

we are confronted with problems, and to suppose the statement fraught with solutions is to pay ourselves with words. In this very connection, the worst foes of pragmatism may be of its own household. The arrant rubbish now being piled up by certain pedagogical *chiffonniers*, for example, may prove far more fatal than all the flouts of the "genuine Kantianer" (p. 249). To the collectors of this stuff one can only exclaim with Touchstone, "truly, thou art damned, like an ill-roasted egg all on one side."

It surprises me, too, to see that Professor James exhibits some *naïveté* in his attitude towards the "rationalistic" school. "In influential quarters Mr. Schiller, in particular, has been treated like an impudent schoolboy who deserves a spanking" (pp. 66-7). Mr. James seems to have forgotten his previous remark: "No one can live an hour without both facts and principles, so it is a difference rather of emphasis; yet it breeds antipathies of the most pungent character" (p. 9). He can hardly be oblivious of the fact that a regnant intellectual or theological (ay, and scientific) group will stick at nothing to compass its ends. When its inner history—the pragmatic account of its persons—comes to be written, outsiders will be startled and disgusted to learn that the high-toned gospel of "self-realization" has been advanced by very common and very human methods. Innuendo, calumny, intrigue and even worse have played their several parts, while such persecution as the modern world permits has had free course. I am vexed to see that Mr. James has not learned to treat all this with the contempt it deserves, and has not preserved his charming humor to the extent of observing that it is as natural to man to "idealize himself into dirt" as into heaven. And this is the more to be regretted that British thinkers rather than American have been the marks for this refined mud-slinging.

Let me add, in conclusion, that pragmatism, as here outlined, may or may not be excellent science. Readers of SCIENCE must judge for themselves; those of them who are addicted to the fallacy of reification will find it a good

cathartic. It is only raw material for philosophy. And, as I indicated above, I hope that, undeterred by pontifical anathemas, Professor James and his allies will proceed to *articulate* the philosophy which they believe themselves to possess. In any event, they are entitled to the satisfaction of knowing that, more than other contemporary groups, they contrive to keep the philosophical stream in sweetening motion. But whither it still remains for them to tell. So far as it has received voice, then, pragmatism is an avowed compromise. It is not beatified into a complete creation, attained and to be maintained. On the contrary, it rests a method of approach to thinking, especially from one incidental side. Whether it can overcome age-long antagonisms time alone will tell. In any case, it represents a real attempt at accommodation—a stage which, in the nature of the case, will pass away ere many moons. And then? Why, then, friend and foe alike will proceed to the *Bearbeitung der Begriffe*, a task rejected by these Lowell Lectures in rather cavalier style.

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Catalogue of the Crosby Brown Collection of Musical Instruments of all Nations. III. Part I., Africa. New York. The Metropolitan Museum of Art. 1907. Pp. xxii + 79; pl. 26.

This is a new volume continuing the series of catalogues of this fine collection, to which there have been various references in SCIENCE from time to time. Gallery 37 is devoted to the "instruments of savage tribes and semi-civilized peoples"; those from Oceanica and America will be dealt with in future volumes; the present one relates wholly to Africa. The "Egyptian type case" shows that most types of African and even European instruments were well developed thousands of years ago. The plates show a great variety of harps, lyres and lutes, as well as many forms of the curious Negro *Zauze*, sometimes misleadingly called "nail-fiddle" although the metal tongues are plucked, not bowed. (It is to be hoped that in a later edition the incorrect name

"key" for the vibrating tongues or bars of this instrument will be changed.) Flutes and similar wind instruments do not appear to be numerous or highly developed, but many horns, especially of ivory, are figured. The drum and the xylophone or *Marimba* require many pages.

The introductions and indexes are similar to those in former volumes and are good; the ethnographical notes are fuller than ever and add many interesting details.

CHARLES K. WEAD

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
June, 1907

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

SIX years ago the summer meeting and colloquium of the society was held at Cornell University. In the intervening years the Society has met successively at Evanston, Boston, St. Louis, Williamstown and New Haven. This year the summer meeting was again convened at Cornell University, on Thursday and Friday, September 5-6. Forty-seven members were in attendance. By close economy of time the scientific proceedings were condensed into two sessions on Thursday and a morning session on Friday. Friday afternoon was devoted to an excursion on Lake Cayuga, Mr. H. H. Westinghouse, of the university, having kindly placed his steam yacht at the members' disposal. The evening gatherings at the Town and Gown Club also furnished pleasant opportunities for social intercourse.

The first session opened with an address of welcome by Professor Wait, head of the university department of mathematics. At the close of the meeting resolutions were adopted expressing the society's appreciation of the generous hospitality of the university and its officers.

The president of the society, Professor H. S. White, occupied the chair, being relieved by Professors Fine and E. B. Van Vleck. The council announced the election of the following persons to membership in the society: Thomas Buck, University of Chicago; Arnold

Dresden, University of Chicago; T. H. Hildebrandt, University of Chicago; W. J. King, Harvard University; J. O. Mahoney, High School, Dallas, Texas; J. F. Messick, Randolph-Macon College; H. W. Powell, College of the City of New York. Six applications for membership in the society were received. The total membership is now 569.

The following papers were read at the meeting:

L. E. DICKSON: "Modular theory of group matrices."

W. B. FORD: "Sur les équations linéaires aux différences finies."

R. D. CARMICHAEL: "On the classification of plane algebraic curves possessing fourfold symmetry with respect to a point."

R. D. CARMICHAEL: "Note on certain inverse problems in the simplex theory of numbers."

W. B. CARVER: "The ten special Γ_8^4 configuration in the Pascal hexagram."

E. O. LOVETT: "Generalization of a problem of Bertrand in mechanics."

E. O. LOVETT: "The invariants of a group which occurs in the problem of n bodies."

E. R. HEDRICK: "A peculiar example in the theory of surfaces."

E. R. HEDRICK: "A smooth closed curve composed of rectilinear segments."

R. D. CARMICHAEL: "On certain transcendental functions defined by a symbolic equation."

D. C. GILLESPIE: "On the canonical substitution in the Hamilton-Jacobi canonical system of differential equations."

G. A. MILLER: "The invariant substitutions under a substitution group."

G. A. MILLER: "Methods of determining the primitive roots of a number."

VIRGIL SNYDER: "On a special algebraic curve having a net of minimum adjoint curves."

JAMES McMAHON: "The differential geometry of the vector field. Second paper: lamellar field."

L. E. DICKSON: "Commutative linear groups."

L. E. DICKSON: "A simple derivation of the canonical forms of linear transformation."

EDWARD KASNER: "Geometric interpretation of integrating factors."

EDWARD KASNER: "The conformal representation of geodesic circles."

A. R. SCHWEITZER: "On the relation of right-handedness in geometry."

F. L. GRIFFIN: "On the law of gravitation in the binary systems, II."