

THE BOWDOIN ORIENT

RECOLLECTIONS OF GERMAN UNIVERSITIES

On Friday evening last Professor Evans delivered the following very interesting address before the Literary and Debating Society upon "Recollections of German Universities:"

"It is becoming a common thing nowadays for students of McGill to take post-graduate courses, and unless there be some very powerful reason to the contrary, it is better for the young graduate not to continue his studies at his own Alma Mater, but to go elsewhere, preferably to one of the universities of older countries, as his mental horizon is thereby very much broadened.

"Today any person who aims at an intimate and broad acquaintance with almost any branch of learning is obliged to be able at least to read German, on account of the enormous quantity of intellectual work of the highest order carried on by our Teutonic cousins.

"The entrance requirements of a German University are pretty nearly on a par with our B.A. examinations. The matriculating student is three or four years older than our average freshman, and has been through a rigorous discipline at school, such as a few, if any, of us have ever experienced.

"The school-boy's hours are much longer than here, and his home work much heavier. The result is that his playtime has been reduced in the later years to almost nothing, and he enters college older

and much more mature than we do. He has not only mastered a great many subjects," pointed out Professor Evans, "but above all, he has learned to study, systematically, earnestly and thoroughly, in a fashion that few of us can imitate.

"The University course is much more like our post-graduate than our undergraduate régime. The greatest freedom in choice of subjects is allowed, most Universities insisting on one major and two related minor subjects. It is also absolutely essential that each aspirant for a degree carry out some piece of original research. This research usually takes two years or more, and involves wide reading, in addition to the laboratory work, if the subject be one of a practical nature, yet," said the lecturer, "any one, not an absolute idiot, can do a research that will be accepted.

"No attendance of lectures is ever taken, and no attention is paid to it. Whether a student goes to lectures or stays away is a matter of little importance. The German professor is to a large extent a being apart. He lectures where and when and how he pleases.

"He is interested in his students only so far as they absorb or produce work along his particular line, and he does not care whether his course is found interesting or dull, easy or insuperably difficult. Many of them lecture at 8 in the morning in the winter and some at 7 in summer, while a few indulge their lectures even as early as 6 a.m.

"The examinations are conducted by a body of examiners, very few of whom confine themselves to any particular text