

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERIES OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF TORONTO STUDIES.A. KIRSCHMANN M.A., PH.D.,  
EDITOR PSYCHOLOGICAL SERIES

Number four, the last number of Volume I, of the Psychological Series of the University Studies has just been issued. The number contains three articles: "Conceptions and Laws in Æsthetic," by Prof. A. Kirschmann; "Experiments on the Æsthetic of Light and Color," by Miss E. S. Baker, B.A.; "Experiments with School Children on Color Combinations," by W. J. Dobbie, M.A.

A complete review of such a scientific publication is impossible here, and a very short review can be but little more than a mere notice with a hint here and there as to what one can find if he read the articles thoroughly.

Prof. Kirschmann's article is thorough and profoundly suggestive. It is good reading whether one agrees with the point of view of the author or not, for the statements are well fortified and fearlessly honest.

We are reminded of the necessity of exact definition of terms in æsthetic discussions, and in no questionable way it is shown that this critical work is largely lacking in æsthetics. Critique and illustration are so skilfully interwoven that even in its most intricate parts the article will be found full of interest and not laboriously "heavy."

Many of the popular distinctions in æsthetic are discussed, such as: "Realism and Idealism," "Technique," "Chiaro-oscuro," etc., and if the reader be not able to use these terms as glibly, after studying the article, as formerly, it will be, probably, because he sees problems where formerly he saw none.

A discussion of the reproduction of light-intensities by means of pigments, and a short note on color-combinations close the article. Dr. Kirschmann holds that in the present state of our knowledge we have a right to say that "any two color-qualities will make a satisfactory combination if selected in the right intensity, saturation and space relations."

Miss Baker's article "On combinations of two colors" is certainly a clear statement, both historical and experimental, of the problem and the work done in investigating it. From her work we are encouraged to believe that æsthetics may yet become a science in which experiment and research will form the basis of assertions regarding the agreeable and the disagreeable.

Probably the most important conclusion will be thought to be that regarding the agreeableness of combinations of complementary colors. It has generally been held that these form the most agreeable combinations, while Miss Baker's research, which seems quite conclusive on the point, shows that this is not the case.

Miss Baker is to be congratulated on the clear and exhaustive presentation of the subject she has made, which, as the reader is assured on glancing at the many curves and tables showing the results, must have taken a great deal of hard, painstaking work.

Mr. Dobbie's article is also descriptive of experimental work, and, with those already mentioned, it merits a word of praise.

The chief result will probably be found to be the discovery that children who have not seen a spectrum, in arranging colors in an order which they find the most pleasing, adopt the spectral order oftener than any other. There are also other results of great interest in the article.

We can heartily recommend the number to any who are interested in æsthetics—it will well repay careful study. This with the preceding numbers may also serve to show that research work is not being neglected in our Psychological Laboratory.

A. H. A. Abbott

## A WORD FOR ALL.

It is a matter worthy of consideration that many of the most successful meetings of our Literary Society have been the most scantily attended. I would like to ask, "Is it not possible that this very success depends partly on the fact that counter attractions and stormy weather are productive not only of a meagre but of an *appreciative* audience? However that may be, our late meeting of the 11th inst. was unanimously declared to be one of the most successful on record. There are three reasons for this. In the first place, the speeches were excellent, and what is more, uniformly excellent. In the second, haggling over details of business did not eat up the best part of the evening and spoil the program. Lastly, it is in the highest degree complimentary to the performance of those gentlemen who took part in the musical program of that evening and to the good sense of their audience that they got a *respectable hearing*; and if there has been anything more needed than this in the meetings of the society in late years, I would like to ask what it may be.

That an organization such as the University of Toronto cannot produce scholars of culture and common courtesy enough to keep silence during the performance of good music in the most important public functions of that institution, is, to say the least of it, not flattering to think upon. In this respect we have all been guilty, though in different degrees. But although it would be absurd to claim a general *appreciation* of music among us, I believe that there is a common love of it, and I would venture to suggest that it is largely due to ignorance of how disconcerting and thoroughly disheartening it is to the performer to hear a continual buzz of conversation proceeding around him during his whole performance, that this inadvertence is due.

Until there is instituted some better practice of listening to musical programs at Varsity, both at ordinary and at all public meetings and functions of the Literary Society—and even, I must mention, at the Varsity Musical itself, those who have often shown the greatest good-nature and unselfishness in furnishing music for our pleasure and amusement, will hereafter be perfectly justified in refusing their services.

A. H. ROLPH.

1902.

A meeting of class nineteen hundred and two was held recently to decide about a year-book. After a lengthy discussion the majority of those present signified their approval of the scheme, and a committee was appointed to take immediate steps in the matter. It was thought advisable to have the students of the School of Science and the Medical School unite with those of University College and Victoria, and the book, if undertaken, is expected to be published before next Christmas.