

## Contributed.

### THE AMERICAN STUDENT IN GERMANY.

#### I.

##### THE GERMAN UNIVERSITY.

The Arts College drills and disciplines the mind. It serves its purpose in preparing the student for work. The professional school deepens while it narrows. It fits the student for a *special* work. The German University broadens the view and supplements in every essential respect the previous training. A necessity of our time demands that men shall be broad as well as deep. Hence the peculiar fitness to the American student of study and travel in a foreign land. To mingle in the life of some grand European city, to study the work of artists whose names have been the sunlight of the centuries, to have access to the hoarded wealth of great museums and libraries, to be brought into touch with the social and political organizations of a mighty Empire, are privileges which react upon the student with almost startling power. It is the Universities, however, which are especially attractive to the American student. Before coming to this country, I found it difficult to obtain exact information in regard to these institutions. Remembering this, I will make the present letter as practical as possible.

In the first place, then, as to Matriculation. There is no entrance examination of any kind, and the matriculation ceremonies are almost wholly formal. The student answers a few questions regarding his ancestral and personal history, and on payment of the requisite fee (which in Berlin is about \$4.25), is presented with an official document announcing his enrollment in the list of undergraduates. Diplomas, certificates, and letters of recommendation are alike valueless. Any American, whatever his rank, standing or attainments, may become a member of a German University. The only paper necessary is a passport. This can best be obtained by the Canadian student from the Lord High Commissioner of Canada, Sir Charles Tupper, whose office is in the Victoria Buildings, London. This passport is retained by the University officials, and in return a student-card is issued, bearing the name and number of the applicant. This student-card serves the same purpose as a passport in any case of difficulty, and is recognized as a

sufficient guarantee of identity in almost every European country. Besides the general, there is a special enrollment. Each student must subscribe himself in one of the four faculties, and be known as disciple of Theology, Medicine, Philosophy, or Law.

Having been duly matriculated, the student is in a position to select the lectures which he desires to attend. The laws governing his selection are as follows: The university year is divided into two terms or semesters. The first of these extends from the last of October to the middle of March; the second, from the middle of April to the end of July. In reality, however, the terms are much shorter, as most of the professors do not begin lecturing until a week or two after the official opening, and they close their courses some time before the conclusion of the semester. The lectures are both public and private. Those that are public may be attended by anyone, student or otherwise, and no charge is made for the privilege of hearing them. These "open courses" are usually on popular themes, and each professor is expected to deliver one or two per week during the semester. The private lectures, on the other hand, are restricted to members of the University, and are open to them only upon payment of a stated fee. This is usually from 15 to 25 marks; that is, from \$3.60 to \$6.00 in Canadian currency. The amount of the fee depends on the frequency of the lectures, and to some extent on the popularity of the lecturer. These fees are all that the professors receive in the way of salary. As a natural consequence, the less popular amongst them are by no means rolling in a superabundance of wealth. In order that the student may select his courses of study as intelligently as possible, there is granted him the privilege of attending both public and private lectures for several weeks after the commencement of the semester. The authorities are especially lenient with American students, and allow them to attend as many lecture courses as they wish, free of charge. After about six weeks, however, even these favored ones are prohibited, and the private lectures are closed to all save those who have regularly elected and paid for the same. In addition to the above named, there are special courses which are "privatissime." They consist chiefly of discussions, led by the professor, and participated in to some extent by the students.

Having chosen his courses, paid for them, and had