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THE DEWEY NEWSLETTER

The Center for Dewey Studies

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT CARBONDALE • Carbondale, Illinois 62901

Volume XI

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SCIENCE

AND

PHILOSOPHY

In the John Dewey Papers at Morris Library, Southern Illinois University is a seventeen-page paper by Dewey, apparently completed and entitled "Some Connexions of Science and Philosophy." This article, like several others we have included in recent *Newsletter* issues, is still lively and fresh, although Dewey wrote it in either 1901 or 1902. The paper is somewhat long for a *Newsletter*, but readers should look for it in a forthcoming number of *Encounter* magazine, which has found it of enough contemporary interest to publish.

DEWEY

DISCUSSES

PSYCHOLOGY

Because Dewey's contributions to the development of psychology as a science and as a discipline separate from philosophy have been widely recognized, it is interesting as well as important to document the often gradual shifts in his thinking in this area. After revising his *Psychology* (Harper, 1887) in 1889 and again in 1891, he was reluctant to undertake a further revision because by the turn of the century to revise the work would have meant rewriting it completely. Herbert Schneider says that once, "during Dewey's years in Chicago, a friend asked him for information about a certain small college in Michigan. Dewey replied that he knew little about it except that 'it is benighted enough still to be using my *Psychology* as a text'" ("*Dewey's Psychology*," *Guide to the Works of John Dewey*, p. 7).'

But in 1892, just after his second revision of *Psychology*, neither he nor the field had moved quite so far away from his original work. Thanks to J. Joe Bauxar, Archivist at Northern Illinois University, we have Dewey's letter with his own 1892 characterization of the book and his typically wry admission that he had "learned something in the last five years." The letter was sent to John Williston Cook, who was at the time president of Illinois State Normal University, later president of Northern Illinois State Normal University and of the National Education Association. On 16 January, Dewey wrote Cook,

15 Forest Ave.
Ann Arbor, Mich.
Jan. 16, '92

My dear Sir,

Any such statements as you mention are erroneous and misleading. I have never at any time had any antagonism to physiological psychology--but have conceived it as delivering important methods and material. If I may venture to characterize my own book, it was an attempt to interpret a vast mass of floating material of this character from the standpoint of what seemed to me the true idea of mind--a genetic active unity. By this method, it seemed to me new life might be given philosophic ideas which were becoming exhausted, while unity and meaning would be conveyed to a lot of facts which were isolated and specialistic.

Succeeding time, while revealing many defects in execution, has only strengthened my faith in the general idea. To say I should in some cases now adopt a different method of statement or treatment is only to say that I have learned something in the last five years and that the science has progressed.

I cannot express too highly my appreciation of James' book--it is so alive and suggestive. But he is a good deal more--infinitely more--to my mind than a mere physiological psychologist.

I have difficulty in getting the frame of mind of what I may call the exhorters or tooters for physiological psychology. There is no danger that any facts or methods brought to light by it will be neglected. Everybody is in a receptive--an expectant--attitude as regards it. But it will never crowd out other psychology or philosophy until it has the right to do so--until it can deliver the goods. Thanks for your kind words.

Yours sincerely

John Dewey

To
Mr. J. W. Cook

LAZY

COLON

Any reader who might still be searching for Dewey's Introduction to the sixth edition (read "printing") of *The Lazy Colon* by Charles M. Campbell and Albert K. Detwiller (New York: Educational Press, 1928), should know that Walter Krolikowski of Loyola University has finally located a copy of the sixth printing, which has no Dewey Introduction. In another work by the same authors, published in 1935, Father Krolikowski found an advertisement for *The Lazy Colon* with the same statement by Dewey that appears on the dust-jacket of the fifth printing, "I have read the book with much interest, parts of it several times. You have rendered us all a service by making this material available." This blurb is apparently the only published reference by Dewey to *The Lazy Colon*.

NAGEL

LECTURES

On 28 March and 31 March 1977, University Professor Emeritus of Columbia Ernest Nagel presented at Barnard College two lectures constituting the Third Series of The John Dewey Lectures. His lectures were entitled, "Teleology Revisited."

MIDDLE WORKS

VOLUMES 3 and 4

Publication date for Volumes 3 and 4 of *The Middle Works of John Dewey* is 16 May 1977. The books are available now, however, and both are priced at \$11.95. Volume 3 (1903-1906) has an Introduction by Darnell Rucker; the Introduction to Volume 4 (1907-1909) was written by Lewis Hahn. The two volumes can be purchased from the Southern Illinois University Press, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, 62901.

YOUTH

MAGAZINE

The journal *Youth*, about which a query appeared in the last *Newsletter*, seems not to have survived long enough to publish a contribution by Dewey. Hensley Woodbridge of the Southern Illinois University faculty succeeded in locating the place of publication: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and the British Library Bibliographical Information Service searched the two existing volumes (1 and 2, June 1938-December 1939) without finding a Dewey contribution.

JOHN DEWEY

RESEARCH GRANTS

The John Dewey Foundation announced three research grants awarded 15 February 1977. The grant recipients and their projects are: Louis Fischer (School of Education, University of Massachusetts - Amherst), "The Relevance of John Dewey's Philosophy for Current Developments in Law-Related Education." \$7,100.00; Ronald Kronish (Harvard Graduate School of Education), "The influence of John Dewey on Jewish educators and Jewish education in America: an examination of the impact of Dewey's social and educational ideas, as well as his personal interaction, upon American Jewish educational theory and practice." \$2990.00; Robert Brett Westbrook (Department of History, Stanford University), "Everyman His Own Scientist": John Dewey and the Development of American Liberal Democratic Thought, 1880-1952. \$1,000.00

THE POEMS

OF

JOHN DEWEY

Earlier announced for Spring 1977, *The Poems of John Dewey* will be published in July. As this book is not a numbered volume in the *Middle Works* series, it has a distinctive design more appropriate for a book of poetry. The cover highlights an unusual and beautiful four-color portrait of Dewey made in Japan in 1919; this portrait also appears on the dust-jacket of the book. The ninety-eight poems are presented in clear text, with all editorial apparatus confined to a single section following the poems. This volume bears the "Approved Text" emblem of the Modern Language Association's Center for Editions of American Authors.

Quoting an advance reader, the news release recently distributed by the Southern Illinois University Press says about the volume, "Whatever the quality of the poetry, and sometimes it is surprisingly good, the volume adds a whole new side to Dewey's character. The continual suppression of feeling, the intellectually anti-religious longing for God, the uncertainty about the value of a life built on self-discipline, the awareness of youth and passion slipping away, these all come through very movingly. It is interesting how much more attractive a man he is with his clay feet showing."

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