

Reikiavik in Iceland) has been stopped, on the side of Prussia, of late years. This practice has been very useful, but the expense it occasions (about £2000 in 1860) and the accumulation of volumes in the school libraries will, it is apprehended, render some change inevitable.

The Programmes of the Berlin schools, 13 in number, are furnished as samples. They all begin with an essay or dissertation by one of the masters on some classical, historical, or scientific subject. A detailed statement follows of the whole work of the year, the books and portions of books read, the themes or other compositions written, and the time consumed, and of the subject and problems set at the final examination. There is also a short history of the school during the year, notices of the masters who have left, and biographical accounts of those who have come. The numbers and class distribution of the school are stated, and the fluctuations they have undergone; the names and ages of those who have passed the final examination; the time they have spent in the school and in the first forms respectively, and the faculty each has chosen; the books, instruments, &c., purchased for the library and the laboratory, &c.; the holidays; the ordinances or regulations which have been made by authority affecting the school; and there is a notice of the public examinations which will be held during the ensuing year. There is also a table shewing how the work is distributed among the various masters, and the number of hours during which each is engaged. In these tables it is to be observed that each master is commonly charged wholly or partially with some one subject, which he teaches in several distinct forms, being himself perhaps also the *Ordinarius* of a form.

The complete normal course of instruction (*der vollstandige Normallehrplan*) followed in the *Gymnasien* is fixed by certain instructions issued by the Minister of Education (24th October, 1837), and modified in some particulars by subsequent instructions of 7th Jan. 1856. An abstract of these documents is subjoined.

ABSTRACT OF INSTRUCTIONS OF 24TH OCTOBER, 1837, RESPECTING GYMNASIEN.

Admission and Qualifications.—Boys are not admitted under 10. The requisite qualifications are—

- a. To read fluently German and Roman text "*nicht allein mechanisch sondern auch logisch-richtig*," to know the parts of speech, and to be able to parse a simple sentence, and to write orthographically.
- b. Some facility in writing from dictation legibly and neatly.
- c. Practical facility in working the first four rules of simple arithmetic and the elements of fractions.
- d. Elementary knowledge of European geography.
- e. Familiarity with the history of the Old Testament and the life of our Saviour.
- f. First rudiments of drawing, with elementary geometry (*Geometrische Formenlehre*).

Subjects of Instruction.—The *Lehrgegenstände*, or subjects of instruction, in all *Gymnasien* are—

- Languages: German, Latin, and Greek.
- Religion.
- Philosophische Propädeutik* (now abolished).
- Mathematics, with Physics and Natural History.
- Writing, Drawing and Singing.

"The experience of centuries and the judgment of the intelligent declare that these subjects are eminently fitted to awaken, develop, and strengthen all the intellectual powers, and to supply to youth the requisite preparation for the thorough and thoughtful study of the sciences. This cannot, however, be said of Hebrew or of French. The former is useful as a special preparation for a special *Facultäts-Studium* (theology); the latter owes its elevation to the rank of a subject of public instruction, not so much to its intrinsic excellence and the *bildende Kraft ihres Baues* as to its utility for practical life." The two latter, therefore are admitted on *external* grounds, the former from their real and intimate connection with the object for which the studies of the *Gymnasien* are pursued.

"Of these (the former) none can be subtracted from the circle of study without materially endangering the education of youth; and all propositions having that tendency have proved, on closer examination, to be impracticable and unsuited to the object in view."

These several studies are to be kept with the strictest care in due harmony and proportion to each other; and it is only by unity and due subordination in the system and methods of instruction that the multiplicity of the *Lehrgegenstände* can be prevented from confusing and stupifying (*verwirren und abstumpfen*) as it is sometimes accused of doing, the learner's mind, and perhaps injuring his health.

It is with this object that Government has established for all *Gymnasien*, the system of forms and that of form-masters (*Klassen-*

ordnung und Klassenordinaria), and this also is the main object of the regulation of this ordinance.

Method.—Cognate subjects are not, as heretofore, to be studied at separate hours, but in the same lesson-hours (*Stunden*), with or immediately following each other.

It is, therefore, advisable as well as practicable that the following studies should be brought into close connection with each other.

Two Lower Forms.

Latin. } German. }	History. Geography. Naturbeschreibung. }
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Middle and Upper Forms.

Mathematics. } Physics. }	History. } Geography. }
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Also, to prevent the distribution of the instruction of each class among too many teachers, not only the branches of one and the same subject, but also those subjects which stand related or in close neighbourhood to each other, should be entrusted as far as possible to one teacher in each form. Hence the same teacher should, as a rule, take charge of:—

In the two Lower Forms.

Latin. } German. }	History. Geography. Naturbeschreibung. }
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In the two Middle Forms.

Latin. } Greek. } French. }	History. Geography. }
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In the two Upper Forms.

Latin. } Greek. } German. }	History. Geography. }
or, Latin. } Greek. } French. }	

And in the Highest Form.

Mathematics. } Physics. } Philos. Propäd. }

The two lower classes thus require only two teachers.

" middle " three "
" upper (at most) " four "

Again, instead of studying several subjects at the same time, and on different days in the week, it appears practicable and advisable to take them in a regular succession; so that, *e.g.*, whilst the same form in the same "half" (*Semester*) studies both Geography and History, the one should be read exclusively in the first months of it, and the other in the last, and the same division might be made in the case of Arithmetic and Geometry, and of Latin and Greek. And as to the two last, where one form in one *Semester* reads both a prose writer and a poet, the prose writer should be read exclusively in the first half of the *Semester* and the poet in the second.

Selection of Masters.—The Royal Prussian *Schul-Collegien* are to select the Form-masters (*Ordinarii**) with the greatest care, not only from the school in which the vacancy occurs, but from all the *Gymnasien* of the province, to transfer them as occasion may require, and take every care for the improvement of their position and circumstances. And the Minister undertakes to appoint as Directors of *Gymnasien* only persons who have earned distinction in the course of a long experience as *Klassen-ordinarien*.

Hours of Work.—Long experience, and the judgment of physicians, pronounce that for boys of average strength and health the hours of the *Gymnasien* are not too severe. These are—

4 hours daily in the forenoon,
2 hours in the afternoon, 4 days in the week,

a quarter of an hour's recreation in the open air being allowed after the second hour in the forenoon, and after the first hour in the afternoon, and a pause of five minutes at least between every other hour, with an interval of two hours between forenoon and afternoon.

* The *Ordinarius* or Master of a Form stands in nearly the same relation to his form as the Head Master (*Rector or Director*) to the whole school. It is his duty to maintain unity and proportion in the teaching of the form, and he has also the moral and spiritual charge (*Seelsorge*) of the boys in it. It has been considered advisable that the functions of *Ordinarius* should be united with those of teacher of religion to the form. Jahrb. 160.