

THE POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB.

The Political Science Club's series of lectures for the season was most auspiciously opened on Thursday last by Professor Mavor, who lectured on "Recent Municipal Progress in the United States." The lecturer gave a rapid survey of municipal history in the United States, showing that the original charters of the cities were granted by the Governors; that they followed the English model; that the cities were given very considerable autonomy; that they were practically independent of the colonial legislatures, and that they were rather formidable political forces. He pointed out that the mayor was usually appointed by the governor. He next spoke of the executive and legislative bodies in modern American cities, and described the mayor's position and his relation to these. The mayor is elected for terms extending from one to four years. Professor Mavor felt that the one-year term was too short; it involved frequent expensive elections, and the time was too limited to learn the work or carry out a policy. It was noticed as extraordinary in a democratic country that the idea was generally prevalent that the mayor within his sphere should be practically despotic.

Corruption, the lecturer said, is unfortunately rife in American cities. It arises, he believed, through the control of the cities by the State legislatures, and the intermingling of State and Federal politics with municipal politics. The members of State legislatures are more open to corrupt influences (particularly that of appointments) than are the higher-class men of the city councils.

The "boss" of the American cities was next described. He is usually an ex-saloonkeeper; has pleasing manners; knows everyone, and has immense real power, although it is purely personal. A typical example of the "boss" is Mr. George Cox, who is more powerful in Cincinnati than is the Czar of Russia within his sphere. He controls everything. His justification (which has some force) is that he gives the people good, orderly, cheap government. What more can they ask? The "boss" system has arisen through the complicated interweaving of municipal, State and Federal politics.

In New York, Tammany is an immensely powerful machine. It does not run city as a business, but it takes an interest in every citizen. It looks after his whole life; it even attends to his amusements. It gets closer to the life of the people than does any other party. Its charitable work is very important. It may be clumsy and expensive, but it is effective to a very large extent. Tammany and such institutions find favor on account of the heterogeneous character of the population. The foreigners in American cities do not assimilate. They are great hard knots in the city life. The foreign vote turns against reform because foreigners find themselves restricted in the satisfaction of their appetites.

But there is another side. The life of American cities is not all corruption. There is a very wide-spread movement, parallel to that in Europe, to beautify American cities and to lay them out on scientific principles. Cleveland, Washington, Chicago and Philadelphia are doing much in this direction. They are still, however, far behind Europe. Philadelphia, with the largest park area in America, has only 3,000 acres as against the 172,000 acres of Paris or the 22,000 acres of London.

The most puzzling problem of all is that of transportation. Thousands of people must be moved into the hearts of these great cities in the morning; many must be taken out and brought back at noon; and they must

be taken out in the evening. Chicago has twenty buildings of the same character as the New York Life building in an area of less than one square mile. Every day 20,000 people go in and out of this building. That means that 400,000 people, or 10,000 carloads, must be transported to and from this small area daily. The problem is tremendous.

The lecturer closed by saying that he wished to leave with his audience the idea that in the United States, as in Europe, there is a tremendous revival of civic feeling which will produce in the near future very excellent results.

Ex-Mayor Shaw, in a few apt words, moved a vote of thanks to Prof. Mavor. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hocken, of *The News*, who agreed with Prof. Mavor that a two-year term for the mayor would be desirable.

The open meeting of the Mathematical and Physical Society will be held next Thursday, Dec. 10th, at 8 p.m., in Room 16. Addresses will be given by Prof. Baker and by Dr. McLennan. A musical programme will also be provided.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[All correspondence must be written on two sides of the paper only, and signed with the real name and age of the writer. Address Oudeis, care of Charlie, manager of THE VARSITY.]

J. J. C.—The information you require would take up too much space in our columns, but Professor McLennan's lectures on Social Etiquette cover the whole ground. There will be six lectures during the term, at each of which afternoon tea will be served, each student being required to bring some extraordinary instrument of table use as an object of instruction. Instead of a written examination, Doctor McLennan will conduct his class to a Government House reception, and their standing will be determined by the excellence of their deportment there.

Professor H.—The subject you have chosen for a series of culture lectures, "The Aesthetic Aspects of Anthropophagy," has never been touched on by Professor Clark.

Max.—No, it is not correct to pass a box of chocolates along the seat at a Rugby match; you should pass it down to the seat in front also.

Amo.—I do not think you should dance more than six dances with one of so similar a complexion. People might think you were twins.

Your writing shows a very literary and artistic nature. You are of an argumentative turn of mind, and would make a splendid Parliamentarian. Study all the important problems of the day as far as they affect your own country, and take less time for your college work.

Arete.—It is bad form to smile at young men right in front of a lecturer. Try and place yourself at such an angle to him that he won't notice it.

Tiny Tim.—You are quite right in not asking any of the girls of your own year for numbers at receptions. They love to sit against the wall and watch you giving the Freshettes a good time.

Is it said there's a balm for a lover crossed,
Or a candidate defeated;
But the only balm for a ball-game lost
Is to swear the referee cheated.

—Exchange.