

cellent specialists, there is a grand total of three students in Greek of all grades. In Queen's that once had dreams of becoming a famous classical school, Greek for many a year had the field entirely to itself. Then with the unwilling recognition of French and German, Greek was bolstered up at the expense of these languages by being made optional with the two of them, and by having double the number of instructors. But in spite of this and the fact that Divinity Hall is an exclusive preserve, a panic has lately seized the advocates of medieval subjects, and like the old woman with the broom, they seem to have entered on a bootless campaign to make Greek compulsory in the secondary schools and for matriculation.

Practical men who can gauge the spirit of the times, such as the leading politicians of Germany and Britain, like the Emperor William, Premier Salisbury and Lord Rosberry, have announced their convictions, that the energy wasted, or misdirected on the study of Greek, could be better expended on modern languages or on the sciences. Eminent scholars in these countries and in France are of the same mind, or at least express the belief that this tendency will prevail.

To say that relegating "the study of Greek to the shade" or even to discontinue it altogether, would make a people degenerate mentally, or morally, or cause them to revert to barbarism is sheer "buncombe." As the article mooted says, Greek cannot die, for its best thought is incorporated in the native literature, and it is, moreover, all available in translations. These translations, it may be said, are what is used, in probably nineteen cases out of twenty, when Greek is supposed to be read in the original in school or college classes, or referred to in philosophical or other studies.

The study of Greek in Europe once served a useful purpose. This purpose served, and Greek literature made directly or indirectly available without the medium of the original language, maintaining this study on a fictitious pinnacle could not but become pernicious and retard real intellectual progress. All blind devotion to models and masters has

this effect. It is a queer argument that, because Greek, stimulated thought, at a remote period, when modern literatures were almost in their infancy, it must always be studied to stimulate thought. As a special subject of academic study it will doubtless have a place for a long time to come; and this place should be an optional one in a special or general literary course. It will also always have an historical and a philological value.

It scarcely seems necessary to follow the article further in its rhodomontade about the indispensability of Greek to the study of English, French, German or other modern literatures, or forsooth to the comprehension of scientific vocabularies. The cause would seem to be desperate when such arguments have to be used. It is much more to the point to say that a knowledge of the Greek alphabet is indispensable to that of the modern alphabet. Milton forms but a very small fraction of English literature, and yet Milton with his classical allusions can be understood and appreciated without a profound, or any knowledge of ancient literatures. The usual notes or any dictionary of classical mythology will do. The classical experts too, when they know any mythology, obtain their knowledge second hand from this dictionary. The few works in modern literature drawn from the ancient classics are sufficient for themselves, and for purposes of comparison the original can be had in the modern tongue. Shakespeare, the greatest genius of modern literatures, knew no Greek and the great German masters, who were no profound Greek scholars, imitated him more than they did the Greeks. Altieri, one of the greatest of Italian authors knew no Greek, and many other examples could easily be instanced.

The smart remarks about the "smart" sailors picking up a knowledge of languages hanging around ports are as pointless as they are irrelevant. "Smart" sailors and smarter men, who are not sailors, cannot pick up languages so easily. Several years instead of several weeks, and elsewhere than around ports, do not suffice. Ancient and modern methods must not be confounded. In modern lan-