

public lectures and readings, seminars, and summer courses in 11 departments.

Students are allowed the widest possible choice in their work; with the exception of prescribed courses in chemistry and physics, and the systematic study of English, all work is elective, the choice in junior years being closely supervised by instructors. This system was introduced by Pres. Eliot and has been found to work very successfully. Students, when relieved from compulsory study of distasteful subjects, were found to do more earnest and successful work; unwise selection is guarded against by the guidance of advisors; and cribbing at exams is said to be almost unknown. No gowns are worn, nor college dress of any kind prescribed. In early days the material and cut of clothes, style of hat, and ornaments of dress, down even to the braiding and color of buttons, were rigidly ordered. Attendance at lectures is voluntary, but a record of absences is kept by monitors appointed for the purpose.

The method of instruction is by lectures rather than recitations, wherever lectures can be given to advantage. A large amount of collateral reading and thesis writing is required in many of the courses. The system of reserving alcoves in the great reading-room of Gore Hall for the use of professors, in which all works referred to in their courses are placed, and the great wealth

of literature at their disposal for such purpose, make the collateral reading an important part of the work for all who can afford time for it. Freedom of discussion, as far as the subject will allow, is encouraged between student and teacher; and in some cases the class is divided into groups for the study of literature bearing on the matter in hand, one group reading English works, another French, a third, German; and each bringing reports on the books read.

The attention of the University is at present being largely directed to fostering the growth of the graduate school, Pres. Eliot regarding the work accomplished by it as the true work of a university. Its aim is to provide opportunity for "systematic study in such higher fields of learning as its members wish especially to cultivate—the professional department for literary and purely scientific professions." The degrees of A. M., Ph. D. and S. D. are conferred by it, on approved courses of study; the least times of resident work being, for A. M. one year, for Ph. D. two years, and for S. D. three years. All departments and privileges of the University are open to members of the graduate school. Of the courses of instruction, some are designed primarily for graduates, others primarily for undergraduates (which cannot ordinarily be counted toward a higher degree), but the majority are open alike to grads and undergrads, so that many of