

OEDIPUS COLONEUS.


vv. 607-625.

O Theseus best beloved, to gods alone
 'Tis given neither to wax old nor die!
 But all else Time th' Almighty brings to naught.
 The strength of earth grows dim; man's body fails;
 Faith faints and sickens; unfaith grows apace;
 And the same spirit breathes not among friends
 Nor knits together nations: for to all,
 To some at once, to some in latter days,
 Sweet things grow bitter then are sweet again.
 And so, if now 'tis sunshine and good-will
 To you and Thebes, yet Time upon his way,
 The myriad Time, breeds countless nights and days
 Wherein for trivial cause the sword shall leap,
 And these fair seeming pledges shall be snapt.
 And then my body hidden in the grave
 Asleep and cold shall drink warm Theban blood,
 If God be God and oracles speak true.
 Yet is it ill to tell what passes cure:
 Leave me alone: let thine own pledge stand sure.

M. N.

GERMAN STUDENT LIFE.

I.

 FEW weeks ago at one of the meetings of the Wycliffe College Literary Society, I gave a short address on "Student Life in a German University." Some of those who were present have told me that my address covered some practical points on which they and others desired information, and have asked me to print the substance of it in THE VARSITY. I now do this; but I wish to state that my experience of German student life is confined to one Semester in the University of Berlin. I suppose that an attendance for one term in the University of Toronto would give one a fair idea of the general system here; a longer time is however necessary to enable one to grow into the spirit of the place. This appears in a greater degree to a foreign University where the strangeness of a strange tongue adds to the student's difficulties. My remarks on German University life are thus rather those of an outsider than of a student imbued with its spirit. The position has some advantages from a critical standpoint but the views are apt to be superficial.

Before leaving Canada I decided to go to the University of Berlin, chiefly because I wished both to study and to see the life of the German capital. Had I sought the best place for study only I should have chosen a smaller University. In a great place like Berlin there are fewer opportunities of forming friendships than there would be in a smaller place, and the student receives very little personal attention on the part of his instructors. Nearly every University however small has a number of good men as professors, and it is quite possible that in special lines of study some small Universities would furnish advantages superior to those of Berlin.

On arrival in Berlin the first question to be settled was where, and with whom should I live? The great majority of German students get all their meals but breakfast at a restaurant. The foreigner who desires to see something of German family life should arrange for full board in a Pension, and take his meals with the family. I found some kind Canadian friends in Berlin who secured board and lodging for me where they were living. I had a beautiful large room, and the price for board, lodging and attendance was about twenty-six dollars a month. In Berlin, more perhaps than in other German cities, the system of living in flats prevails, and nearly all the houses are from four to six storeys in height. The only drawback to my quarters was that they were on the fourth flat. Elevators are rarely found in these immense buildings, and

when one is tired it is a weary climb up to the fourth storey. My friends (a medical student and his wife) had been in Berlin about a year, and had no difficulty in expressing themselves in German. I had studied Otto's grammar diligently but had had no experience in either reading or speaking German, and their help for the first few weeks as interpreters was most valuable.

After being a week in Berlin I began to feel that I should get to work in the University. The Semester had just begun. My friend being a medical student could not tell me very much about the Arts studies, and I blundered along by myself as best I could. The first thing was to be matriculated. I was assured that this was not a very formidable undertaking, and I found that it was not. The native German student must show that he has attended a gymnasium or *Realschule*, and has passed the final examination before he can be admitted to the university. The Germans wisely encourage the attendance of the foreigner at their universities, and make his path as smooth as possible. No certificates of examination are required from him.

For Matriculation I entered a large hall in the University building, to which I had been directed by the Portier. At one end four or five gentlemen sat around a large table. I took my place on the line of students who were working towards this table. The first gentleman, who I afterwards learned was the Rector, asked me in very bad English for my passport. I handed it to him and he dashed my name into a very formidable-looking Latin document, which, on examination, I found to be to the effect that I, a *vir juvenis ornatissimus*, having undertaken to obey the statutes of the University, was admitted to the privileges of a student and enrolled as such. The Rector handed me over to the man sitting next to him, who took down full particulars of my antecedents. He in turn sent me to the next man who gave me a book to sign (a declaration of obedience to the University statutes, I imagine). He gave me a small book containing a number of blank columns with headings and my matriculation card, having on it my number on the University roll and my name. The printed notice on the back enjoins the student to carry this card with him always, and I found it valuable both for purposes of identification and for securing entrance to places of amusement at reduced rates. A fourth man took a fee of about three dollars and a-half. I then sat down for a few minutes when some one called out, in German, something which I did not understand. All the students rose and fyled up to the Rector (his official title is *Rector magnificus*, but he did not look it), who shook hands with each man as he passed out. The matriculation ceremony thus ended, and henceforth the privileges of the University were open to me.

After matriculation the next step is to find out what lectures one wishes to attend. The student can choose for himself. There are no annual examinations, and the lectures are not arranged for different years. In a large university like Berlin three or four professors or *privat docenten* may be lecturing on the same subject, and the list of lectures is certainly a formidable one for the stranger. There is no need of hurry in deciding. One can go about and hear all the professors one wishes before deciding which to study with. I wandered about in this way, and, though I could at first understand less than half of what the lecturers said, I could still form some estimate of their abilities as teachers. The choice in any special departments—the Philosophy of Religion and Church History was limited—I soon decided whom I should hear. When this decision is reached one must enter in the proper column in the *Anmeldungs Buch*, which one gets at matriculation, the lectures one wishes to take. This book must then be taken to the office of the Treasurer of the University where the fees for the lectures are paid. These fees vary from three to five dollars for each series of lectures in one Semester, and on any important subject there are from two to four, and often more, lectures a week in