DR. JAMES’ LECTURES.

The members of the elective courses in Philosophy have been privileged to listen, during the past two weeks, to five lectures on Pragmatism, by Dr. William James of Harvard. These lectures, which took the place of the regular appointments in Philosophy, on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, were attended by members of the faculty and guests from outside the College, as well as by the students in the department.

Pragmatism is the name applied to a very modern form of philosophical thinking, and means practicalism, humanism. In his introductory lecture, Dr. James took the stand that any philosophical system which does not answer the questions of life—of real, genuine, everyday life—can be called to account as not fulfilling its vocation. It is the effort to eliminate the reproach of aloofness from the difficulties of life that has brought about this pragmatic method, which tests conceptions by inquiring as to their "cash value" in everyday experience. A rationalistic philosophy, with its own world of pure thought, can tell us that "the absolute is the richer for every discord;" but the real philosophy must take account of "discord," of the painful experiences of the only beings we know, and must take them seriously, as the individual feels them, in order to help in life.

It will appear at once that such a philosophy will be individualistic. At this point Dr. James took up the old-time question of the one-ness or many-ness of the universe. The fine, consistent, absolutist view of the universe as One, is confronted with the difficulty of explaining diversity, error, evil. The pluralistic view can at least accept the plainly-existing multiplicity and does away with the difficulty of explaining the origin of differences. It is just as well to assume the varied universe as we see it, as to assume a whole, and try to explain its aspects. The parts are the facts for us. If we stick to them we cannot go astray, but we must leave room for the reality of higher and more ideal forces as well. Dr. James calls that a radical empiricism, which, while it begins with the parts, connects them by concatenation. The universe tends to become unified.

This radical empiricism admits novelty—really new things into its scheme. It has no problem of free will. Anything is possible if it be desired and striven for. The finite beings here in the world, striving each for his own ideal, are the actualities. They are the creators, and are bringing about that unified condition which is the possible Perfect, or Best. This universe is not non-theistic. It is "sterilely affirmative," a real loss of ideals is necessary, for all the individual desires cannot go through. Some must go under. But in the personal idealism, or personalism, both sides of the universal history are taken into account; it stands for neither pessimism nor optimism.

At the conclusion of his lectures, Dr. James recommended to his hearers this "philosophy of life," with impressive earnestness, reviewing in a broad sweep the things for which it stands—democracy, anti-slavery, the removal of paralyzing laws, the cultivation of hero-worship and of the vital and growing in science, art, customs, religions, laws. It avoids that un-reality of absolutism which keeps the common people away from philosophy. The vivid and quaint language in which Dr. James presented his subject, and the kindly personality pervading every word, made the lectures especially good to hear.

L. S. ’05.

Exhibition of Old Wood Cuts.

There is at present in Billings Library an interesting exhibition of early Florentine and Venetian wood cuts, engraved soon after the use of the art for book illustrations. The books, from the Phippton collection, show specimens which have been pronounced by authorities on Italian engraving, as among the best for grace and execution. The earliest book containing an engraving is a second edition of the Burial of Pulci Bernardo, printed in 1404 by Mascomini, the title page being decorated with a picture of a student seated at his desk. The work is bold and striking, owing to the use of comparatively few lines, and masses of black shades, and resembles the modern black and white work seen in some William Morris books, or in certain of Pyle's simplest illustrations. Certainly the art, in the period from 1490 to 1528, has never been equalled unless by the most careful of recent work: it is not surpassed even to-day.

The wood cuts are usually set off by borders, sometimes narrow and severe in design, sometimes very elaborate, but with decided effectiveness. Shadows are made by black lines set close together, and dense shadows by untouched portions of the block. A copy of Savonarola’s "Art of Dying" has quaint pictures, wherein death, a skeleton holding an impressive sickle, the devil and the Holy Family, are arranged about a death bed.

Both of these illustrations are fine examples in which Gruter declares, Florentine art shows its "most exquisite qualities, its restraint, its grace, its taste for charming accessories and details of costume."

A very artistic example of late smooth cut illustrations is found in Savonarola’s "Life of the Widow," a favorite again of connoisseurs.

The Venetian exhibition contains an interesting copy of Petrarch, 1491, in which a departure from the usual simplicity is observable. The large folio illustrations show far less contrast of shadow; the lines are fine and close together, the numerous shadow lines are no deeper than the outlines. The only decided black and white contrast appears in the elaborate and very beautiful border. The general effect is of great delicacy.

The illustrations in a copy of Dante’s "Divine Comedy," 1544, are less interesting from a technical and artistic standpoint, but make a good example of the decadence of the art. A collection of romantic epics is on exhibition in the right half of the cabinet, which shows a great variety of style in vignettes.
We began to ask “Why?” a good many years ago, and we have never found the limit of the word’s possibilities. It was impossible to us, children, we remember, for all sorts of purposes; and they tell us, now, that it is the secret of all getting-on up the intellectual ladder. Trite, this, isn’t it? and proxy, too. Be patient. The usual practical, editorial moral is approaching.

A man who knew considerable about human nature once said, “Every why hath a wherefore.” The whole trend of our education has led us to be keen and eager in hunting out these wherefores and in tracking them down to their very last hair and resort. This has been held up to us by older and we, knowing, wiser folk than we, as the only way to grow mentally and to satisfy the cravings of that larger growth. The thing is, has the all-opening “why” become to us merely a formula, unconvincingly or argumentatively, or even childish spoken? So long as the answer to our “why” is merely the “wherefore,” and our question a matter of idle curiosity alone, of pique, or a fretting at restraint, the justification is a dubious one. But in all well ordered communities, and in well ordered minds as well, the significance of the answer lies very seldom in the mere fact that we have been answered. The initial why is a mere starting point for new possibilities—very often for new mental activities which make the previous question very simple. We all remember the childish “Why?” when we were told to go to bed. If a careless “Because” was the only answer, we hated the bed-going, we kept incessantly at the question, and were in a continual state of revolt. But some of us have the good fortune to have been given some wherefores which set even our childish minds to thinking—wherefores which gave us some insight into the grown-ups’ point of view, and made the hitherto irksome thing against which we solemnly rebelled, an act which meant, it is true, some sacrifice on our part to do cheerfully, but in which we saw the workings of a higher principle than that which any mere “because” had ever inspired.

In all communities not entirely self-governing, the “why” must of necessity come to the fore with more or less prominence. The innate strength of pure democracy seems to lie in the fact that “whys” are public property, and are judged on their face value; whereas one fundamental weakness, surely, of more closely centralized, monarchical forms is the smothering force of hidden wherefores and smothered whys.

Practical? Certainly. We all have whys to ask and wherefores to supply. In a complex social system such as exists here, even granting our boasted democracy, there are innumerable ranks of aboves and belows. There are equally numerous, and would seem, governing bodies, legislating and planning, one within the other, like so many concentric circles. The seriousness of the questioned why, with a depth of real earnestness to back it, and the responsibility and privilege of the satisfactory wherefore, are two phases of our college life and thought in which we are beginning to take considerable interest.

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COLLEGE CALENDAR.

March 16, 7.30 P.M., in College Hall Chapel, mid-week prayer meeting of the Christian Association.
March 18, 1:15 P.M., in College Hall Chapel, illustrated lecture by Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell.
March 18, 7.30 P.M., at the Barn, Denison House play.
March 20, 3 to 6, Alpha Kappa Chi reception.
March 20, 7.30 P.M., in College Hall Chapel, lecture by Professor W. B. Scott of Princeton.
March 20, 7.30 P.M., in Billings Hall, recital by Professor Hamilton.
March 21, 4:15 P.M., illustrated lecture by Professor Karl Harrington of the University of Maine.

COLLEGE NOTES.

Dr. Grenfell’s Visit.

The lecture next Saturday afternoon by Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell is awaited with much interest. Many know of him and his work through stories and articles written by Norman Duncan. Some of these will be found, until Dr. Grenfell comes, set out in the second floor centre, where all are invited to stop a few minutes at a time, as they have opportunity and read.

"Dr. Grenfell is not a missionary of the familiar type," Norman Duncan says. "He is less a preacher than a physician, and not more a Prussian than a philanthropist and industrial inspiration and organizer of the most sane and practical sort. Moreover, he is the devoted champion of the simple folk among whom he labors. "These folk inhabit some two thousand miles of what has been called by seamen the worst coast in the world. Nevertheless, in summer and winter, Dr. Grenfell manages to make his professional round—in summer by the little hospital ship Stratheona, in winter by means of dog-team and koomatik. It is a proverb on the coast that he regards neither hardship nor peril. "The man and the work are wholly to be trusted; the work is a man’s work, and a man is doing it.

New York.

Norman Duncan.

At present an American Auxiliary is being formed to the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, to aid Dr. Grenfell, by raising funds for his work in Labrador.

In the 1905 catalogue of D. C. Heath & Co., of Boston, which has just been issued, appears “Mon Oncle et Mon Cure” by Jean de la Brete, edited with notes, vocabulary, and English exercises by Madame Cohn.

The Magazine Board for next year is as follows:

Editor-in-Chief...............................Claire Sampson
Associate Editor................................Winfred Hawkinson
Literary Editors..............................Caroline Singleton, Elsie Pitkin
Managing Editors............................Gertrude Francis, Eleanor Farrar

Mr. Conried sent about forty tickets to the College for the presentation of “Parsifal,” Thursday, March 9. Those who wished for the tickets sent their names in to the office; in the morning, the tickets were distributed according to lot.

Tuesday evening, March the seventh, the Graduate Club met with Miss Russell. The speaker for the evening was Frauenn Steuwen who talked on the aims and departmental plan of the German Department at Wellesley.

NOTICE.

Will the young lady to whom Mrs. Davis gave her furs, at the time of the fire on Norfolk Terrace, kindly see her as soon as convenient?

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1.

The Advisory Committee of the Student Government Association feels that it might be of much more service to the Association and satisfaction to itself if it were allowed to discuss some of the smaller problems which daily agitate the College and which at present are simply in misunderstanding and discontent. We offer the suggestion that girls who feel that certain provisions are useless or that a rule could really be changed in some little way so as to make it more satisfactory, would send such opinions with the reasons for them to the chairman of the Advisory Committee. The suggestion could be discussed at the next meeting of the Committee and the reasons well thought over. If the change really seemed a good one it could be recommended to the Executive Board, and if not there would be no harm done in having given it earnest consideration. The idea of this plan is that the girls would feel it as less formal than calling a meeting of the Association or sending a plan to the Secretary; and that they would feel free to make little suggestions or offer questions to be discussed or enter complaints of any nature, hoping that the Advisory Committee might think of a remedy. These suggestions need not necessarily pertain to Student Government, but concern anything in which the students have an interest and about which they feel that they would like to express an opinion. We are very eager to be a living, active, useful, working part of the College and we offer this as one means of becoming so. It is not often that a Committee in Wellesley College asks for more work, but that is what we want and we want you to give it to us.

BLEANCHE WERNER,
Chairman of Advisory Committee.

WELLESLEY'S SISTER COLLEGE.

Wellesley girls, do you know what a worthy institution you have to claim as a sister? You have heard of a college for girls in Spain and that Wellesley has had some connection with it but how many of you know anything further, enough to make you yourselves interested? How many of you know that Mrs. Gulick's School, started twenty years ago was the first attempt at anything in Spain beyond a preliminary education for girls; that Wellesley has contributed three members of the Faculty; that the Institute is sending out women to teach girls all over Spain? In short, how many of you know the real extent and importance of this work? This is the cause in connection with which we all have heard Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer's name so often. Ought we not, then, to be proud of our relationship and to take an active interest as the college's protector?

When the school was first undertaken in Northern Spain, preparatory and collegiate departments were carried on with one support, but since Mrs. Gulick's death, they have been separated, the former being conducted as in the past by the Woman's Board, the latter having to rely on something entirely indefinite. In 1904, the International Institute League was organized for the support of the College and it in turn is depending on the colleges and college women of America. The question is, what will Wellesley do? Mount Holyoke Freshmen are giving one hundred dollars this year, will Wellesley's Freshmen or any other class respond as well? The matter will be taken up with the classes in your next class meetings. Some descriptive literature will be placed in your hands soon, we hope. Won't you look it over carefully and watch the next two issues of the College News? Then the hope of the League will for our part be realized, "to secure new friends and to enlist the aid, interest and sympathy of the enlightened womankind of the country."

And material support will follow as a matter of course.

G. W.

LENTEN ORGAN RECITALS.

To be held at 4:15 P.M., on Wednesdays, in the Memorial Chapel, as follows:

March 15..................Prof. H. C. Macdougall
March 22..................Mr. B. L. Whelpley
March 29..................Prof. H. C. Macdougall

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Lecture on Paleontology.

A lecture on Paleontology will be given before the students of the Department of Zoology in College Hall Chapel, on Monday, March 20, at 7:45. The lecturer is Professor W. B. Scott of Princeton University, one of the foremost paleontologists of the country. The lecture will consist of the hour-long lecture, and will be accompanied by lantern slides of the subjects discussed. The lecture will be given in the College Hall Chapel, and will be open to the public. The address will be popular in character, illustrated by the steno-copon and open to all who are interested in the subject.

Maxine Elliott in "Her Own Way" At the Hollis Street Theatre.

Maxine Elliott, in the successful Civic Fifth comedy "Her Own Way," will return to the Hollis Street Theatre, Monday, March 19. For a two-weeks engagement, with matinees Wednesday and Saturday. The return of Miss Elliott in this comedy, which enjoyed the prestige of a run at four different theatres in New York and New Jersey, during the winter, and which scored one of the pronounced hits of the year at the Hollis last season, is one of the important events of the season, and the box office indications are that Miss Elliott's engagement will be quite as successful as it was a year ago. Miss Elliott has just concluded a long tour of the Pacific Coast, and has presented "Her Own Way," in every important city of the country with uniform success. It is announced that this will be her farewell Boston appearance in her "Her Own Way." "Her Own Way" is a story of modern life, and the characters are all representative American types, such as one might meet in real life. The atmosphere and treatment are distinctly American. Miss Ellsworth Carley, played by Miss Elliott, is a splendid type of the modern independent American woman. While the role of Dick Coleman, her lover, and Sam Coast, the unscrupulous millionaire are true examples of reality, Georgiana Carley is loved by both men, but she entirely loses her preference for Dick, in a delicious comedy scene which takes place in the children's nursery. In this scene Miss Elliott has a fine part in portraying a blind man's boot and hides under a table. But the real making of Sam Coast in his rough, rugged way, interrupts the fun. Coast deliberately lies to Coleman, in order to make him believe that Georgiana is already engaged to him, and Coleman then goes to the Philippines and marries Georgiana. Coast finds that he has a hard task before him to win Georgiana, and he then repays Georgiana's weak brother to gain the girl for the family so that Georgiana, in her poverty, may be led to accept him and his millions. How Georgiana insists upon having her own way, and resists the influence of friends and family, in order to keep to her absent lover, is charmingly and convincingly told in the succeeding acts. Even when news comes that Dick has been killed, she still insists upon having her own way, and in the end happiness rewards her.

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It happened in the office.
A scene of wild despair.
The Dean was most distracted.
The Casier bent with care.
"The Senior credit cards are due."
The Dean's assistant wailed.
"And I, alas! have lost the stamps".
That show them Passed and Failed?"
They hunted long and hunted far.
They gave it up at last.
Ten Credit stamps had come to light.
But ne'er a Failed or Passed.
The Seniors got their cards next day.
Their reputation spoiled.
They waved straight credit in the air.
"Oh, see how we have toiled!"
Not only in athletics.
They said in deepest glee.
But academically as well.
"We're smart as we can be!"

MRS. KELLEY'S LECTURE.

Thursday evening, at the regular meeting of the Christian Association, Mrs. Florence Kelley gave a most interesting talk on the Consumers' League, and its work.

This organization has not increased as rapidly as seems reasonable to expect of it. "No people," said Mrs. Kelley, "are willing to go on as they are. If they were they would be boycotted. Yet many children to-night will work till daylight at products which we will buy. In the Southern Cotton Mills hundreds of children, hardly more than babies, work all night. At mid-night these six-year-olds are given black coffee to ward off sleep. Factories are formed especially for children barely old enough to do kindergarten work, where they work as long as they can keep awake.

We must realize the ugly fact that it is we who encourage this. There is no item of our clothing excepting gins, costly lace, spectacles and furs on which children do not work.

But it is at Christmas-time, a Christian festival, when we are most brutal. There is legislation in favor of shortened hours and age-limit in force at every season but this most wearing of all—Christmas. We may not do our shopping late, but more than to refrain ourselves it is necessary to stand for the truth and to interest others to act in accordance with Christian precepts.

Mrs. Kelley told many stories of her thirteen years residence among the poorest of the poor. Especially strong in its effect was the incident of the little Jewish girl who couldn't comprehend the idea of a polite Christian, since she had only seen them shopping. At eight o'clock the Consumers' League held a meeting in the Faculty Parlor, at which Mrs. Kelley again spoke.

L. M. B.
**ALUMNÆ NOTES.**

(In addition to items about Alumnae, this column will occasionally contain notes about members of the Faculty, past and present, and former students.)

At the thirty-ninth annual meeting of the Boston Young Women's Christian Association, held on March sixth, Mrs. Durant declined re-election, after serving for thirty-nine consecutive years as president, and was made president emeritus. The resolutions presented in appreciation of Mrs. Durant's services concluded:

"Her long years of prayerful and untiring service; her courteous and dignified bearing; her calm and impartial judgment, and her generous bestowal of time, strength and worldly goods for the furtherance and uplift of this work call forth our unbounded gratitude and respect and our warmest admiration.

We honor the work and the worker, and while we reluctantly yield to her request that she be allowed to retire from active official duties, we rejoice that we may still place her name at the head of our official list as president emeritus.

"The grand and final results of her work await more abundant disclosure in the future. Her last memorial will be her life's work, of which the great Master himself has been her chosen architect."—(Report from Boston Herald.)

A poem by Professor Vida D. Scudder, "Gratias Agamus," will be found in the February Magazine number of the Outlook.

On Saturday afternoon the Wellesley College Club members were "at home" to the members of the Manchester College Woman's Club at the home of Miss Elsie Danforth Fairbanks, 2627 Ingleside Place. Cards of admission will be two dollars and fifty cents. President Hazard will be the guest of the Club, and the invitation is extended to all Wellesley girls who can be present.

Miss Elsie Thalheimer, 1887, will entertain Miss Hazard during her stay in Cincinnati.

Circulars describing the life and conditions at Aloha. The Gulick Camp for Girls, near Lake Morey, Fairlee, Vermont, have been issued by Mrs. Harriet Farnsworth Gulick, 1887; and her husband, Mr. Edward Leeds Gulick. The Camp is beautifully situated and arrangements for health and pleasure are carefully supervised. Girls from twelve to twenty-two are admitted and can combine an ideal summer out-of-doors with nature study and instruction in various handicrafts, such as wood carving, Venetian iron work, raphia work and Indian basket weaving, pyrography, cut and embroidered leather. Miss Sigrid S. Wahlberg, who has charge of this work, received her training at the Industrial School in Stockholm, Sweden, and also at Mr. Scott's Industrial School, Jamaica Plain, Mass.

**ENGAGEMENTS ANNOUNCED.**

Miss Pearl Randall, 1901, to Dr. Watson Lovell Wasson, Pathologist at the Vermont State Hospital for Insane, Waterbury, Vermont.

**MARRIAGES.**

GILMAY—CARTER. In Hankow, China, February 22, 1906, Miss Gertrude Carter, 1895, to Reverend Alfred Alonzo Gilmay.

BIRTHS.

At Cedar Rapids, Iowa, February 22, 1906, a son, Thomas Sutherland, to Mrs. Winifred Augebury Cook, 1895.

The Senior class is proud as it can be,
The Juniors got straight credit easily,
The Sophomores and Freshmen did first rate—
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ALUMNÆ NOTES—Continued.

Miss Ruth Crosby, 1903, is teaching in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, in “The Children’s Private School.”

Miss Marion L. Proctor, 1903, is teaching in Revere, Massachusetts.

Miss Elizabeth Bertwell, 1903, has substituted in the High School in Washington, D. C., this winter, and also done some private tutoring.

THE CLASSES FOR MAIDS.

Last spring was organized that branch of the Christian Association which carries on classes among the maids. It seemed to answer a need that had been felt for some time. At a social held in the Agora House last November the work was again started and with lively enthusiasm; classes were organized under the Faculty member of the committee, Miss Edwards. The maids were invited to ask for instruction in any branch desired. That some of the requests were rather unexpected can be seen from the following list of classes. The arrangement is in order of number enrolled in each class.

Gymnastics, under... Eleanor Hollick and Florence Cantiyen
Singing, under... Esther Gibbs and Charlotte Gardner
Elucution, under... Jessie Steane and Bertha Ryan
Sewing, under... Anne Cummins and Helen Cook
English Language, (for Swedish maid,) under Catherine Jones
Biblical History, under... Alma Tyler
German, under... Blanche Darling
Advanced English, under... Alice Breck
English Literature, under... Ruth Haulenbeck
Mathematics, under... Adele Ogden
Spanish, under... Myrtle Goodman

The maids, it may be mentioned, come not only from the houses on the College grounds but from the Noanett, the Inn, and the boarding houses in the village. Those from private houses are, however, few in number and hard to reach.

A Christmas party was given just before vacation and Florence Risley, as Santa Claus, distributed oranges and candy. Last Monday night, the Sophomore play, “Tommy’s Wife,” was repeated for the maids.

The attendance at the socials is always large, but at the classes it has fallen off a great deal since Christmas. One reason for this is the cold weather. The teachers of the classes and others interested now feel strongly that the work in another year should be less instructive in character and given more to sociality and recreation.

The members of the committee are: Miss Edwards, Nellie A. Hubbs, 1903, chairman, Alice F. Walmsley, 1906, Alice C. Jones, 1906, Esther G. Abercrombie, 1907, Mabel Emerson and Elvira Slack, ex-officio.

THEATER NOTES.

COLONIAL THEATRE—Eleanor Robson in “Merely Mary Ann.”
HOLLIS STREET THEATRE—Maxine Elliott in “Her Own Way.”
BOSTON THEATRE—Chauncey Olcott.
MAJESTIC THEATRE—“Piff, Paff, Pouf.”
PARK THEATRE—Charles Hawtrey in “A Message from Mars.”
CASTLE SQUARE THEATRE—“The Colleen Bown.”

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