

lies, to make him see the interest which the uninteresting may have for him ?

—Educational circles in Germany, says a contemporary, are said to be greatly excited over Emperor William's recent speech on education, in which he severely criticised the present system, both as to the matter taught and the manner of teaching. His Majesty held that as regards the basis of instruction in gymnasial schools it ought to be German, and the principal aim ought to be to turn out Germans instead of youthful Greeks and Romans. Said he, "We must courageously break with the mediæval and monkish habit of mumbling away at much Latin and a little Greek, and take to the German language as the basis of all our scholastic studies. It is this cruel, one-sided, and eternal cramming, which has already made the nation suffer from an over-production of learned and so-called educated people, the number of whom is now more than the nation can bear, and who constitute a distinct danger to society." His Majesty also dwelt on certain evils which prevailed to an intolerable extent in high schools, and quoted figures to prove that certain physical ailments, especially short-sightedness, which was increasing to an alarming extent, were directly due to too long hours and bad ventilation in school rooms. He asked his hearers to reflect on the meaning of these figures in relation to the question of national defence. What they wanted was soldiers. The country also stood in need of intellectual leaders and efficient servants. But how was the stock of these to be replenished when the number of short-sighted youth in the upper forms of the schools rose in some cases to as much as seventy-four per cent. When he studied at Cassel, no fewer than eighteen of his fellow pupils out of a class of twenty-one wore spectacles, while some of these with their glasses on could not even see the length of the table. As Landsvater or Father of his country, he felt bound to declare that such a state of things must cease. Naturally, such unsparing condemnation of the traditional system has created a feeling of consternation in the ranks of the old-fashioned schoolmen. The Conservative newspapers, too, are dumb-founded, and admit that the last vestiges of the ancient regime have been thrown overboard, while the organs of the Liberal Progressists and Freisinnige parties laud their Kaiser as the most far-seeing of contemporary sovereigns.—*Exchange*.