

# Year in Review: 1894

Volume 10, Issue 3 December 1894

## Washburn Conquers Academia



The year 1894 marks a significant milestone in the field of psychology, already reshaping our behavior and comparative psychology are crowning Margaret Floy Washburn as the first woman in history to receive a Ph.D. in psychology. Born in 1871, Washburn pursued her education at Cornell University under the guidance of renowned psychologist Edward B. Titchener. Her doctoral dissertation, titled "The Movement of Social Groups," has not only demonstrated her exceptional scholarly abilities but also shattered long standing gender barriers in academia.

Washburn's achievement is particularly noteworthy given the challenges she has faced as a woman in a male-dominated field. Her success serves as a testament to her intellect, perseverance, and dedication to advancing psychology. Despite the obstacles in her path, Washburn's passion for psychology and her commitment to her research have propelled her to this historic moment. It is hoped that Washburn's triumph will inspire a generation of women to defy these entrenched barriers and academia at large.

Washburn's groundbreaking work is poised to leave a lasting impact on the field of psychology. Her pioneering studies in animal

**PIONEERING  
PHYSICIST  
HERMANN VON  
HELMHOLTZ  
PASSES AWAY AT 73**

## Ebbinghaus's New Feat

The University of Breslau becomes the cradle of innovation as Hermann Ebbinghaus inaugurates a dedicated psychological laboratory, marking a significant leap in empirical research.

## Thomas Edison's Kinetoscope Makes Historic Public Debut

On April 14, 1894, history was made as Thomas Edison unveiled his groundbreaking invention, the Kinetoscope, to the public for the first time at the Holland Brothers' Kinetoscope Parlor in New York City. This event marks a significant milestone in the history of motion pictures, as eager spectators gathered to witness this marvel of technology. Developed by Edison's assistant, William Kennedy Laurie Dickson, the Kinetoscope offered viewers a mesmerizing glimpse into moving images captured and projected onto a small screen. As the crowd marveled at the lifelike scenes before them, it became clear that Edison's invention would revolutionize entertainment and communication in ways previously unimaginable. The Kinetoscope showcased short films like "Blacksmiths" and "Roosters" bringing everyday scenes to life through motion. This historic event marks the dawn of a new era in visual storytelling, forever changing the way people experience the magic of motion pictures.

## Founding Fathers of Psychological Review

The founding of the "Psychological Review" by James Mark Baldwin, Stuart Chair in Psychology at Princeton, and James McKeen Cattell, professor and administrative head of Psychology at Columbia University, is in direct competition with G.

Stanley Hall's "American Journal of Psychology", the current leading psychological journal in North America. Now with two journals vying for attention from researchers and academics, and offering alternative platforms for dissemination of research, can we expect the field of psychology to become more diversified? For the "American Journal of Psychology," this development poses both challenges and opportunities. On one hand, the increased competition may lead to a decrease in its dominance as the primary outlet for psychological research. Researchers who were previously limited to publishing in Hall's journal may now have alternative options, potentially impacting the journal's prestige and influence. On the other hand, competition can also drive innovation and improvement. The "American Journal of Psychology" may respond by enhancing its editorial processes, broadening its scope, or implementing other strategies to maintain its position as a leading publication in the field.

As for G. Stanley Hall's reign as the founder of the leading psychology journal, it may indeed face challenges in light of this new competition. Ultimately, the future of the "American Journal of Psychology" will depend on how well it adapts to the evolving needs and preferences of the psychological community amidst increased competition.

## Morgan's Canon: Comparative Psychology's Guiding Principle

One notable topic of discussion in psychology this year has been Conwy Lloyd Morgan's "Canon" from "An Introduction of Comparative Psychology". Morgan's Canon, proposing the interpretation of animal behavior in the simplest terms possible,

has sparked discussions reminiscent of the principle of parsimony in philosophy, often associated with Occam's Razor, which advocates for the simplest explanation. This parallel has piqued curiosity among psychologists, prompting them to explore how Morgan's Canon could inspire a principle akin to Occam's Razor in the study of psychology. Some scholars anticipate that a closer examination of Morgan's Canon and its philosophical origins could lead to significant advancements in the field of psychology, fostering a more concise and elegant understanding of complex psychological processes.

## Pullman Strike: Labor Unrest Grips America



This year marks a pivotal moment for the US labor law with a widespread railroad strike and boycott, beginning as a labor dispute in the town of Pullman, Illinois. The Pullman strike then evolved into nationwide debate over workers' rights and corporate power, forever shaping national labor policy in the United States. Starting when Pullman Palace company reduced workers wages by 25 percent, and exacerbating the financial strain on already struggling workers. The American Railway Union, under the leadership of Eugene V. Debs, launched a boycott of Pullman cars

## The Bubonic Plague sweeps Hong Kong

The Hong Kong government declared the port infected with the plague on May 10, sparking widespread fear. However, the discovery of the plague bacillus gives us hope for better understanding and control of the disease, which has already claimed 80,000 lives in Guangzhou before migrating to Hong Kong.

## FORWARD MARCH FOR EQUALITY: SOUTH AUSTRALIA GRANTS WOMEN SUFFRAGE

Debs along with four other American railway union leaders, were arrested for violation of the injunction as well as criminal conspiracy. Ultimately, the strike has weakened, with the Pullman Company agreeing to rehire workers under restrictive conditions. Debs, sentenced to 3 to 6 months in prison, currently remains free on bail pending appeal. The Pullman Strike has forever opened our eyes to the enduring power struggles between corporations, government, and organized labor and will continue to shape the landscape of labor relations in the United States.

## The First Sino- Japanese War

As 1894 draws to a close, the world looks back on a year marked by significant conflict in East Asia. The First Sino-Japanese War has been a central focus of international attention. The conflict arose from tensions between China and Japan over influence in Korea, which had been a tributary state of China. Japan sought to assert its influence and modernize Korea, leading to clashes with Chinese forces. The war began in July 1894, with Japan quickly gaining the upper hand due to its modernized military and navy. One of the key battles of the war was the Battle of Pyongyang in September, where Japanese forces decisively defeated the Chinese army. This victory led to the fall of the Korean capital and the eventual signing of the Treaty of Shimonoseki in April 1895, which ended the war. The Treaty of Shimonoseki was a major blow to China, as it ceded Taiwan to Japan, recognized Korea's independence, and granted Japan trading rights and territorial concessions. The war has not only reshaped the balance of power in East Asia but also highlighted Japan's emergence as a major regional power. The repercussions of this War are likely to reverberate throughout the region for years to come.