

An acquaintance with the technics of any calling, to be gained largely by practical experience in its special work, cannot of course be replaced by any liberal education. The function of the latter is not to train specialists, but to give men such an outlook and such development of their varied faculties as shall fit them best for the supreme art of living truly and at the same time render them apt students of their special part in the great drama of life. In some of the professions an arts course is recognized as almost essential to the proper pursuit of professional training; in others it is recognized more and more as a desirable foundation. For instance, the increasing number of our students who take an arts course preparatory to the study of medicine, is a cause of gratification. It would be passing strange, then, if in business callings, whose work has so much to do with impressing and moulding the life of the community, broad and deep foundations, such as may be laid by a judicious college course, were not very valuable.

As with all preparation for life-work, very much must depend on the use which the student makes of his opportunities and on the spirit in which he seeks to forge his energies. By diligent application to the more general branches of study, with special attention to those most requisite for his particular pursuits, by taking advantage of openings afforded by student societies for the development of business capacity, and by combining with these some degree of practical training during vacation, a youth may surely become fitted to serve his day and generation in business. The "ring of necessity" that begirts so many Canadian students, requiring them to plan and to work during the summer in order to furnish economic basis for winter's rumination, tends to cultivate the virtues of the busy bee. "Happy he for whom a kind, heavenly sun brightens it into a ring of duty," so that the struggle to advance leads him to acquire skill of management and habits of thrift. The man who outgrows a small past and who wishes to invest his earnings in the fitting of himself for greater usefulness, may find in the university curriculum an avenue of progress.

Perhaps the future may bring special commercial courses and a conference of Commercial Alumni, to whom will be referred present-day problems of business and the question herein mooted. In the meantime might not some graduate in business, who knows something about the matter, shed upon us a ray of his experience?

We regret that a typographical error in our first number should have brought the Classical and Philological Society before the world as promulgator of a new species of Jews—"the most High Jews." Obviously, reference was made to nothing more startling than the old time ZEUS.

LITERATURE.

ON THE TRACK OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

THE rapidity and success with which Britain conducts her small wars abroad is in striking contrast with the disasters that attend other nations that undertake to do similar work. While the large force sent by France to Madagascar is crumbling away under the double influence of bad management and the worst climate in the world, and while Belgium feels the strain of men and money wasted in the Congo region, Britain thinks nothing of having half a dozen such affairs on her hands. These rouse no very strong public sentiment nor do they affect, in any degree, the stability of the government. They order these things differently in France. There public feeling is violently agitated, while among us the Soudan, Buluwayo, Chitral and Mwele are incidents almost forgotten.

One reason why the Chitral campaign deserves more than passing notice is the fact that one of the battles with the tribesmen of Chitral was fought on the exact spot where Alexander the Great was compelled to halt and forego his schemes of further conquest in the East. It has always been the proud boast of the tribes of this region that their "purdah," or curtain, had never been lifted, a boast they have made good until the long arm of the Great Sircar (the Indian Government) reached them. Their exemption from conquest hitherto is due not so much to their bravery—though of this they gave admirable proof against the superior arms of the British—but rather to the remoteness of their mountain country, high up under the snows of the mighty ranges of the Hindoo Koosh. Had Alexander been accompanied by his hardy Macedonians, even he might have succeeded in reaching the land of the mysterious Seres (the Chinese) whose silks and spices and remoteness roused his ambition to penetrate to that unconquered land. But Alexander, who overthrew Persia, as the avenger of Greece, entered India as successor to the Great King. It was to punish the murder of Darius, by Bessus, Satrap of Bactria, that he attacked Bactria, and was thus brought to the frontiers of India. Alexander had, by this time, imbibed Persian ideas of royalty and thus alienated his fellow-countrymen of Greece Proper and Macedonia. Hence when he entered India his army was no longer composed of his old companions-in-arms but largely of Bactrians, Sogdians and Persians. Though he revived the dominion of Persia over India, and largely extended it, there was not the old devotion to be found in the army, and when open mutiny broke out he was compelled to give up his schemes of further advance eastward as impracticable. We can in some meas-