

Political Institution: see INSTITUTION.

Politics [Gr. *πολιτική*, the science of government]: Ger. *Politik, Staatskunst*; Fr. *politique*, or *science politique*; Ital. *politica*. (1) Political affairs.

(2) The science of the STATE (q.v., also philosophy of).

The science of politics is one of the MORAL SCIENCES (q.v.), inasmuch as the phenomena which it investigates have their origin in the human will. Inasmuch as it is concerned not with the individual, but with collections of individuals, it is one of the social sciences. As there is a general science of society (known as sociology), political science is one of the special SOCIAL SCIENCES (q.v.). The relation of political science to political economy has been differently conceived at different times. Political economy owes its name to the fact that economic phenomena were first studied in order to discover the means of increasing the resources of the state. A trace of this original aim is preserved in the title of Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*. If political economy were confined to tracing the laws which determine the resources of the state, it would clearly be a branch of political science. But modern political economy concerns itself as well with the laws which govern individual wellbeing. (F.C.M.)

Poly- [Gr. *πολύ*, many, much]: Ger. *poly-*, *viel-*; Fr. *poly-*; Ital. *poli-*. Many, multiple; as polyopia, multiplication of images in vision (occurs in hysteria). (J.J.)

Polylemma: a DILEMMA (q.v.) with a considerable number of excluded hypotheses.

Polysyllogism: a system of syllogisms.

Polysyllogistic proof: a proof consisting of a system of syllogisms. (C.S.P.)

Polygraph: see LABORATORY AND APPARATUS, II (general).

Polylemma: see POLY-

Polyphyletic: see CONVERGENCE.

Polysyllogism: see POLY-

Polysyllogistic Proof: see POLY-

Polytheism: see THEISM.

Polytypic (or Divergent) Evolution: see EVOLUTION, ISOLATION, and PHYSIOLOGICAL SELECTION; and cf. ORGANIC SELECTION.

Pomponatus, Petrus, called **Peretto**. (1462-1524.) He studied medicine as well as philosophy at Padua. Became a teacher first in Padua, then in Ferrara, and finally in Bologna, where he died. The most distinguished Aristotelian scholar of the Renaissance.

Pons asinorum (in logic) [Lat.]. A dia-

gram, attributed to Petrus Tartaretus (about 1480), used to illustrate the relations of the middle term. Cf. MOOD (in logic). The figure is given in Eisler, *Wörterb. d. philos. Begriffe*, 'Eselsbrücke.' (J.M.B.)

Poor Law: Ger. *Armenengesetzgebung*; Fr. *système d'assistance publique*; Ital. *legge di assistenza pubblica*. A statute governing the administration of public charity; specifically, the English Poor Law of 1782 (Gilbert's Act), which had an unfortunate effect in promoting mendicancy, and the Act of 1834, by whose workings many of these evils were lightened.

The history of poor relief in England falls into four periods. (1) Down to 1600 the state confined its efforts to the suppression of unnecessary pauperism, leaving the care of the incapable to other agencies. (2) From 1600 to about 1750 the parish authorities were charged with the duty of administering poor-relief, but with strict precautions against abuse. (3) From 1750 to 1833, a period of liberal relief and lax administration. (4) Since 1834, a time of return to stricter tests. Poor-relief in America has been so far a matter of local practice, that it has had no organized or systematic history like that of England. (A.T.H.)

Pope [Lat. *papa*, father]: Ger. *Papst*; Fr. *Pape*; Ital. *Papa*. The title borne, since Gregory VII, exclusively by the bishop of Rome, signifying his primacy and jurisdiction as sole and infallible head of the Roman Catholic Church.

The title was originally given to all Christian teachers, but in time became limited to the primates of Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, and Constantinople. It was first formally assumed as the exclusive title of the Roman bishop by Siricius (384-98), which use was confirmed by a decree of Gregory VII. The Pope is the supreme teacher, priest, and administrator of the Church. In 1870 the Vatican Council pronounced him infallible when speaking *ex cathedra* in matters of doctrine and morals. See INFALLIBILITY.

Literature: C. B. F. ALLNATT, *Cathedra Petri* (London, 1883); SCHROEDL, *Gesch. d. Päpste*, &c. (1888); MILMAN, *Latin Christianity*; Smith and Cheatham's *Dict. of Christ. Antiq.*, art. Pope. Cf. J. B. MULLINGER, in *Encyc. Brit.* (9th ed.), art. Popedom. (A.T.O.)

Population [Lat. *populare*, to people]: Ger. *Bevölkerung*; Fr. *population*; Ital. *popolazione*. The number of inhabitants dwelling in a given territory at a specified time. If the population of any territory is divided by