

arts course, will be conditioned for the most profitable study of the Bible in the original tongues, and for the literary work which is demanded of the theological student and the minister. Secular history prepares for the study of church history. The studies of the arts course in mental and moral science discipline the thinking powers, furnish the clue to those philosophical movements which have largely shaped the course of theological thought through the centuries, and familiarize the student with man in the laws of his intellectual and moral life—all of which results bear directly upon ministerial efficiency. The physical sciences open the book of nature to the student, furnish him with inexhaustible sources of illustrative material, and discipline his mind in the scientific method, which is the method of theological investigation to day scarcely less than of investigation in the physical realm. Every young man, therefore, to whom the call of God comes early, should set his face towards the arts course, and never flinch, though the syrens sing never so sweetly of domestic bliss, though the flattery of the dear old mothers in Israel does tempt him to think himself to be something when he knows that he is nothing, though the goads of poverty be sharp indeed, though every heroic virtue be called into play. A generous underlying culture, such as is furnished by the arts college, is of first importance, in the order of time, in a man's collegiate preparation for the ministry.

But does he decide wisely who stops at this point, and ignores the claims of the theological college? In our opinion, about as reasonably might the physician deem himself ready for the practice of medicine on the completion of his arts course. The calling of the minister, not less than that of the physician, is a highly specialized calling, and demands special preparation.

It may be worth while to glance at the essential parts of a theological course. Now-a-days the *English Bible* is comprehensively and thoroughly studied in the theological seminaries. In addition to this, in the case of those who take the full course, there is the study of large portions of the old and new testaments in the original *Hebrew and Greek*, with a view not merely of getting a reading acquaintance with the languages, but of getting a critical acquaintance with the contents of the bible, and of acquiring skill in the art of interpretation. To the earnest student, the theological course renders the bible an open book from the beginning to the end. This is fundamental. Following upon the histor-