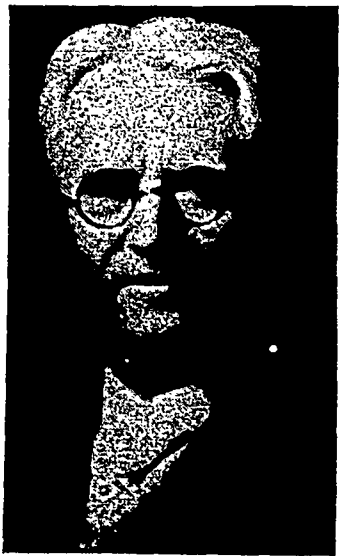


# A Philosopher in Our Midst



Prof. R. H. Ritchie, Head of the O. U. Department of English, Enriches Discussions of Hamlet or Debate With Amusing Stories and Sage Observations.

If, as Mr. Ritchie says, we disclose ourselves most in our honest, direct judgments of others, his own kindly, good-humored, yet just evaluations of those about him are revelations of a kindly, thoughtful nature within.

His years of association with many different personalities in literature, in classroom, and elsewhere, have brought to our silver-haired professor an unusual store of patience and of quiet optimism, enabling him to deal kindly with the foibles and weaknesses of hectic youth, even including habitual tardiness to class.

Perhaps it is this same tolerance and optimism which enables him to impart to his students something of his own quick appreciation of any situation. Mr. Ritchie's inexhaustible supply of stories, his genial, good humor, and his wide range of knowledge are evidence that he has found life interesting through the passing years.

Yet life has been more than interesting; life with its contacts and complexities has challenged his keen intelligence, making him eager to understand and to interpret. To unnumbered students his keen interest in life and his philosophical interpretations have been a source of inspiration.

Here are some typical "Ritchie-isms" compiled in less than two years spent in language and literature classes:

"Nothing is good either because it is old or because it is new; the standard is not one of age but of adaptation to human need."

"I never meet a class any day without learning something from the students."

"An idea can never be answered by force."

"Most of our reading is done with predisposition."

"The English mind has done what it has largely by the operation of religious ideas in and through that mind."

"Seldom is any important action traceable to a single motive."

"Even the silliest talk is costly."

"Amusements often do not make us happy; they keep us from remembering that we are unhappy."

"Expression completes impression."

"Only that which is deemed worthwhile is counterfeited."

"A partisan is one whose mind is closed to the ingress of new thought from at least one direction."

"A new idea is one of the most explosive, dynamic things known to mankind."

"The individual who is afraid of being alone is in a bad state and needs to revise his thinking."

"Faith doesn't come by an act of will."

"Any examination justifies itself when the kind of preparation used for it is a preparation for life."

"Understanding is the basis of appreciation."

"One of the greatest fallacies is the assumption that anyone can read a book."

"The less we copy the renowned ancients, the more we are like them."

"He who spreads himself out far, spreads himself out thin."

"I believe that no person who rejects the infinite or the idea of infinity can well understand the finite."