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TO HEAR TALK ON "TESTS OF RELIGION"**

**Head of Union Theological Seminary Proves Fallacy of Disbelieving in Religious Concepts For the Lack of Laboratory Proof**

Speaking before an assemblage of students which nearly filled "Smith" Hall, Professor Harry E. Fosdick, of Columbia University, delivered an exceedingly interesting address upon the "Tests of Religion," at the Convocation held last Friday noon. In the absence of President Maclaurin, who was suddenly called away, Dean Burton introduced the speaker.

**Many Need "Laboratory Proof"**

In beginning his talk, Professor Fosdick first stated that many men did not believe in the Church because the facts and beliefs upon which it was founded could not be proven by "laboratory methods." He then stated that we cannot prove anything in the moral realm, but we simply know them to be true. As a proof of this he instanced that everyone knows that it is right to tell the truth, but still such a fact cannot be proved in the way that one would prove that there are so many heat units in some definite amount of coal; or again one might say that a thing is beautiful, but, though this may be an admitted fact, still it cannot be proven by any laboratory method. From such examples it can be easily seen that should we banish all things which cannot be proven, we must then banish everything pertaining to the moral, personal, aesthetic, and religious realms.

**"In the Realm of Experience"**

Continuing, Professor Fosdick said that there were three fields which made him know that his religious convictions were true. The first of these was the "realm of experience." In explaining this, he told how there was "a something" within him, seemingly like another person, which told him what was right and what was wrong, rebuked him for his bad deeds, and commended him for his good deeds. Such things as these, together with other similar experiences, not especially of our own but of others also, lead us to believe that we deal with a "moral other."

**"In the Realm of Hypothesis"**

Next comes the "realm of hypothesis," in which we start with the experiences of man and from them deduce certain hypotheses in a manner similar to that by which a chemist or any scientist would deduce a hypothesis.

Professor Fosdick then discussed the people who do not have a firm belief in God. His advice to them was not to

have little doubts about the existence of an immortal being, but to accept for a time the radical "No God Hypothesis" completely and then to sit down and try to believe that there is no one better than he is,—maybe a little, but not much—; that there is no one superior to him in mind, morals or anything else.

Continuing, he said that many men reduced moral conditions and beliefs to a physical basis, and then from this basis they built back up in a physical way to the same place from where they started. According to the way they think, a person might take up a set of Shakespeare and say that it was not created by the mind but was just a result of outside forces; that the letters forming the words were nothing but so many distinct figures coming from an alphabet of twenty-six; and due to certain conditions had arranged themselves in a certain order; that even these letters of the alphabet were nothing but a number of black lines originally scattered throughout the universe, but had later, due to other forces working upon them, been brought together on the paper of the book in such a way that they formed words. This theory is, however, incorrect, as the "fundamental reality is Mind."

**"Verification of Life"**

The last of the three realms spoken of before is that of the "verification of life," which is one of the greatest tests of religion. In order to clearly illustrate his meaning, Professor Fosdick took as an example nautical observations. These, he said, may be taken to an observatory to be proven correct, but the main test comes when they are given to a sailor to sail by. If they prove to be satisfactory for this purpose, then they must be correct. Religious ideas are of the same order; theologians may discuss and prove them, but the main thing is that these ideas have "been on the market"; millions of people have lived by them and believed in them for many years, and "have found them mighty good living."

Professor Fosdick is the head of the Department of Practical Theology of the Union Theological Seminary, connected with Columbia University, and probably exercises the greatest influence in directing student thinking on moral and religious questions of any man in America.

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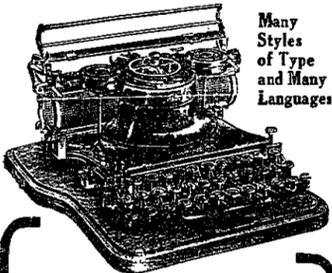
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**SHOOTERS BETTER SCORE BY 40 POINTS IN NINTH MATCH**

The Rifle Team shot off the ninth of the indoor matches last week, the individual scores following: G. R. Bond, Jr., 19, 185; A. E. Tuttle '18, 177; G. A. Irwin '19, 170; H. J. McDonald '17, 169; T. E. Stahl '17, 169; W. Hadden '20, 168; J. C. Irwin '20, 156; H. M. Noelke '20, 150; W. S. Burbank '19, 146; K. S. M. Davidson '19, 171. A. E. Tuttle made a "possible," i. e., 100 out of a possible 100, on this match; this is the first "possible" that has been made this year. The team score is 870 (counting the five highest scores only). This is a much better score than the team has had so far, being just forty points higher than last week's score. With the warm weather approaching, which will make the range less disagreeable, this score should be duplicated if not improved.

The men who ate to shoot in match 10 and the hours at which they are to report at the range to shoot their match targets are as follows: Monday, 2.30-3.30, J. C. Irwin and H. M. Noelke; Tuesday, 4-5, H. J. McDonald and F. C. Howard; Wednesday, 3-4, G. R. Bond and W. S. Burbank; Thursday, 1-2, G. A. Irwin; Friday, 2-3, W. Hadden and T. E. Stahl, 3-4, 3-4, A. E. Tuttle. The men on the squad as given above were chosen with their aggregate scores to date as a basis. Captain Stahl will be glad to go over the scores with anyone interested.

The Captain wishes to emphasize that all targets must be in by 4 P. M. Friday, and that any man who does not get his targets in by that time will be dropped from the squad. The squad as it now stands is based on relative standing, but anyone who does not get his targets in on time will be dropped, no matter what his scores are, because the targets must be mailed to Washington Friday afternoon.

**TO CONSIDER NEW METHODS OF TEACHING**

(Continued from page 1)

engineer is greatly more exacting than it was a generation ago and the equipment of the engineer must be consequently more varied. Not only must the extent of his knowledge of science be greater, but there is much more that is required of him than mere knowledge of science. An over-crowded curriculum and an almost panicky condition of work is the inevitable consequence unless special care is given to the methods of instruction. Recognizing this, the President of the Institute is setting up a committee of the Faculty charged with the special duty of considering ways and means of improving the methods of instruction. There is so much to be done in this field that the chairman of this committee will have little time for anything else. It has consequently been decided to strengthen the Faculty by the addition of another member, who will be made chairman of this committee and, except for a very small amount of teaching, be freed from most other duties. The man selected for this most important office is Dr. Charles R. Mann, professor of physics in the University of Chicago, a native of Orange, N. J. Dr. Mann is a graduate of Columbia University and of the University of Berlin, and the author of various writings on Physics and on the teaching of science. For the past three years he has been on leave of absence from the University of Chicago in order to enable him to devote his whole time to the service of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching."

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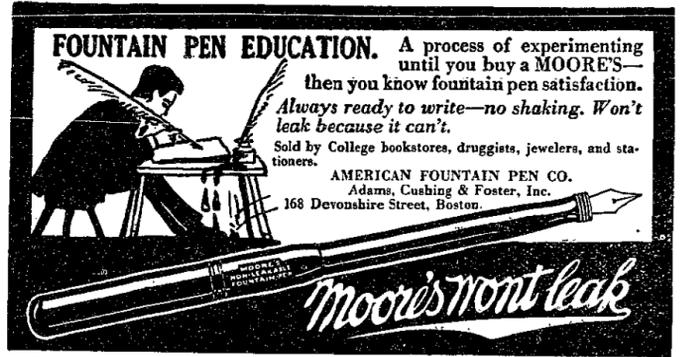
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