

Imprisonment, however, is seldom necessary as it is looked upon by the student as a disgrace.

Athletic sports do not play the same important part in Russian schools as they do in those of Canada, and although dancing and gymnastic exercises are taught, they are learned as any other task, and are considered merely as a means of physical development.

While the life of the *gymnasiast* is very circumscribed, that of the university student is the reverse. He is upon terms of friendly intimacy with his professors, and is as free as it is possible for any Russian to be.

Whether from the fact that he comes in daily contact with misery and oppression, or from a naturally thoughtful disposition, the Russian student is imbued with an earnestness which is not found in his confrere of Canada. Many students, both of the university and the gymnasium, have classes at which the children of the poor are enabled to obtain the rudiments of an education which their parents are unable, owing to the exactions of the land owners, to provide.

Discussion of social problems is the usual theme at student meetings, generally held in secret, for fear of the Government, which frowns down all interference in social and political matters. It is probably this lack of freedom to be allowed openly to discuss problems of so great moment to many of them, that forces Russian students into becoming Socialists and even Nihilists.

Thus it is that some of the noblest and best men in Russia have received part of their education, passing through the gymnasium into the university, which, if they decide to have minds and thoughts of their own, apart from the opinion of the Government, is often but the threshold of a Russian prison.

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NOTE.—It was rumoured last year in America that ree schools had at last been established for the benefit of the poor in Russia; but I have seen no confirmation of the report in the press. P. L.