

SHALL THE THEOLOGICAL CURRICULUM BE  
MODIFIED, AND HOW?

To the consideration of this subject Dr. Harper, President of Chicago University, devotes twenty-two pages in the last number of *The American Journal of Theology*. He is very strongly of the opinion that the theological curriculum should be modified, and he does his readers the favor of indicating how it should be done. The limited space at our disposal will permit only the briefest condensation of the article, leaving no room whatever for the discussion of its several points.

Dr. Harper begins with saying that "many intelligent laymen in the churches have the feeling that the training provided for the students in the theological seminary does not meet the requirement of modern times." "Nor is this disaffection restricted to the laity." It is shared by many ministers "who speak most strongly against the adequacy and the adaptation of the present methods in the seminary"; and students for the ministry are often asking the question whether a preparation for the ministry may not be got in some other way than through the seminary. Some of the number "are securing this preparation by taking graduate courses in the universities," while others "prefer to adopt the so-called short-course plan."

Dr. Harper's contention is that the model according to which "the modern theological seminaries have been organized had its origin a century or more ago," and that "while the environment of the seminary has utterly changed in this century, the seminary itself has remained practically at a standstill."

Assuming that the curriculum of the seminary should be modified, Dr. Harper lays down two general principles in accordance with which such modifications should be made. The first is that these modifications "should accord with the assured results of modern psychology and pedagogy, as well as with the demands which have been made apparent by our common experience, so far as this experience relates to the student and the preparation for his work." If this principle were adopted, certain ends would be held in mind:

1. "An effort would be made so to adjust the work of the seminary as to render it attractive to the best men." Dr.