

Reg 20<sup>th</sup> Ap (continued)

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**—The Indirect Explanation.—**

The last lecture of this interesting book is concerned with the Indirect Explanation, around which innumerable difficulties gather. As Professor Mitchell writes in an earlier part of his book, as giving also one reason why the Indirect Explanation is placed last—"The physical account, however, is so much matter of dispute that there would be good ground for postponing it," though—this notwithstanding—a true statement of experience necessitates that the Direct account demands also the Physiological. This is characteristic of Professor Mitchell's entire treatment of the subject. His recognition of the varied factors to be taken into consideration, and his obvious desire to estimate each at its relative value in order to secure as normal and as complete an account of the mind's structure and growth as possible, impress the reader throughout. There is a sense in which the writer is an eclectic. Perhaps it were better to say that his intense solicitude to treat the subject along truly scientific lines accounts for his recognition of the value of complex items which go towards making the whole, regarded as a progressive and intelligible process. It is hard to say from this book to which, if any, philosophical school Professor Mitchell adheres. He certainly is not a Kantian, or an empiricist. There are indications which would place him as an Objective Idealist. But he is not a devotee of any particular school. He rather seems to recognise the aspects of truth which exist in diverse schools, and proceeds to build these into his main fabric. In dealing with a subject so vital and difficult, such a mental attitude is essential, though few writers show so significant a power as Professor Mitchell's in this direction. This fact makes on the one hand the study of the book more difficult, and yet enhances the value of the contribution to philosophical literature. The writer's candour and sanity are apparent. Here one feels is a man who has no a priori presumptions to vindicate; rather, one who starts from the data of fact, which he seeks to co-ordinate into an intelligible and coherent whole.

**—A Serious Study.—**

This is a book to be read seriously and re-read. As the writer well says, "experience is the one thing that has value, and that gives value to anything." Modern psychology is travelling far in the direction of analysing experience. Here, in fact, is a realm behind Economics, Ethics, and Religion. It is a realm which gives these their value and interest. Properly understood, it is regulative of a wise economic, a true ethic, and a vital religion. Even the casual relations of science presuppose something beyond, and its inductive generalizations are not apart from experience in their deeper analysis. The book is not merely of academic and speculative interest; it is seriously constructive and of practical value. Its style is lucid; and considering the nature of the subject with which it deals, often helpfully illustrative. The political reformer, the moralist, and the preacher, will find themselves surveying the facts "behind"—each will be face to face with the forces which construe his particular gospel; and, unless he be dull indeed, he will receive genuine enrichment from the volume. To the "man in the street," if he is this and no more, the book will scarcely appeal. He likes what he terms the practical, though what he means by the practical it is hard to say; but the man with ideas and ideals will be stimulated and appealed to; and this, after all, is the man who really counts.

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A photograph of Professor Horace Lamb, of Manchester, who was at one time a professor in the Adelaide University, was shown at the meeting of the Public Library Board on Friday afternoon, and a letter from the professor was read, in which he referred to the happy time he had spent as a member of the Library Board. Professor Lamb was one of the original members of the board, and he forwarded the photograph in response to a request. The board has pictures of nearly all the past and present members.

**UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.**

Extension lectures will be given at the University during the winter by Professors Henderson, Jethro Brown, Rennie, and Darnley Naylor. Professor Henderson will in three lectures speak on "Hamlet and the Shakespearean drama," the first dealing with the language of "Hamlet," the second with the character of the Prince of Denmark, and the third with the teaching of the play. The professor will be glad if students will read E. K. Chambers' edition of "Hamlet" (Warwick Shakespeare). "The underlying principles of modern legislation"

will be Professor Jethro Brown's subject, and he will deal with "the ideal of the modern democracy." "Illustrations from politics and social life in the nineteenth century," and "Legislative principles." Professor Darnley Naylor will take as his subject, "Life in classic times in Rome and Greece," and will deal with "Day by day life in Rome 100 A.D.," "Athenians you would meet in 300 B.C.," and "Theatre-going at Athens 2,500 years ago." Two lectures will be given by Professor Rennie on "Low Temperatures," and he will treat of "History and general principles of processes and the production of low temperatures," with experiments, and "Liquefaction of air," introducing experiments with liquid air.

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**UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS.**

Executive Council on Wednesday approved of an amended statute dealing with the board of musical studies and of regulations referring to the B.Sc. degree and the Elder scholarship, which had been passed by the University Council and approved by the Senate.

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**ELDER CONSERVATORIUM CONCERTS.**

The session will open on May 7, when a students' concert will be given. There will be 11 concerts through the year. Season tickets (transferable, admitting two persons to reserved seats, and tickets for the single concert may be obtained at the office of the University.

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**OXFORD UNIVERSITY.**

**APPEAL FOR £250,000.**

LONDON, May 2.

Lord Curzon, who succeeded the late Viscount Goschen as Chancellor of the Oxford University, is appealing to the public for the subscription of £250,000 for the purpose of strengthening the endowments and equipping the institution on modern lines for literary and scientific studies.

Both the famous English Universities are evidently in need of funds, for less than three months ago the Duke of Devonshire, in a letter to the newspapers, urgently appealed to the nation for subscriptions for the Cambridge University re-endowment fund. He declared that altogether a capital sum of £1,500,000, apart from any pension fund for the professors, might without any extravagance be immediately expended on the equipment and provision of the staff.

**ESPERANTO—A WORLD-LANGUAGE.**

Mr. C. A. Uhrlaub, of Norwood, who is a proficient linguist, and has had much experience in educational matters, has been making a searching investigation of Dr. Zamenhof's Esperanto, or auxiliary international language, and has consequently become an enthusiastic advocate of its wide diffusion. He considers that "the firm hold which this key-language has already secured in Europe and America is indicative of the fact that Esperanto has come to stay. It is, indeed, as a key, language for international purposes what Pitman's phonetic system of shorthand is for reporting of speeches in every language throughout the world." He points out that "the need for an international language in this age of rapid progress, when people move about from country to country, and have business relations in all parts of the world, has become imperative; but the creation of an artificial language to supply this need was surrounded with so many difficulties that it is little wonder that many futile attempts preceded the crowning success which deservedly attaches to the new auxiliary language, Esperanto, of which its celebrated inventor is Dr. Zamenhof, of Warsaw. The fundamental conditions upon which an artificially created language must rest before it could hope to gain the approbation of etymologists throughout the civilized world are many and various. Dr. Zamenhof has, however, surmounted all difficulties with a success that has been pronounced by the scientific investigators of his key-language as thorough and absolute. The perfect simplicity of Esperanto enables students of even a modest standard of education to master it comparatively easily, and its extreme elasticity is such that it can be used to define with marvellous exactitude scientific problems. The propaganda for its spread is going on apace, and its votaries are already counted by hundreds of thousands throughout Europe and America. From an economic point of view the practical realization of an international auxiliary language in the form of Esperanto is an event of incalculable magnitude. The intricacies of grammar and the vast range of vocabulary incidental to most modern languages would in themselves be a bar, apart from national jealousies, for the selection among them as one that might take the place of international ownership. Among the dead languages Latin has been used on occasions of international congresses of scientists and politicians; but, owing to an insufficient grip of the language of ancient Rome by the modern delegates to such congresses, Latin as an international language key has proved more or less rusty and ill fitting the lock of modern ideas. Careful examination of Dr. Zamenhof's Esperanto, however, compels me to congratulate its ingenious inventor on his success. Such a language key may do more to bring the nations of Europe together in international amity than can be done by the Peace Congress. It is noteworthy that the English Parliament has been petitioned by many of its members to use its influence in securing for Dr. Zamenhof the Nobel peace prize. The petitioners claim that Esperanto (as an international auxiliary tongue has already afforded many unmistakable proofs that it is a powerful means to promote the peaceful concord of the peoples of Europe. Esperanto should, on its merits, soon obtain the same grip upon the people of Australia that it has already secured upon the peoples of Europe and America."

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**COMPULSORY VACCINATION.**

LONDON, May 1.

Mr. John Burns (President of the Local Government Board) has introduced a Bill into the House of Commons to enable conscientious objectors to vaccination to make a declaration before the Vaccination Commissioners on oath and thus secure exemption.