

working in his own department, eager to increase the bulk of human knowledge as much as possible. So characteristic is this that there is scarcely a professional man in all Germany who does not continue his studies in one or the other particular line, and possesses a comparatively complete library in this department.

But with the gain of specialism, especially for the sum total of human knowledge, there comes also a loss, more particularly for the individual investigator. Confining one's studies to a narrow field naturally makes him fail to recognize the importance of the work done in others. Not in the possession of this complementing correction, his views will be one-sided and his opinions prejudiced, accompanied by the constant ambition to give his own department and little world, as also his investigations and results, an importance which, in the relation of objective truth to truth, they do not possess. The views and theories offered in the name of specialism must always be received with a caution in proportion to the absolute or relative character of this specialism.

This condition of affairs easily explains the intense literary activity of German scholars, as also the fact that in a much larger degree than others their publications are of more solid and scholarly kind. Germany averages more new publications each year than do America, England and France together. In 1888 England issued 6,591 publications, America 4,631, France about 4,000, but Germany exactly 17,000. The ambition to write a book is as natural for a German as the ambition to make money is characteristic of the American. A German professional man who does not from time to time engage in literary work is considered behind the progressive thought in his department. Advancement in higher educational circles is conditioned by the evidence of investigation furnished in printed form; and of the 2,300 teachers in connection with the twenty-one German universities there is not a single one who is not an author, and a preferment in the academic circles is almost entirely conditioned by continued work of this character. Indeed, at nearly all of the universities the diploma for the degree of doctor of philosophy is given only in case the accepted theses are also printed.

What the final outcome for the American church thought and life will be, of a ferment of which some leading characteristics have here been described, only a prophet and a prophet's son could foretell. That it contains elements that will modify this thought and life materially, and probably beneficially, scarcely admits of a doubt; but that it contains the germs of serious dangers is equally certain. If, as seems to be the case, the steady and firm Bible faith of American Christianity can avoid the excesses and extremes, the radicalism and weakness of German thought, its advent will not be a matter to be deplored. In this, as in so many others, America seems to have the happy gift of