

library, the books being of an exclusively literary character, with no text books. The books, of course, are in Russian and consist of translations from the best authors in English, French and German, as well as a complete collection of the best Russian writers, and are so graded that the student may read only such as his knowledge would permit him to understand. One book must be taken out of the library weekly, the student being at any time liable to be questioned as to its contents, by which means shirking is avoided. In the higher classes Shakespeare, George Eliot, Sir Walter Scott, Dickens and some of the great essayists are much read. By this means at the end of the course the *gymnasiast* has a good general knowledge of the best literature of the world.

As might be expected in schools under the direct control of the Government, and that Government a military despotism, the *gymnasiast* has not a great deal of freedom. His conduct both within and without the gymnasium is regulated by a number of very strict rules.

The costume worn by all male students of the gymnasium consists of a military uniform, over which is worn a gray overcoat with silver buttons. This dress is never discarded without special permission from the director. The girl student, like her brother *gymnasiast*, also wears a distinctive costume consisting of a brown dress with a black apron, which, however, she is only compelled to wear in the school room and at school functions. In the latter case she changes the black apron for one of white, and since she is not permitted to wear ornaments of any description, all her care is lavished upon this one article, which is consequently very elaborate.

While at the gymnasium, no student may attend the theatre without the director's note of permission, which is seldom refused if the play is of a high standard.

Rewards are given in every class for good conduct and excellence of work, especially of essay writing, while book prizes and certificates are awarded to all who exceed a certain standard. The gold medal, presented by the Czar, is given at graduation; but in order to obtain this reward, it is necessary to pass an almost perfect examination in the final year and have good reports in the last three, so that it is seldom won.

Corporal punishment even in the lower classes is unknown. The usual form of punishment is to compel the delinquent to remain some hours after school; or if the offence be grave, to put him in the gymnasium prison, which is a small room without either table or chair.