

fessor would pass his lecture around instead of reading it, would refer the student entirely to books instead of reading a paper and requiring a dozen books in addition to be read, better satisfaction would be given and time saved: professors would become guides to reading and a refuge in time of difficulty. This method would certainly be consistent with an age when reading, not oratory, is the medium of receiving knowledge.

The next stage in university development is when pupils flock, not to the professor, but to the organization in which the professor is a paid servant. This evolution took place at Athens itself; and was the principle of the other two ancient university towns—Alexandria, a literary centre, where a solution of the residence is found in common messes for the students—Rome, where a school of Law and Rhetoric was founded and endowed by the Emperors. The cause of the success of these schools can be seen from the fact that they were the last strongholds of Paganism against Christianity—there was a bond of sympathy between society and its teacher. The condition of a university is the same to-day, if it turns out men not exclusive specialists but leaders of the society they live in (the nation) its least need will certainly be support, financial or moral. The import of this can be seen in the contrast between the United States governed by a machine of capitalists and England guided by university graduates. Surely a curriculum has an effect even in politics.

The barbarian invasions of the fourth century A.D., swept away these institutions; Christianity, too, long battled Helenism, and so until the eleventh century A.D., there was nothing which could claim the name of University, for schools of the church did little to advance higher learning. At this time, however, arose the Universities of Paris, Oxford, Cambridge, Bologna and others in all parts of the continent—wielding no small influence in political and national affairs, commanding the courtesy of church and thrones, whose students claimed privileges for which we would be mad to ask, the centres of the Renaissance and Reformation, progressing steadily to the supremacy they now enjoy. Accompanying this steady progress has been a process of specialization; in fact one of the influences which gave rise to these mediæval universities was specialization—of law or medicine or theology or arts at different centres, in each of which departments the process has gone on till it has reached the present extreme stage.

The evils of specialization may be counteracted. But if a university combines with it an over-weighted curriculum, a *roaring* examination system, a lack of interest in its students outside the class room, the isolation of the students, surely that University has no right to complain of lack of *esprit de corps* on the part of undergraduates, or interest on the part of graduates, or to expect the growth of traditions so priceless to the standing of Oxford and Cambridge to-day.

From Greece then came the germ of universities; from Greece the starting impulse of the Renaissance; in Greece a lesson can be learnt from the establishment of free education from this description of students at Athens: "Lodging together in the humblest apartments, they club their scanty earnings for the purchase of light and a textbook, which they use in common, the one sleeping till his fellow has done his work and wakes him to hand him the fresh-trimmed lamp and well-worn manual."

H. R. TRUMPOUR.

"Unless thou strive thou shalt never obtain the crown of patience, neither is quietness obtained without labor, nor victory without fighting."—*Thomas à Kempis*.

THE PIGSKIN CHASE.

The chasing of the pigskin now is o'er,
And there's some who maybe feel a wee bit sore,
But you don't give a sou when the thrilling season's through,
If your marks of black and blue are galore.

Old Rugby is not always such a lark,
Your check may make you oft an easy mark,
You run the ball to win when he spins you round like sin,
And from off your poor old shin flits the bark.

Your temper then may rise a trifle high,
But you must not give the crowd a chance to guy,
Just smile and talk polite till the umpire's out of sight,
Then have a little fight on the sly.

But the punting and the tackling now is o'er,
And the ripping and the tearing is no more,
We must cast our togs away till some happy future day,
When again the game we'll play as before.

J. A. S.

GOLDWIN SMITH'S "POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM."

From a past-master in historical studies, one of the great English thinkers of the time, we have in these two compact and thought-laden volumes a unique "History of the United Kingdom" on political lines. Their author, Dr. Goldwin Smith, once held the post of Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, since filled in succession by such scholars as Stubbs, Freeman and Froude, and early in the seventies he became honorary professor of English and Constitutional History at Cornell. For the past quarter of a century this eminent scholar, it will doubtless be known, has been a resident of Toronto, Canada, where he has given prestige to Canadian letters by his connection with many notable literary undertakings, and has put his pen to almost priceless purpose in writing works of such great and abiding value as the one before us and its companion work, a "Political History of the United States." As has been said of these works, they present a review of the political growth of the English-speaking race in the form of a literary masterpiece, which is as readable "as a novel, and is remarkable for its compression without dryness, and its brilliancy without any rhetorical effort or display." The author's gift of lucid, succinct writing is nothing less than remarkable, as the reader must note in every chapter of the present fascinating history.

The story is concisely told, with no wearying detail, but on broad lines, yet with such fullness of knowledge, as well as consummate literary skill, as stamps the work of rare and permanent value. The book reads more like a masterly essay than a labored history, though it is an essay charged to the full with the result of a scholar's life-work in the way of reading, reflection, and historical research. In this respect the volumes have a unique value, alike to the student and to the general reader,—the summing up, as it were, of all that has been thought and written concerning a great and strenuous people throughout a thousand years of the national history. The work abounds in material for intelligent and interesting discussion in connection with the formative and critical eras in England's history. Of these crucial eras, the shaping forces that find after-expression in the national life, Dr. Goldwin Smith has much that is original and important to say.

G. MERCER ADAM.

[As will be noted in the list of new books, these volumes are now in the Library.—Ed.]