

for each offence, though he could begin earlier if he chose; while he is forbidden to lecture one minute after the bell has begun to ring for tierce, and to secure the observance of this last, every pupil was required under a penalty of 10 solidi each to leave the lecture room as soon as the bell begins.

Even the conduct of the lectures was regulated. The Professor was fined if he skipped a chapter or Decretal and he was forbidden to postpone a difficulty to the end of the lecture, lest it should be only a pretext of evading it altogether. The texts were divided up into sections known as "puncta," and the Doctor was required to reach each punctum by a specified date. At the beginning of the year he was bound to deposit a sum of 10 Bologna pounds with a banker, who promised to deliver it up at the demand of the Rectors: and for every day the Doctor was behind time with his puncta, a certain sum was deducted from his deposit by order of these officials. In order to enforce this and other statutes, a committee of students was appointed by the Rector to observe the conduct of the Professors and to report their irregularities to the Rector.

There was regular instruction in the composition of letters, and numerous professors went about from place to place teaching this art, and manuals of instruction "complete letter-writers" were widely used by everyone.

The average student of the Middle Ages seems to have been much the same as his modern brother. By far the largest element in their correspondence consists of requests for money. "A student's first song is a demand for money" says an old Italian letter-writer, "and there will never be a letter which does not ask for cash."

There were many models of letters for money which the mediæval student might choose from, addressed to parents, brothers, uncles or ecclesiastical patrons. One famous exercise contained twenty-two different methods of approaching an archdeacon on this delicate subject.

The usual excuses were made—the student was well and happy, but was in desperate need of money for books and other necessary expenses, for example:—"B to his venerable master A, greeting. This is to inform you that I am studying with the greatest diligence, but the matter of money stands greatly in the way of my promotion, as it is now two months since I spent the last of what you sent me. The city is expensive and makes many demands; I have to rent lodgings, buy necessities, and provide for many things I cannot now specify. Wherefore I respectfully beg your paternity that by the promptings of divine pity you may assist me, so that I may be able to complete what I have well begun. For you must know that without Ceres and Bacchus, Apollo grows cold."

If the father was close-fisted, there were many reasons urged—the town was dear; the price of living was higher owing to a hard winter, or a siege, a failure of the crops, or an unusual number of scholars; the last messenger had