.
- 2-4. Latin Prose.
- 5-7. Arithmetic.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

- 10-12. Translation: Greek to English.
- 2-3. Latin Grammar.
- 3.10-4.10. Greek Grammar.
- 5-7. Algebra, Geometry.

This year any candidate who passes in Latin and Mathematics may be eligible even though he does not pass the Greek examination. He must, however, satisfactorily pass the Greek at some future Rhodes examination or else pass the "Responsions" Greek at Oxford before going into residence there.

Information of a more detailed nature may be obtained by applying to the Chairman of the Committee for Selection of a Rhodes Scholar in Massachusetts, 5 University Hall, Cambridge.

EVENING COURSE IN THE DENTAL SCHOOL

Owing to the illness of Dr. John Q. Byram, of Indianapolis, Ind., the Evening Course for Practitioners at the Harvard Dental School will be opened Tuesday evening, October 25, by Dr. Joseph Head, of Philadelphia, Pa. Dr. Head will give a lecture and demonstration on Porcelain Inlays.