

University, to represent the undergraduate body officially upon all occasions, to open up and maintain friendly relations with liberal students at home and abroad, and to take charge of the Liberal Students' banner. Every invitation to be issued by the student body must be issued by the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Federation, and no invitation that concerns the students generally may be received or accepted by any of the societies, but by the Federation alone, or by its officers. The Executive has the sole right to determine upon what occasions the banner shall be carried. It is always used, however, as a matter of course at the funeral of a Liberal Student, or of a professor, but it can never be taken into any kind of church.

According to one of the articles of the constitution, the Federation is bound, at the beginning of every academic year, to publish and distribute among the students a pamphlet, or something of the kind, dealing with the liberal organizations of the University, and the aims of each of the affiliated societies. This, we may say in passing, is the sort of thing that is done in some of the Canadian and American Collèges, especially in those in which the residential system is not in operation. Each affiliated society is entitled to representation on the Executive Committee of the Federation according to the number of members it has. All decisions of the Executive may be revised by the Federation itself in special session assembled, but appeals must be made from these decisions within three days after they have been given. The Executive passes upon all applications from new societies for admission into the Federation, but no society can expect to have its application granted if it does not make profession of adherence to liberal principles.

La Societe Generale des Etudiants Liberaux, though not the oldest member of the Federation, seems to be the most important, whether it is judged by numbers or by influence. Over and above the ordinary objects student societies have in view, the "General," as it is called for short, sets political aims before its members. We read of the distribution of liberal newspapers and magazines among those who cannot subscribe for them. Members of the "General" are found taking an active part in the canvas for the legislative elections, and holding and arranging for lectures on Political Economy and kindred subjects in their own building, and in country places as well. In one place, however, we read that a "tonneau," and a "concert intime," seriously interfered with the attendance at an evening lecture delivered before the "General" by a distinguished provincial counsellor. The word tonneau being connected with our English tun, the readers of the Review may conjecture what form one of the counter-attractions took.

Side by side with the plaudits bestowed upon a certain "confirmed liberal, excellent professor, and sincere and tried friend of the liberal students among the undergraduate body," as he tells the "General" that "it is our party that has empanelled juries, proclaimed the inalienable right of citizens to form societies and unions, founded free schools, established superannuation funds, Bureaus of Industries, and Boards of Public Works, and fostered mutual benefit and co-operative societies," we find rollicking accounts of balls, wines (punches, they call them), excursions into the country, and other forms of amusement innumerable. Nor is physical exercise forgotten, fencing, boating, bicycling and football, being in high favour. Provision is also made for gymnasium exercise, sometimes with musical accompaniment, which, as the writer says, attains the threefold object of training the muscles, developing the lungs, and strengthening the nerves!

By becoming a member of the "General," one receives

all sorts of reductions at shops, theatres, museums, and circuses. Subscriptions to musical, sporting, and athletic clubs are likewise reduced. Doctors and druggists charge lower fees and prices for their services and medicines, and, if as sometimes happens even on this side of the Atlantic, a student has need of a lawyer to get him out of the clutches of the law, the lawyer's retainer is made smaller, if the student can produce a membership card signed by the Secretary of the "General."

Now that the "General" has lately, through the help of "les Anciens," as they call their graduates, and of other friends, become possessed of a home of its own, its social life has become much more varied and enjoyable. A library of nine hundred volumes is one of the principal features of the house, or club. This club contains also studies, reading-rooms, smoking-rooms, committee-rooms, parlours, and larger rooms for giving concerts and dances in. Billiards, chess, draughts, and cards may all be played in the building. A piano and organ are provided, and in the garden they have bowls and skittles. In the Students' Club is found the banner of the Federation, in accordance with an article of the Federation's constitution.

The other societies belonging to the Federation are: 'T Zal Wel Gaan, which is strongly political, le Cercle des Etudiants Wallons Liberaux, le Cercle Litteraire des Etudiants, la Societe Liberale des Etudiants en Medecine, and la Societe Liberale pour l'Etude des Sciences et des Oeuvres Sociales, which has its headquarters at the Cafe des Arcades. To give an account of each of these might be interesting, but those who wish for particulars will have to look them up for themselves. The federated societies all co-operate heartily in "defending students' rights; and in protesting against any infringement of the same."

Turning from Belgium to Germany, we find much that is interesting, but in a different way. The one thing that we have all heard of in connection with German Universities is the duelling between the members of the various Corps. A very good description is given of these Corps under the heading "Greifswald." "Upon his arrival, the freshman is run after by the student societies that are anxious to have him for a member. . . The members of the Corps are all young men of noble or wealthy families. The liberal bourgeoisie make up the Burschenschaften, which in Napoleon's time played such an admirable part. But, now that the unity of Germany is an accomplished fact, these societies, as well as the more modern Landsmannschaften, exist solely for the purpose of training their members for public life. . . .

"Among these societies there are some that wear colours, but all have their cypher and their meeting place, their Kneipe. The richer ones own theirs, the others rent one room or more in a restaurant.

"The new student is not admitted forthwith into these societies. He is obliged to undergo a period of probation, during which he is called in turn the more or less contemptuous names of Fuchs, Brandfuchs, and Bursch. Before being finally admitted, he has to take upon himself certain obligations, and must be well up in the Comment and the Kommersbuch.

"The active members of the colour-wearing societies have two uniforms, the undress, and the dress. . . The dress uniform consists of long boots (for economy's sake they are often only leggings) coming up over the knee, white leather breeches, a black or coloured jacket trimmed with gimp, a little round cap, a short sword, and a large scarf worn like a cross-belt.

"A member of a Corps is a very busy man, and during the three or six terms (semesters, they call them) of his active membership in these societies, he can hardly think