

tical principles. And this last, I would observe for the benefit of those readers of the ATHENÆUM who may be contemplating a trip to Germany, is most essential. It is essential indeed, in the study of any language. The mastery of no language is perfect that overlooks its grammar. Many students would come out of College far better scholars if they knew more of their Latin and Greek grammars before going in. A person may by mingling with French or German people, pick up enough of their language to enable him to converse on common topics, and yet be fundamentally ignorant of it as a whole. The grammatical why and wherefore even of the few conversational phrases he uses may be very imperfectly understood by him. I have met young men in Germany from England and America, who failed almost wholly to accomplish the object of their visit to the former country, from the entirely wrong way in which they went about it. Erroneously supposing that the language could be learned by simply hearing it spoken and that it would be a waste of time to devote months to the study of the grammar, they have passed the latter by or contented themselves with only a smattering knowledge of it, and gone at once in to lectures; but at the end of two or three years, when they should have been ready to stand examination for their degree, they have found that neither the instruction to which they have listened, nor the language in which it has been communicated, has been understood by them.

It is well, indeed, even at the outset, to combine the hearing of lectures in the University with a thorough private study of the grammar, but principally with the view, first of all, of mastering the language. This practice is adopted by many English speaking students during their first six months stay in Germany. Perhaps the two best men to listen to in the Leipzig University for the above purpose are Prof. Luthardt the distinguished Theologian and lecturer on John's Gospel, and Professor Curtins, the famous Greek and Sanscrit scholar. I have

frequently seen beginners, (anfänger) in German, though students of Law or Medicine or Philosophy, among Prof. Luthardt's hearers. His words have the clear cut and sparkle of diamonds, his voice is as full and musical as Chapin's, and it is perfectly charming to hear him. In all German towns, English speaking persons may obtain professional instruction in German at a cost of from 50 to 75 cents per hour; but English speaking students in any of the German Universities, may receive equally efficient and much cheaper instruction from the German students, numbers of whom are ever eager to be engaged for this purpose, or to give instruction in German for its equivalent in English. There are many poor German students who will gladly call upon the English-speaking student at his rooms, and look over his German composition and translations of English into German, or converse with him in German, for 25 cents an hour. A notice of a desire to enter into an arrangement of this kind stuck upon the University "Boards" will probably induce a dozen or twenty German students to knock at the door of his room during the next twenty-four hours. Many Germans are exceedingly desirous of learning English,—a fact often leading the Englishman or American to think more than ever of his own language.

If I were asked to name to the English speaking student the best grammar for the study of German, I would emphatically say Otto's. Whitney's is valuable for the light it sheds on the derivation and growth of words, but for beginners in the study of the language, it is much inferior, in my opinion, to Otto's.

Those who are really desirous of mastering German, I would advise to go thoroughly through *Otto's Conversation Grammar*, putting every English sentence into German and every German sentence into English, committing to memory every list of words and familiarizing themselves with every idiomatic expression;—let them go through the book about half a dozen times, and they will