

German Student Life.

(Continued from last month.)

HAVING seen the Professors and secured seats in their auditoriums, I had to go and pay my fees to the Quæstor, a not over inviting looking personage, who had his abode in a small den in the old university buildings. All that now remained for me to do, was to take advantage of the privileges granted me, a matter which depended entirely upon my own will and diligence; for attendance at the lectures, more frequently than once a month, was not compulsory. If however, a student was absent for more than four weeks, his case was considered incorrigible, and his seat in the lecture hall was liable to forfeiture. But with such men as Bunsen and Kirchoff, there was little danger of anyone being so foolish as to miss an opportunity of hearing them, and I shall never forget the pleasure I experienced in attending the lectures of these two great men.

In Heidelberg, and, in fact, in all the German universities, students do not reside in colleges, but are free to live where they please, and do pretty much as they like, except break the law; and even in a case where the public peace is disturbed by them, they have the privilege of being tried by the college authorities; and even enjoy the privilege of being consigned to their own university prison or "carcer." For serious offences, student can be expelled, and for downright criminal acts he is left to the tender mercies of the state.

The examinations are stiff, and no cramming of text books is liable to be of much avail. Unless a man really knows his subjects, he will most assuredly come to grief unless the fates are unusually propitious to him. The authorities leave the students very much to their own devices, so far as text books are concerned. The government practically says "Here is my university duly equipped, and it depends entirely on yourself gentlemen, to use or abuse the facilities for culture placed at your disposal. If you choose to waste your time and opportunities that is your business not mine. But if you wish me to set the seal of my approval upon your studies, you will have to submit to the tests applied by the faculty; and you may rest assured, that unless you have really made good use of your time, the tests applied will show you to be unworthy of a degree."

There were four Faculties at Heidelberg, Law, Philosophy, Medicine and Theology, each under the presidency of a "Dekan" or

Dean. I have placed Theology at the end of the list of Faculties, because it was a very weak one as regarded attendance, though the great Nationalist, Schenkel was at its head. Of the religious aspect of student life, I will have more to say before concluding this article.

Perhaps one of the first things to strike the eye of a stranger when taking a stroll through the streets of Heidelberg would be the sight of a number of young men walking about with bright colored caps on their heads. By examining the equipment of these young fellows a little more closely, he would notice that some of them wore proudly across the breast a band of the same colors as the cap, and that others were destitute of this distinction. Further observation would establish the fact that the band-wearers were further distinguished, at least in most cases, with scars on the face of various degrees of size and ugliness. Upon enquiring concerning the significance of all these he would be told that these young men, belonged either to the five corps or the two Burschenschafts, and were members of the celebrated dwelling clubs. There existed between these bodies an irreconcilable hostility; and a quarrel between the members of the rival institutions was generally a serious matter, only to be settled with sabre or pistol.

The Corps and Burschenschafts, in outward matters, very much resemble each other, and it would be impossible for a stranger to distinguish one from the other; but in their aims they are very widely separated, and hence the hostility above mentioned.

The Corps are the successors of the old Landsmannschafts, or national clubs, and have nothing of a political nature about them. They are merely clubs for social purposes, and are governed by a stringent code of rules called the "Comment." The head of each Corps is called the "Senior," and is assisted by two lieutenants. The Supreme Court of the Corps is the so-called "Senioren Convent," which is composed only of the captains of the various Corps.

When a student joins a corps he is called a "Renounce" or "Fuchs," and has no vote in club-matters until he has attained the dignity of a "Bursch," a promotion only to be gained by time and by undergoing the ordeal of several duels. A "Bursch" is entitled to a vote in the affairs of the Corps, and is presented at his initiation with a band containing the Corps colors, which he wears across his breast, as long as he continues a member of the club.

(To be continued.)