

# PROF. POTEAT LECTURES.

## A Brilliant Lecture on "The Biological Revolution."

The Faculty lecture for last week was delivered on Friday night by Prof. W. C. Poteat, of Wake Forest College, whose subject was "The Revolution in Biology." The lecture showed wide research in the world of thought and thorough training in the scientific investigation of some of the forces that make for social progress. It was an intellectual treat of a high order, and was much enjoyed by the large audience present on the occasion.

Prof. Poteat said that it was revolution in the realm of human thought that has always caused the revolution in civil and social life; revolution in conception causes the revolution in the streets. In the recasting of modern thought Biology has been an active and powerful agent. The other branches of science have also been important in this work, for the physical sciences are inseparable. The year 1860 might be called the birthday of Biology in the modern sense. As early as 1838, however, memorable biological generalizations were reached. The cell theory was set forth then, and in 1846 the discovery of protoplasm was made. These theories of cells and protoplasm are vital to biological study. In the sixth century a line of enquiry was started which has grown into the theory of evolution in our own day. This theory is also very essential to success in scientific research. It is one of the great contributions which Biology has made to modern thought.

Biology, the speaker said, though the youngest of the sciences, is one of the deepest and broadest. It is the science which is concerned with living matter. Life is nature's crown and goal. The biologist deals with life, and therefore stands at the heart of things. Philosophical problems are at the bottom biological problems, because philosophy deals with life problems. Sociology, too, owes much to Biology. Like philosophy it also has to do with problems of life. Herbert Spencer, the philosopher and authority on sociological problems, was an enthusiastic believer in Biology.

It was well said by Professor Poteat that Christianity is the highest expression of the religious life of the ages. And it is Christianity, in co-operation with other forces, that must settle the questions that are disturbing society. Society is a growth, and its response to God is religion. Science has taught society that the universe is under law. This lesson has had great effect upon all the activities of the human mind. Harmony has grown out of chaos. Nature stands before us now as dynamic, and the study of nature is one way to the knowledge of God. The religious and social ferment of today is an attempt to state the doctrine of God: the Christian revelation. Science suggests that God reside within the order. Science is Christian-

anity's friend rather than its enemy.

The brief abstract given above cannot do justice to Professor Poteat's lecture. To be fully appreciated it must have been heard. It was a model of scientific discourse for such an occasion. The technicalities of his speciality were presented in such clear and striking phrase, with such fitness of illustration, and such charming literary allusion as to illuminate a difficult subject and hold his audience in delighted attention. We are deeply indebted to him for this wise and scholarly effort. While here Prof. Poteat was the guest of Dr. Hume.

Mr. A. H. Paddison of the Medical School who has been isolated in the Infirmary for the past few weeks with smallpox, was released on Monday morning. In this connection, it seems but right that the authorities of the University should be greatly praised for the energetic manner in which that case was handled. By their earnest and quick efforts, there was never any danger of contagion; and the general health of the students was scarcely ever better than it is now.

A meeting of the German Club was held last Monday afternoon: Besides the election of four new members, nothing of public interest was done. The Club will hold their annual February dance on the evening of the 23rd inst in Gymnasium Hall, and it promises to be an unusually brilliant social event.

Dr. Alderman will deliver one of the three night addresses before the National Educational Assembly in Chicago, the latter part of this month. The other two addresses are to be delivered by President Hadley of Yale and Hon. Walter H. Page of New York City.

Dr. J. William Jones of Virginia will be University Preacher for the next month and Dr. R. R. Swope of Biltmore will be here in May.

Dr. Givens V. Stickler of the Union Theological Seminary of Richmond Va. has been invited to deliver the Baccalaureate Sermon at the approaching commencement.

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