

languages in question. Professor Storm, who, though a Dane, holds the German views of language study, makes, in his great work on English Phonetics, a characteristic remark, in a footnote which they are optional, and in the his German translator faithfully reproduces. Criticizing a certain work on the same subject, he writes somewhat as follows:—"It is a pity the author has not traced the evolution of the English dinner-hour. In Queen Elizabeth's time we know that it was noon; in the earlier part of the 19th century we know, from Dickens, that it was as late as five o'clock, while now it is seven, half-past seven, eight, or later. Tracing the causes of these changes would have been a valuable contribution to the science of Phonetics." What the connection between the two may be, specialists in Phonetics must be left to determine; my concern is with the fact that nothing is too trivial to be deemed of some importance in the study of languages. Does not this study thus understood become an intensely interesting thing, an intensely human thing, and an infinitely more useful means of culture, in the true sense of that much abused word, than it is when it is made a mere cram for an examination, with the scantest possible attention to the right use of those two indispensable tools, the grammar and the dictionary?

As we should hardly be willing to be called poorer or less clever than the Germans, the course which we ought to aim at introducing, by degrees, into our High Schools would take account of grammar, conversation, translation from and into English,

broad outlines of French and German literature, and studies in *Landeskunde*, as the Germans call it. The last-mentioned could be taught from the teacher's own experience, or from his reading, as I heard being done in a course on English, Colonial, and American Universities delivered, in English, by a distinguished graduate of Glasgow University, who is Lector in English at the University of Strassburg. Or the teaching could be based upon textbooks (for one would not be sufficient), as is often done in Germany.

The only attempt at such a book on this side of the Atlantic, so far as I know, is Stern's *Geschichten vom Rhein*, published by the American Book Company of New York. It is doubtless known to many of you through the courtesy of the publishers; and you will, doubtless, agree with me that it would be hard to devise anything more interesting as a first reader in German. The whole Rhine is traversed from Switzerland to Holland and very many of its most enchanting legends are narrated. The pleasures of memory, and, possibly, of travel in the days to come, would be increased tenfold for pupils using such books, while now, as we know only too well, the tendency is, in too many cases, to hasten straightway to forget what was learned at school as having no connection with life in general. Too frequently the thirst for knowledge is quenched forever instead of being deepened and increased.

So far as translation is concerned, it seems to me that, for the sake of securing the accuracy I have already insisted upon as a