

particular than at others, and some stand high in one faculty and low in the rest. The universities of Berlin and Leipzig stand high all around, while Heidelberg, under Bunsen, is celebrated for its laboratory, and Halle for its medical faculty. Then, again, Jena and Lubingen are sought by those who don't admire hard work, and degenerate at these and some of the other small ones are not considered equal to those obtained at Berlin, Leipzig or Breslau.

In conclusion, I may remark, that we over here have usually but little idea of the number of students which attend the lectures at the German universities. The largest number at any one is to be found at Berlin, where there are now about four thousand, counting the affiliated schools of mining and agriculture. There are some three thousand at the university proper, Leipzig comes next with very nearly as many, and then Munich. The smallest is Rostock, with under two hundred.

Having now given some idea of the German universities in general, I shall have the honour, next time, to describe more particularly how the students spend their time.

W. T. S., B. Ap. Sc., '80.

#### UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

The importance of a thorough University training, as the groundwork for a professional education, is becoming every year more apparent. This may be said in one sense to apply more particularly to those who purpose to enter the Church or go to the Bar, since in both of these cases a more varied and general knowledge is necessary than in some others. From another point of view, however, it applies with equal force to all the professions. Mental powers are in many respects subject to the same rules, and require the same treatment as physical powers, to bring them into the highest state of efficiency. The athlete, who by a long course of systematic training, has cultivated his physical powers and brought them under perfect control, will leave far behind another who is naturally his superior, but whose powers are untrained.

The application of this rule to the case in question will be easily seen. One student begins his professional education after a full University course and with his mind thoroughly trained. Another, whose natural abilities are much superior, enters upon the same course after a hasty preparation, by which his mind, instead of being strengthened and trained, is injured by being overloaded with a heterogeneous mass of dates and events, which are usually forgotten in a very short time after the preliminary examination. The first man has formed habits of study, which enable him to take up his work at once, and to master, with comparative ease, the problems of his technical education; the other, with his mind and faculties all untrained, and ignorant of the way in which he may use them to the best advantage, finds himself excelled by one who is in reality his inferior, but who has learned how to make the best use of what abilities he has.

A very common idea, respecting a University education, is that all the benefit to be derived from it is a certain amount of knowledge of the dead languages, and some other subjects of very little practical use to anyone, except perhaps to an educational man, or a theologian, and that all the benefit that remains to the University graduate after a few years, from such education is the privilege of appending to his name the magic letters B.A.

That this idea is a mistaken one, need scarcely be asserted. It is quite true that a great deal may be and often is forgotten even by those who have stood high in their classes, but the effect of the systematic training through which they have passed will never be lost. Many an eminent barrister or judge, whose skill and ability, in dealing with the most complicated questions, have raised them to the highest place in their profession, owe that skill and ability in a large measure to a severe course of mathematical study, the principles of which they have retained, and perhaps unconsciously apply to the questions given them for solution, although in a great degree they may have forgotten the problems, through which those principles were made known to them.

It is true a course in arts cannot do everything, it cannot supply the place of brains, or give a man powers and faculties which he never possessed, but even the dullest mind cannot fail to be stimulated and strengthened by such a training, in which daily intercourse and friendly rivalry with classmates play a not unimportant part; while the powers of the most brilliant mind, which while untrained, may be compared to a number of knights errant, with, it may be, a common purpose in view, but with no leader and no common or united plan of action, under such a course becomes a disciplined army, all the force of which can at any time be concentrated and applied to the attainment of any required object.

#### A ROUNDDELAY.

Asmoking, I saw yesterday  
Or seemed to see,—I cannot say,—  
In the curling smoke a maiden fair,  
With dark, sad eyes, and darker hair,  
She in *some* sorrow seemed to be;  
Yet as she passed, she smiled on me  
Asmoking.

The face, with witching beauty bright,  
Grew dim, then faded from my sight.  
For Fancy flung her wand away,  
And smoke was only smoke that day  
Asmoking.

Harvard Advocate.

#### Correspondence.

##### OUR IRISH LETTER.

DUBLIN, 20th Nov., 1883.

If one may judge from appearances the number of people in the city this winter is very large. New houses are to be seen going up in all directions, and the plaster is hardly dry before the houses are occupied. Trade is somewhat brisker than last year, although capital is still very scarce. Business in the law courts is unusually dull at present, the barristers having little or nothing to do. Twenty young men were called to the bar this term, all of whom had University degrees, a thing which is usual but not imperatively necessary. The medical profession is overstocked as well as the legal, and the number of young men entering the two professions does not seem to be diminishing. In Dublin alone there are over five thousand medical students, about one-fifth of whom will never practise as doctors. Medical students, it would seem, have particularly good opportunities for studying their profession here, as about one hundred and fifty thousand patients pass through the hospitals annually, out of a total population of three hundred thousand. It must, however, be remembered that a great many come up from the country to be treated in the city hospitals, which partly accounts for this large number. Our National University is in a flourishing condition. The number of freshmen who entered Trinity College this term was two hundred. The Philosophical and Historical Debating Societies have had two most brilliant opening meetings for the session. The former was presided over by Lord Justice Fitzgibbon, and an address was given by Mr. Pim, the Auditor, on Political Science, which was keenly criticised by the speakers who followed. The meeting of the Historical Society was presided over by the Right Hon. Edward Gibson, Member of Parliament for the University, who took his seat as president of the Society for the first time. He succeeds the late Sir Joseph Napier as president. Mr. Studdert, the Auditor, delivered his address on Political Education, and Mr. Justice Murphy followed with an able speech. The meeting closed with a speech from the new President, who was received with loud applause. Forty-three gentlemen have just obtained Moderatorships. The Mathematical Studentship of this year has been awarded to Mr. Lyle. The Classical one was withheld, although Messrs. Bowen and White came out equal, having answered quite as well as the successful candidates of former years. For some inscrutable reason the seven wise men of the board only