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No. 38.

POLITICS OF ARISTOTLE.

AN EXCELLENT TREATMENT OF ARISTOTLE'S THEORIES OF GOVERNMENT
BY PROFESSOR I. A. LOOS.

Through the courtesy of the author, the VIDETTE-REPORTER has been permitted to glance over some of the advance pages of an excellent work on The Politics of Aristotle by Professor Isaac A. Loos, of the chair of Political Economy of the University of Iowa. The high reputation which the author enjoys in the field which he has covered in this treatise will attract the attention of many scholars to the work when issued.

An examination of the pages shows that the scholarly work which Professor Loos has here presented will prove of great value to the students of politics, economics, and ethics. The author thus presents the claims of the Greek political writers upon the student of today:

"Two conspicuous units in the social and political philosophy of both Aristotle and Plato, deserve special mention and continuous recognition, merits common indeed to some other Greek thinkers of their age; they are first, the merits of originality and charms of thought—their views were in large measure in the nature of first thoughts on their subjects, and secondly, the merit of penetration and depth—they looked at society as a whole and therefore apprehended in its merits, numerous relations and functions with a perspicacity and exactness that are often wanting in modern thinkers. Back to Aristotle is the appropriate watch word of much of the best work now being done in the direction of a broader and more exacting study of human society."

The Politics of Aristotle are taken up in the several chapter-headings as follows:

- I. On the Nature of the State and the Elements of Political Economy.
- II. Literary and Historical Constitutions.
- III. The Theory of Polity.
- IV. The Theory of Administration.
- V. The Ideal City-State and Education.

In the first chapter is given Aristotle's idea of the State, the highest form of organized human association, all inclusive and aiming at the highest good in the highest degree. The state is therefore prior to the family and to the individual, "as the whole must necessarily come before the part," argues the sage in mathematical axiom. The state rests on definite and enduring relations which are above the caprice of the individual; the citizen enters at birth a common heritage of race, language, religion and law; he is born into a framework of institutions which he has not made and cannot, to any great extent, change. The city makes the man. Inquiry into the nature of the family, the relations of master and slave, are treated at length. Further sections deal with wealth-getting and exchange.

In the first sections of the second chapter, which are on Literary Constitutions, the schemes of various writers for an ideal city state are reviewed, contemporary writers such as Plato, Phalios and Hippodamus, being approved or disapproved as political philosophers, as suited Aristotle. In the latter sections the constitutions of Sparta, Crete, Carthage and Athens are reviewed. "In every good polity the citizens must have lei-

sure," Aristotle remarks at one place. "They should be relieved from all anxiety about the bare necessities of life." But he finds a difficulty existing in all states as to how this leisure should be obtained. Aristotle approves Solon's labors and brands Ephialtes and Pericles as demagogues.

The third chapter discusses citizenship and the classes of citizens. The test of citizenship is the right of suffrage and of sitting on juries. The many rather than the few should rule the state yet the highest offices and the greatest financial burden for the support of the state must go to the few, but the offices of deliberation and the courts of justice shall be conceded to the many. The best constitution is that in which all the elements of the state are represented, and in which all the elements are held in their places by a system of checking and balancing these elements against one another. The best polity is the one in which the great middle class have control; thus the only states capable of a good administration are those in which the middle class is numerically large.

The fourth chapter has sections on the organization of administration, dealing with the distribution of offices; on the causes of failure in administration, dealing with revolutions and seditions in the state, which he finds are caused by force or fraud; and on the principles of administration, including twenty-one wise injunctions for the guidance of those who wish to retain their heads on their shoulders whilst administering this ticklish organ, the state. Aristotle criticises Plato's idea of the cycle of change of governments through revolutions, averring that he "fails to recognize with clearness the manifold and complex motives which foster sedition and lead to revolutions."

The fifth book takes up the city state and ideas on education. The conditions most favorable to a good life are three: wealth, health and virtue. Aristotle naively remarks that most persons want the first two in an unlimited degree, while of virtue they think that any small amount that they have is sufficient.

A great many of Aristotle's paragraphs make excellent food for thought:

"It is possible for those to be prosperous who do not act honorably."

"The question of the best life for the state and for the individual turns on the preference for wealth or virtue."

"The state craving for conquest is like the rich man seeking to augment his possessions. The state content with a moderate and temperate life within itself is like the virtuous man who finds the satisfaction of living in himself. As the virtuous man is better than the avaricious man, so the state organized to promote its own welfare within itself is better than the state in quest of more worlds."

The book makes interesting reading to anyone interested in the subjects of politics, economics or ethics, the more so from the clear presentation of the subject-matter by means of the excellently-named chapter headings, sub-chapters and sections.

Baconian.

The Baconian Paper for next Friday evening, Dec. 15, will be given by Wilber T. Teeters on the subject, "Some Facts About Patent Medicines."

WISCONSIN PRELIMINARY.

QUESTION AND PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIRST INTER-SOCIETY DEBATE OF THE YEAR.

The Wisconsin preliminary which was to have been held last week has been postponed until the early part of the winter term. The question chosen is, Resolved, "That the United States should encourage her Merchant Marine by a system of discriminating duties." The debaters were chosen last spring but owing to resignation two of the members were chosen during the fall term which perhaps may account for the postponement.

The question will be affirmed for South Hall by Messrs. Geo. Fletcher, Jas. Burrus and H. A. McCaffrie, and denied for North Hall by M. M. Moulton, Fred Merriau and M. J. McCarthy.

The result of the debate is anxiously awaited by both societies, both because it is the first inter-society contest this year and because the team which the trio selected from these preliminary debaters will have to meet will be by far the strongest team met by the University this year, as was shown by the result of our debate with Wisconsin last year.

Wisconsin submits the question this year. It will therefore probably be a question new to the debaters and on account of the inconvenience of choosing sides before the debaters are chosen. It is hoped that the preliminary will come as early in the winter term as possible so debaters and sides may be chosen and work begun in the inter-state debate.

The agreement with Wisconsin ends this year, it is therefore necessary that a good showing be made in order that it may be renewed and made permanent, a consummation which is very much desired by Iowa since the results of last year showed Wisconsin to be a worthy foe.

Instructions to Judges.

It is important in an inter-collegiate debate that the judges should know upon what considerations the debaters desire that a decision should be rendered. Recognizing this, the debating associations of Harvard, Yale and Princeton have decided to send to the judges selected for their inter-collegiate debates statements informing them along what lines they should render their decisions.

The letters to the judges explain the method by which the question for debate is selected and state the principle that the award is to be made to the college team that shows generally the greater argumentative ability and the better form in delivery.

The letter elaborates these two points as follows:

"The association is agreed that, in determining argumentative ability, the judges should take into consideration thorough knowledge of the subject, logical sequence, skill in selecting and presenting evidence, and power in rebuttal; and that in considering the form of the speakers as distinguished from their arguments they should regard bearing, quality of voice, correct pronunciation, clear enunciation, ease and appropriateness of gesture, and directness, variety, and emphasis in delivery. Without attempting to assign exact valuation to these various elements, the association is agreed that as between the two, matter is more important than form; and that

should one team excel in matter, and the other to an equal degree in form, the award should go to the former.

"Lastly, the association ventures to suggest to the judges that upon withdrawing after the debate to make their decision, they cast a written ballot (before consultation) in order thereby to obtain a working basis from which the final decision may be reached. Should there be doubt in the mind of any judge as to the purport and intent of these instructions, the association suggests that the judges meet just before the debate with the representative of each college, and that in this conference an attempt be made to resolve any difficulty connected with the interpretation of these instructions."

Medical Notes.

C. J. Stanley, '01, has gone home on account of sickness.

The boys had a few minutes of good natured "rough house" Thursday morning but Dean Middleton thought best to interfere before trouble resulted.

Surgical clinic was so large that extra clinic was held Friday morning.

Shaffer, '03, was assisted to ink as hair tonic for getting into the senior's row of seats.

Dr. McClintock has been in Chicago a few days on business. He visited the Medical schools and saw several of the former Iowa boys. He also says that he was told by some of the instructors that Iowa boys were the best students in the schools. This demonstrates the quality of the department.

It is reported that "Capt" Ingham, '03, made a neat speech at the banquet given by Dr. MacLean. He gave to Assistant Coach Hobbs, '01, the credit of making the second team what it was.

Gifford, '01, went to his room Tuesday under the impression that he had the mumps and as he didn't appear for classes Wednesday, it must be so.

The Chicago Tribune of the 7th had a neat little editorial, scoring the law in Iowa, compelling graduates from the Medical department to pass an examination before the State Board of Health before they can practice in the State. It said Iowa's Medical school was as good as any in the country with a possible exception of two or three.

Dr. Guthrie did not meet his classes Tuesday afternoon, but promised them examinations next week.

Two Freshmen have already branched out into surgery and performed an amputation. They anaesthetized a dog and claim they performed a fine operation, but "when they got through poor doggie was dead."

The Histological laboratory is having some lockers put in. This is a long-needed improvement.

Pharmacy Items.

Miss Sutter, of Winthrop, spent Sunday with Miss Cooper. She was on her way to Omaha, where she will visit Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Cooper.

The Juniors had an examination in chemistry Tuesday.

D. Wikoff, '01, has been absent from classes for several days, having trouble with her eyes.

Mrs. Carol has been absent from classes for a few days. Her little son is ill.

The Vidette-Reporter.

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THE VIDETTE-REPORTER,
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as second class matter.

We take pleasure in announcing to our
readers the election of Mr. R. P. Doud,
'02, to the position of Associate Editor on
the VIDETTE-REPORTER staff.

A Long Trip.

The announcement that Chicago or
Carlisle will probably play California in
San Francisco on Christmas day affords
some food for thought among admirers
of the American college game; not be-
cause of its desirability for the athletic
managements of the colleges concerned,
for that is a matter private to California
and the other contesting team, but be-
cause of its bearing upon athletics in
general. The tendency to take long and
expensive trips has before been mani-
fest, but this is an extreme example of a
trip for a distance of two thousand miles
and in a season one month after the end
of the usual period of training. However
desirable it may be thought to be by the
two universities, we do not think that it
can be of any real inter-collegiate or ath-
letic good. Nor is it probable that a
trans-continental game is required by the
physical needs of the teams, for there are
numerous paternal sidewalks and wood-
piles ready for action this holiday vaca-
tion.

California cannot expect to ask a game
in San Francisco of a leading eastern
team, any more than Chicago, if she
were the champion of the Middle West,
could ask Harvard to play her in Chicago.
The reason for the game given by promi-
nent officials at Chicago is that Ken-
nedy's eleven deserves a holiday-treat
trip such as this, after the long and ar-
duous season.

This will give rise to some questions as
to the real end of athletics—to benefit the
University and develop the individual
student, or to give the victorious athlete
triumphal processions and languorous
hours as a reward for having developed
himself? And if the latter be counten-
anced, just by how many hairbreadths
does this thing escape overstepping the
golden, indefinite boundary between am-
ateur and professional sport?

The universities concerned have the
entire right to take and countenance
such trips if they please; yet it is a mat-
ter of regret to many that this phase of
college sport should manifest itself as
strongly as it does. The current idea
that the college has the best athletes
which makes the longest and most spec-
tacular trips with its teams may be cor-
rect, but if it is, the true end of collegiate
and intercollegiate athletics have been
lost in the scramble for advertisement
and notoriety.

Student's Rates.

The C. R. I. & P. R. R. will sell stu-
dents and teachers of the University
round trip tickets at 1 1/2 fare on presen-
tation of certificate from proper officer
of the University showing bearer to be
students or teachers going home for the
holidays. Tickets will be sold on the
day their department closes and the day
following. Return limit on the day de-
partment reopens but not later than Jan
10, 1900. Be sure and procure a certifi-
cate as tickets cannot be sold without it.

H. D. BREEN, Agt

The Library.

The University Library is continually
increasing. During the term that is now
drawing to a close a large number of valu-
able books have been added. Among
them the following may be mentioned:
A full set of Bulletins de la Societe Chem-
ique; Cates' Dictionary of Architecture
in 23 parts; Rocinet Polychromatic Orna-
ments; Parliamentary papers relating to
the Transvaal. In addition to these we
might mention many other volumes.

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FACT AND RUMOR.

J. J. Breene, L. '01, is confined to his
room with the mumps.

Don't forget—the date of the Sopho-
more Cotillion is January 19th, 1900.

Misses Lottie and Mary Reichard, of
Marion, visited friends in the city and
University last week.

Marshall, L. '01, returned Wednesday
morning from Davenport were he had
been summoned as a witness.

Ed McMillen, H. M. '03, has been ab-
sent from recitations for the last few
days on account of sickness.

The Pharmacy department will close
this Saturday, giving the students an op-
portunity to clerk in stores during the
holiday rush.

The Hesperian Society have accepted
the challenge of the Philomathean Soci-
ety of Cornell. If the terms are accepted
the debaters will be chosen at once.

Miss Hughes entertained the Polygon
last evening. The club elected the fol-
lowing officers: President, J. E. Gow;
vice-president, L. E. Mitchell; secretary,
Miss Switzer.

Dental Department.

Hamill, '01, is confined to his room by
sickness.

A few of the Junior class are now doing
clinic work.

The Seniors and Juniors had a very ex-
citing "mix-up" with the Freshmen
Tuesday morning. The defensive work
of Senior and Junior classes was fine, and
was only equalled by the offensive work
of the Freshmen. Doctor DeFord's in-
terference was rather slow. A touchdown
was made on Dexter's hat.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

TRANSPORTATION CLASS.

Dr. Patterson will give a class in Transportation, extending through the winter and spring terms. The class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a. m. Those wishing to enter this class must arrange their schedules in the dean's office by Friday, Dec., 15.

WINTER TERM SCHEDULES.

All petitions relating to schedule for the winter term must be filed in the Dean's office before 1:30 p. m. of Friday, Dec. 15. Otherwise, except in special cases, they will not be considered.

Students desiring to change schedules before the opening of the winter term, whether such changes require action upon special petitions or not, must meet the committee on admission and classification for that purpose between the hours of 9 and 12 a. m., Saturday, Dec. 16, at the political science lecture room in the central building. No other opportunity will be given for making such changes.

New students will be scheduled on Jan. 2, 1900, from 2 to 4 p. m.

G. E. MACLEAN.

Free Gymnasium Exhibition.

The members of the Y. W. C. A. invite all ladies of the University and city to witness the work done by the gymnasium class under the efficient leadership of Miss Nellie Leyde, of Cedar Rapids. The exhibition will be given at Close Hall, Saturday morning at ten o'clock.

Homoepathic Department.

Dr. Hamilton, of Paullina, brought a patient to Dr. Newberry's clinic last week.

Misses Ives and Northrup, of Marion, visited friends in the department last week.

Dr. A. W. Homan, formerly assistant to the chair of ophthalmology, is located at Massena, Ia.

Dr. Lillie, of Marion, brought a patient to surgical clinic Saturday.

Parsons, 'ot, has the grip.

The Hannemanian Society is preparing to give a series of interesting programs.

Students.

Before arranging for board for the new year call and see us. We have terms that will make it interesting for you.

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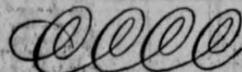
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