

## INSTITUTE NOTES

PROFESSOR G. F. STOUT

Although the death of Professor G. F. Stout in 1944 was mentioned in the Annual Report of the Institute for 1944-45, we regret the omission to inform readers of the Journal of this lamentable event earlier. Professor Stout's distinguished work in the realm of psychology and philosophy is well known amongst all English-speaking peoples. Professor Stout was a Fellow of the British Academy, Honorary Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of St. Andrews.

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### THE COMING OF AGE OF THE INSTITUTE

The following letter appeared in *The Times* on Saturday, April 6, 1946.

To the Editor of "*The Times*"

SIR,—On April 6 of this year the British Institute of Philosophy comes of age. Founded under the presidency of the late Lord Balfour, its council has been throughout composed of leading representatives, not only of philosophy, but also of science, of politics, and of industry and commerce. For 21 years the Institute has been active in promoting the purposes for which it was established—to serve as a link between philosophers and the everyday world, and to spread such general understanding as can be reached of the universe in which we live and of man's place in it. There have been continuous courses of lectures for students on the various branches of philosophy, and popular addresses on fundamental issues, drawing large audiences and evoking discussion. Local branches have been formed in several cities. *Philosophy*, the quarterly journal of the Institute, contains articles by writers of distinction on the great philosophical questions, as well as reviews by specialists of the important new books on such subjects, published in this or other countries. The journal enjoys a considerable circulation outside the membership and beyond our own shores.

Throughout the war years the work of the Institute was continued to the extent that the difficult conditions allowed, although it suffered the same shrinkage of membership as other such societies. The numbers still exceed 1,000; but that is far too few to enable the Institute to fulfil adequately the objects it exists to promote. The annual subscription is only one guinea, which includes receipt of the journal, and there is no entrance fee. The income so derived is plainly insufficient, but the council are reluctant to raise the terms of membership for fear of causing a further contraction. The right remedy is the opposite—a large increase in the number of members. It is in order to appeal to those interested to join the Institute that this letter is written.

There must be great numbers of men and women in all walks of life who recognize that our age is a time of intellectual and moral confusion, and that this is the root cause of its troubles and disasters. Some may take refuge in a passive and futile pessimism; others may be tempted to plunge into some desperate kind of revolutionary action, more likely to make things still worse. To build up a body of positive, instead of merely critical, thought, as a basis for well-considered constructive action in the spheres of morals, of politics, and of economics, is the only right course. In this a leading part should be played by British philosophy, which has won much distinction in the past, and may render still greater service in the future, in formulating thought and linking it with action. But an organization is needed to furnish a platform for discussion and to disseminate ideas. The British Institute of Philosophy is such an organization. What is now necessary is a reinforcement of its numbers as a means to reinvigorating its action.

Application for further information and forms of membership should be made to the Director of Studies, The British Institute of Philosophy, University Hall, 14, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.

Yours faithfully,

SAMUEL (President), W. D. ROSS (Chairman), LINDSAY OF BIRKER (Deputy-Chairman).  
April 4.