

# The Year in the Departments

Departmental Growth and Accomplishments of the Current Year

## Education

The department of education has, during the past year, advanced rather in the way of intensive work than in numbers of students. Freshmen and sophomores have been discouraged in taking up the work and, as a result, the department is filled mainly with seniors, juniors and post-graduate students. The theses of Professor Smith and ex-State Superintendent W. R. Jackson have attracted considerable attention. The former, a thesis for doctorate, is on the "Evolution of the High School Curriculum," and takes up the methods and aims of schools from early historic times; the latter, on the "Present Status of Licensing of Teachers in the United States," taken up the subject in its bearing on the different states in the union. It is considered of so much importance that it will be published in the commissioner's report of the United States bureau of education. Professor Smith has also published an article on "Secondary Education in English Popular Schools." Miss Fossler has been working out "The Evolution of Nature Study in the Secondary Schools" for her master's degree. Other investigations worthy of note are "The Elective System in the High Schools of Nebraska" and "Student Organization for Self-government."

## Languages

### Romance.

While the department of romance languages has not been pursuing any special lines of investigation, it still maintains all its former popularity, and has made satisfactory progress during this past year. Owing to a desire expressed by a number of students at the beginning of the present semester, for the establishment of course in beginning French, the department made a conditional agreement that if twenty or more expressed their willingness to register for such a course, it was to be introduced. Contrary to the expectations of everyone concerned, a total of sixty registered for the course, and the class had to be split up into two sections. The reports of the work of the class in conversational French are very favorable. In the higher classes the registration is exceptionally good. The second year class in Spanish has six members, all of whom are doing a good quality of work. The registration in the Italian classes is also good. About

seventy new books have been added to the library of the department since last fall. The enrollment of the department has reached the magnificent total of 315 students. A beginning course in French will be offered in summer school, which will give five hours credit.

### Latin.

The work in the Latin department for the past year has been very satisfactory. The work of all the classes has been characterized by the substantial progress made and the active interest evinced by the students. The registration in the advanced classes is especially noteworthy, being considerably larger than usual. The department has also been enriched by a splendid set of large photographs received from abroad, illustrative of some of the finest specimens of Roman art and architecture. The instructors express themselves as pleased with the results of the year's work and believe that they are more satisfactory than ever before.

### Greek.

In the Greek department the instructors have found themselves very busy this year in attending to their duties, and little has been done in the way of research. A new scheme of studies has been devised, however, for next year, in which the literature and history of antiquity will receive greater emphasis than heretofore. The classes will be given an opportunity to acquire a knowledge of classical thought without any "grind." The chief object of this new scheme is to give more attention to the artistic side of Greek life. Dr. Lees has gone to Greece to get new material for the department, and it is hoped his research there will bear fruit and increased opportunity.

## Astronomy

In regard to the progress of this department, Professor Swezey says: "I believe I have no very flattering statement to make. In the first place, the attendance beyond a certain limit can not be encouraged, on account of scarcity of room and lack of equipment to work with. We tried special research work with photometers and prisms a few years ago, but no very satisfactory results were obtained, on account of the smoky atmosphere and the small size of our telescope. Students have, however, become interested, and some, such as Don Jewell, now stationed at Behring sea, and Joel Stebbins, at Lick observatory, are becoming well known in the astronomical world. Others have followed the work up and are connected with different observatories in various capacities. In point of enrollment, there has been an increase over last year, there being sixty-eight students now in the department."

## Philosophy

For psychology, the department reports that it has followed pretty closely the beaten paths. The plan of exchanging courses among the teachers has been carried out. This year Dr. Hill has taught history of philosophy. In place of this, Dr. Hinman has taken one section in beginning psychology and the class in ethics. Dr. Bolton has taught the class in social psychology. Next year some of the courses given this year will be withdrawn, and those not given this year will be substituted for them. So many courses are being offered now that it has encroached upon the work of investigation. There is nothing that furnishes so much inspiration and outlook to the student as research, and this must always be emphasized as an important feature of the work. A number of new and valuable pieces of apparatus have been added to the laboratory. The first was a clock beating seconds that would interrupt an electric circuit with each swing of the pendulum. Another addition is an iron pendulum for measuring short intervals of time and regulating other pieces of apparatus. This

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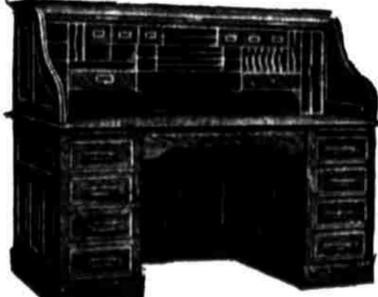
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was designed in the laboratory, and will prove a valuable acquisition to its equipment. A system of exchanging lectures with professors in the universities of neighboring states has been inaugurated. Dr. Hill went to the University of Missouri in February. Professor Thelby will come here in the fall. Professor Allin from the University of Colorado was here in April and gave four lectures, and Dr. Bolton has just returned from Colorado, where he gave four lectures in exchange for the lectures given here by Professor Allin. This plan promises much, both in the way of stimulus and help to the students of the department. Aside from extended book reviews, one contribution to the Psychological Review was made by Dr. Bolton upon "A Biological View of Perception." A Festschrift, a memorial number of the American Journal of Psychology to Dr. G. Stanley Hall upon the twenty-fifth anniversary of his attainment to a doctorate, will contain one or more contributions from the department.

## Law School

While the law school has not undergone any great changes or made a phenomenal growth, forces have been at work this year that will culminate next year in complete changes and a widening of the school, both in scope of work and in amount of room occupied in the University. The most important of these changes will be the lengthening of the course and the raising of the requirements for entrance. The following extract taken from House Roll No. 8 will explain: "After July 1, 1904, no person shall be admitted to the bar unless such person is at least twenty-one years of age, and of good moral character, and unless such person, either (1) has had a preliminary education, other than legal, equivalent to that involved in the completion of a high school course accredited by the state department of public instruction, and has regularly and attentively studied law in a reputable law school or in the office of a practicing attorney, or partly in such school and partly in such office for a period of at least three years, at least one year of which office study shall have been passed in a law office in this state, and shall pass a satisfac-

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