

This plan may not commend itself to all minds, but, when the drawbacks to the present system are considered, it is surely not demanding too much to ask that at least a trial should be given to it.

We are sure that we are only expressing the opinion of the majority of the students when we say that the Medical students who took part in the recent demonstrations against the Lecturer in botany, owed that gentleman some apology for their conduct. Such disturbances as took place in the beginning we know are liable to occur now and again, but if the gentlemen who led the subsequent attacks had reflected on the matter, we feel sure they would not have carried the affair so far as they did. It ought to have been remembered that the gentleman with whom the unpleasantness arose, is a comparative stranger amongst us, and that, therefore, he deserved an amount of consideration which a more experienced professor might not, perhaps, be so well entitled to claim. The effect, too, which such an occurrence has upon the minds of the friends of the University among the general public, is not very desirable. People imperfectly acquainted with the facts, are apt to construe matters in an exaggerated way which is detrimental to the interests of the University, and to the reputation of the students. We are glad to know that all unpleasantness has now disappeared, and we hope that the whole incident will soon pass out of the memory both of the students and professors.

THERE was one feature about the disturbances which we consider highly objectionable. We refer to the way in which reporters of the Daily Press were allowed to meddle in the matter. We are surprised at professors not seeing the impropriety of letting themselves be interviewed with reference to matters which affect the students and authorities alone, and which ought not to become material for the ubiquitous news-monger to form his items out of. In this way what is often in reality a very small affair is exaggerated into revolutionary proportions, and a bad name is given by ignorant people on no adequate grounds. In future, we hope that all will act on that time-honored admonition not to tell tales out of school.

Contributions.

STUDENT LIFE IN GERMANY.

II.

The leading feature of student life in Germany is the existence of a large number of clubs or societies which are principally for the purpose of promoting social intercourse among the students, but which frequently have other aims in view as well. There are never any dormitories in German Universities, professors and students lodging with the townspeople in the neighborhood of the buildings in which the lectures are held, and as these lodgings are usually remarkably circumscribed in their dimensions, the students are forced to seek each other's society elsewhere. Hence, nearly every student belongs to his club, which has its room in some restaurant, from which strangers are rigidly excluded, and where the members meet night after night to drink weak beer and sing student songs. Students very rarely have their meals where they lodge. They take their morning coffee there, but almost invariably dine at cheap restaurants where they can get what satisfies them for about twenty cents. Very often they dine with their club, getting it a trifle cheaper in that way. A very common allowance for a student is twenty-five dollars a month, out of which he must pay for everything including his fees. Taking into consideration that things are dearer there than in Canada, it will be seen

that life is not easy under such circumstances. They stint themselves, as a rule, in very many ways, in order to have money enough for beer. Beer costs from four to six cents per glass, and the amount they give out in this way is very large in proportion to their allowance. But were it not for beer, the student's life would be dull indeed, for it acts as a medium of communication between them, and is absolutely one of the necessities of life according to their ideas. It is worthy of remark here, that in Germany every body pays for himself. There is no such thing as "standing treat." Even guests at a club sometimes pay for what they drink.

Besides merely social clubs, there are many others, notably those called "Corps," which combine social intercourse with as much blood as possible, being bound by their rules to keep up the practice of duelling. At every University there is also a "Turnverein," or gymnastic club which patronizes the gymnasium and upholds fencing with the sabre. Then there is at least one singing club, and of late years, a club for the purpose of opposing duelling is usually to be found. There are no clubs for the promotion of out-door sports. Cricket and football are only known by name, and, as yet, rowing has made but little progress towards finding favour in the eyes of the Germans. They have one out-door game which may be recommended on account of its simplicity, but for no other reason. It is frequently played by the gymnastic society, and this is done as follows:—Sides are chosen and assembled opposite each other and about twenty yards apart. A large leather ball, stuffed with hair, is tossed from one side to the other, and it is the object of each side to catch the same when thrown across the intervening space. If it touches the ground, the side which threw gains a point. Considering that the ball is larger than a football, the extreme difficulty of catching it can be imagined.

On particular evenings, members of a club are allowed to bring their friends to the club room, or the "Kneipe," as it is called, and a visit of this sort is interesting to a stranger. On arriving, everybody presents come forward and introduces himself with a low bow and much gravity, and strangers are usually treated very well, except that they are expected to pay for what they drink. The rooms are always decorated with the mottoes and crest of the club, besides swords, drinking horns, &c. Everybody present must drink and usually in pretty considerable quantities. There are, of course, duly elected officers to each club, and one of these takes the chair. Songs are sung out of the books belonging to the club, the chairman determining, in every case, what shall be sung, and all singing together. Solos are very seldom heard, for though the songs are beautiful and far surpass ours both as regards words and music, the voices are seldom good. In the early part of the evening the chairman is usually able to keep order, but towards the end, and often on the way home, the uproar is tremendous, and many go round from one "Kneipe" to another till they finally get home somehow or other, and do not appear at lectures next day.

Every Verein celebrates once a year the date of its foundation, or, as they call it, their "Stiftungsfest," and this is always a time of great rejoicing. I had the good fortune to be invited to assist at several such, notably that of the Turnverein at the University of Greifswald. This club was one of the largest in the University, numbering some fifty members out of about eight hundred students. The festivities lasted two days, Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday afternoon I was present at the beginning of the affair in the gymnasium, where an exhibition of gymnastics, under the superintendance of the Turnlehrer, was given. There were a number of professors present as spectators, and delegates from nearly all the University gymnastic clubs in Germany, but not a student from Greifswald who did not belong to the Turnverein. Some of the delegates took part in the proceedings, and I was urged to take off my coat and show what an American could do, which honour I declined for good and sufficient reasons. Some calisthenic exercises were first gone through, the members standing in long lines and making various movements with their arms and legs, finally combining several, and