

branches. Here, the Government does not nominate the Professors of Systematic Theology, but leaves this privilege to the individual Confessions, whose nomination remains to be confirmed only by the State. Thus, independence in the teaching of dogma is guaranteed, and thus, too, we find in the same University two or more professors of Systematic Theology. In Germany, two professors may teach Dogmatics, but hardly at the same time, and, in any case, each has upon him the implicit obligation of loyalty to the confession of the Landeskirche. This obligation seems to be very slightly felt by the professors, however, for I have heard a German theological student complaining earnestly that he was required to confess certain doctrines for admission to orders in the Landeskirche, and that his professors had declared these to be antiquated and erroneous.

In another respect, the Dutch Theological Faculty differs from the German. The former always provides for a Professorship in the History of Religions, while in Germany no provision of this kind is made, nor, indeed, is the subject a favorite one, as it seems to be here. By the History of Religions is to be understood an historical account of religions—Pagan, Jewish, Semi-Christian and Christian the world over. If I may be allowed to express a judgment, it would be that such a provision to serious reflecting students may be of immense value, if the professor himself be a serious and impartial historian; but if either of these conditions be not present, I can see an imminent danger of a shipwreck of faith, and of a cultivation of prejudice, which will pervert the moral vision for many a year.

Now we come to Utrecht, whose University as an all-round institution of higher culture is second in importance to the University of Leiden. Its number of students is, however, smaller than that of Amsterdam. I am not aware that it has its eminence in any particular branch, but it is generally recognized as a good school, and the citizens of Leiden good-naturedly feel toward it as toward a rival who is making a fine race, but will hardly attain to the first place. The University building is the finest of the four in the Netherlands. It was originally a portion of the Cathedral of Utrecht, but it has been long taken from its original purpose. The building was restored in 1879. As everyone knows who is familiar with either geography or history, Utrecht is an inland city, and may be said to be the only one possessing a University, for Leiden is so close to the North Sea, perhaps five miles in a straight line, that it can hardly be called inland.

There is no question as to which is the greatest "hall of learning" in this land. The only Dutch University, concerning whose existence the world generally is tolerably familiar, is that of Leiden. The

others are, as has been said, very eminent schools, but there are many reasons why the Rijks Universiteit of Leiden is better known than the rest: it is the oldest in the land, being founded in 1575. It has connected with it the Royal Museums of Antiquities, Natural History, Ethnography, Geology and Mineralogy, Anatomy and other national collections and institutions. Its library is the largest in the country, and in the department of Oriental manuscripts and books, one of the few great libraries of the world. To us this University is associated with thoughts of the great antagonists, Gomar and Arminius, and the Arminian Controversy, with René Descartes the philosopher, with Erpenius the Orientalist, Hugo Grotius, writer on International Law and on Theology, and others whose names are less familiar. We English have an interest in the city of Leiden from the fact of the early Puritans having made this their asylum from persecution in England. It was in Leiden, too, that poor Oliver Goldsmith studied medicine, after the church had thrown him overboard, though he is not mentioned in the traditions as one of those who added fame to his Alma Mater.

The University of Leiden has in the neighborhood of 1000 students, of whom three-fifths may be reckoned as in Law and Medicine, and two-fifths in Philosophy, Theology and the Sciences. The men best known among the professors are Tiele in the History of Religions, Kern in Sanscrit, de Goeje in Arabic, Schlegel in Chinese, and Klinkert in Oceanic Languages. The professors in Law and Medicine are eminent, but do not have the same opportunity as those mentioned to become known in other lands. It will be seen that the subjects attached to the names given are not such as are generally popular, and the isolation of the men in this respect may add to their prominence, though there is no doubt that these scholars would be prominent under any other reasonable conditions.

Later on, it may be granted us to say something about the life of the students, the teaching of the professors (as far as we know it), and other matters of detail. At present, we have sought to give but a few points in relation to these Universities, the training homes of scholars whose merits were very modestly described by a German professor of mine when speaking of the College-bred men of Holland. "You know," he said, "the Dutch are all very good people."

WALTER M. PATTON,
LEIDEN, Holland.

X RAYS.

The excitement caused by the discovery sprung upon the world by Professor Roentgen in the last days