

✓ MEDICINE IN GÖTTINGEN.

BY THOMAS McCRAE, M.B.

References to German methods and work are now so frequent that much interest is felt when the opportunity comes to study them personally. Medical work in Göttingen may be taken as fairly typical of that in the smaller places. It is a place of about 30,000 population, and the University, with over 1,000 students, is a very large factor. Work in Berlin or Vienna, of course, differs widely from that in the smaller places. For the latter it is claimed that a great advantage is the chance of personal contact between the professor and student. It has to be kept in mind that in Germany much work comes from cities where there is no teaching body, and from men who do not hold university positions. This is especially true of pathology.

The number of medical students in Göttingen was about 250. The faculty have a complete set of comparatively new buildings for the final branches. The primary subjects are taught in an older part of the University. The hospital buildings are situated in large grounds, there being three large separate buildings for Medicine, Surgery, Midwifery and Gynecology. Each of these buildings contains about 100 beds; they have complete equipment, and numerous rooms for microscopical and bacteriological work, etc. There are also isolated buildings for infectious diseases and septic cases. This would seem a large number of beds for a small place, but the country round is so thickly populated, and patients come in from such distances, that the beds were always full. The hospital itself is spoken of as the "Klinik." They contain no rooms corresponding to our private wards. These are found in what is termed the "Privatklinik." A fourth building in the hospital grounds was the Pathological Institute. All these buildings were quite separate from the others, and each was under the charge of the professor of the department, who is called the "Director."

Some reference to the general course of study may be of interest. There are two terms in each year which are called "Semesters." The winter semester is from the middle of October to the middle of February, the summer one from the middle of April to the middle of August. This gives eight months' work a year, but, as the work begins late and stops rather before the end of the term, probably seven months is about the average time. The student has to spend at least eight semesters in some university. They all go to at least two different ones, and so get the advantage of different men