

them recorded by the Quaestor in the "Anmeldung-Buch," provided for that purpose, the student should at once secure a seat for himself in each of the various class-rooms. These rooms are of all sizes and degrees of comfort. The larger ones are occupied by the more popular professors, and their capacity is often taxed to the utmost. I have seen every seat in a spacious auditorium filled, the aisles crowded, and a solid mass of students occupying every inch of room to the doors and beyond. Yet there was perfect order during the lecture. All the seats in the class-rooms are numbered, and the numbers are assigned to the students by the professors, who usually follow the rule "first come first served," so that the earlier applicants secure the best seats. Some kind-hearted professors have the thoughtfulness to reserve the front row for foreign students, the most of whom are Englishmen and Americans. To one unaccustomed to the language a place in the immediate vicinity of the lecturer is of course a great advantage. When he has secured his numbers in the respective classes the student may attend lectures or not as he pleases—his place is always waiting for him, and no one else is allowed to take it. The lectures are three-quarters of an hour long, and there is always a recess of fifteen minutes between the classes. During these breathing spells the rooms are quite empty, and the airy corridors are thronged. Students saunter up and down, or converse in groups, or take the opportunity to dispose of their lunch—breakfast or dinner as the case may be. There are lectures from 8 o'clock in the morning until 9 at night, with two hours intermission in the afternoon. The Germans though slow are prompt, and will not tolerate late-comers. The unfortunate who enters the class-room after the lecture has begun sees nothing but scowling faces, hears nothing but the scuffling of feet and perhaps some hissing on the part of his fellow-students. If he has the courage to face these and find his way to his seat he will very likely be rewarded by listening to a dry reprimand from the professor, whose course of thought has been disturbed by his entrance. There is no recitation system, and the professor is supposed to occupy every moment of the time himself. He is an autocrat, and his words, if inconclusive, must be combatted silently, for no discussion or questioning is allowed in the class-room. The students take copious notes. Now and then the professor will dictate a sentence or two quite slowly ;

some important definition, perhaps, or a piece of intricate reasoning. For the most part, however, he will hurry on from point to point, speaking rapidly and forcefully. The members of the Berlin Faculty are almost, without exception, eminent as specialists in their various departments, and their utterances have consequently a peculiarly earnest and authoritative character. They are seldom or never at a loss for a word, though many of them speak altogether extempore. On the other hand their language is not always clear nor their meaning intelligible to the ordinary hearer.

This leads me to refer to the question of preparation. It is a most important phase of the general subject. I have said that the conditions of entrance are few and simple. Notwithstanding this *the German University is of no value whatever to an untrained mind*. It is worse than useless. Better a narrow river than a wide swamp. Unless he is prepared to profit by his surroundings, the American student will act wisely in remaining at home. The discipline of the College (strictly so-called), and the specializing tendency of the professional school or post-graduate course of study, are absolutely necessary to the full appreciation offered by the German University. These things are essential at the outset: some knowledge of the language, a well-trained mind, and a wide acquaintance with the subject or subjects to be pursued. The German professor, being a specialist, uses a vocabulary which is largely technical and arbitrary. His work is characterized by thoroughness and insight, and his lectures bear constant evidence of the most careful study and research. It is no pastime, even for a German youth, fresh from the rigorous mental discipline of the gymnasium, to follow the argument of a man who is discussing some abstruse topic connected with his life-long speciality. A student poorly equipped, deficient in definite knowledge, or lacking in purpose, will find discouragement and failure awaiting him in this land of culture. A student who comes here after having passed successfully the various preparatory stages will be rewarded ten-fold. The horizon of his thought will be consciously and wonderfully widened. His ideas will be classified, his purposes strengthened, his outlook broadened, and his power for work in every way increased.

AUSTEN K. F.-BLOIS.