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Dr Ludwig Wittgenstein

A correspondent in the Moral Science Faculty writes:-
The Electors to the Professorship of Philosophy have done all that can be done to compensate for the grievous loss that will be caused by the retirement of Dr. Moore by electing as his successor Dr. Ludwig Wittgenstein.
An Austrian by birth, Wittgenstein came up to Trinity as an Advanced Student in 1912 to work under Bertrand Russell, where close pupil he became. His philosophic gifts were immediately apparent: as early as 1914 Russell (in his Lowell lectures) acknowledged his indebtedness to W's "relatively important discoveries" in pure logic. During & immediately after the war (when W. served with the Austrian Army in Italy), he completed his famous treatise, Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus, which was published in German in 1921, and in parallel German & English versions in 1922. Frank Ramsey, then an undergraduate, assisted in its translation; & his articles & Russell's Introduction propagated it among English philosophers. Though an extremely difficult book, the Tractatus, with its emphasis upon the importance for philosophy of a study of the use of language, has proved the most fertilizing influence in recent philosophy. The "Vienna Circle" was founded by those to discuss W's ideas; & the various contemporary views included under the title of "Logical Positivism" derive much, directly or indirectly, from the Tractatus.

W. returned to Cambridge in 1929, & took his Ph.D. degree. In 1930 Trinity elected him to a five-year Research Fellowship under a special chapter of the Statutes. From 1930 to 1936 and since 1938 he has lectured in the Faculty of Moral Science - though "lecturing" is an inappropriate word for the informal discussion classes in his own or a friend's rooms.

by which he has expounded his method of philosophizing. His
classes have been attended by teachers & students in many
families and from various parts of the world.
Cambridge is very fortunate in securing as her Professor a
man of genius whose original way of thinking about
philosophy has done so much, and will doubtless do so much
more, to elucidate the perennial problems.