

idea of what Professor Hutton's equation of Greek = French + German means in the curriculum, I shall put down the fourth year work by way of example:—

(a) In *Greek*: Texts, Meno, Ion; grammar; easy sight translation (with vocabularies); English into Greek prose (as in Abbott's Arnold's or its equivalent).

(b) In *French*: Texts, Zaïre, Le Barbier de Séville, Atala, Émaux et Camées, Hernani, Eugénie Grandet; grammar; composition in French; dictation; translation of English into French; sight modern French (without vocabularies); history of literature of the 18th and 19th centuries.

(c) In *German*: Texts, Wallenstein, Heine's Prosa (selections), Wildenbruch's Neue Novellen, Faust, pt. I.; grammar; translation of English into German; sight modern German into English (without vocabularies); history of literature prior to 18th century.

Expressed in the terms of the equation and apart from generalities and ecstasies on the merits of Greek in the abstract, this means that it is as easy for the student to reach the pass standard (33 per cent.) in (b) and (c) together as to obtain the same per cent. of (a). I leave this astounding statement in the meantime in order to examine the supposed evidence upon which the equation is based. It consists substantially of the following items: (1) Professor Hutton's *ipse dixit*. This item admits of no discussion. (2) The following statement drawn from Professor Hutton's own experience. He says, "I have myself little French and less German, measured by the hours I have given to these languages; yet I still find even now that I can translate French at sight with considerable (*sic*) more ease than Latin." This experience is confirmed, we are told, by that of Mr. Dale and Professor Campbell. Appealing again to his own experi-

ence, Professor Hutton says of German, "After devoting to it not one-hundredth, nor, I think, one thousandth part of the time given to classics, I find not unnaturally that Latin is easier now to me, and, on the whole, Greek also; though if I should open at random a book of Greek and German poems, there would be, I believe, a fairly large minority of cases in which I should catch the idea of the German more quickly than of the Greek." This is all very marvellous and interesting, but what does it prove? It might seem to prove at first sight that, as Mascarille says in *Les Précieuses*, "Les gens de qualité savent tout sans avoir jamais rien appris." Or, if we may allow the statement of fact to go unchallenged, may it not merely prove that these gentlemen, after many years of linguistic preparation and development in Latin and Greek have acquired without much labour what is after all even by their own showing a very humble acquaintance with French? The strongest part of this evidence is Professor Hutton's marvellous acquaintance with German. He has devoted infinitesimal time to it and yet, wonderful to relate, he can translate it with more ease than Greek in many cases. (By the way I hope he does his Greek no injustice.) Granting all that he claims, it is still most irrelevant to the question. These gentlemen are not pass-men, and besides, even if they were pass-men and possessed this *translating* knowledge and nothing more, they would still be regularly plucked at the annual examinations, for no pass-man in French and German at the University gets through on mere translation. It is the smaller part of what is required of him. Will Professor Hutton appeal with the same confidence to his own knowledge of what are made the real tests in pass French and German, viz., composition, translation of English into