

We regret that we cannot find room for Mr. Wigle's letter to the 'Varsity in which he replies to the questions asked in our report of the Inter-University football match. The letter, we feel bound to say, does not afford a very clear explanation of the exact points in dispute, but it suffices at all events to show how far we were justified in publishing the account referred to. As the captain of the Toronto team states that the gentlemen who retired from the play were *bona fide* disabled, it would not be courteous for us to discredit the statement, but we persist in our opinion that the arrangement made between the captains was a most undesirable one. It would also appear that in the matter of the calling of time our estimable friends were in the right. On the other points, however, our complaints have not been answered. Mr. Wigle very cleverly evades the trouble of telling us how Messrs. Boyd and Duggan came to play against our team by showing us how it happened that they played against the 'Varsity team the Saturday before. This was not exactly what we wanted to know. The question in dispute was whether the gentlemen referred to were Undergraduates in any department of the University or no. The other complaint that a fresh man was put on during the game, seems to be acknowledged in the letter, and we, therefore, need not speak further of it. We presume that the discussion will now be dropped, as no more light is likely to be thrown upon the subject, and the facts have been sufficiently laid bare to allow all to judge of the merits of the case. We may add that the 'Varsity is completely wrong when it surmises that our report was not written by one of the players. It was written by one of the players—by one of the best players—and one who thoroughly understands the principles and rules of the game. His opinions, moreover, as expressed in his report, were unanimously endorsed by the team.

ON COLLEGE AMBITION.

"Oh! Ambition hath its hour
Of deep and spirit-stirring power;
Not in the tented field alone,
Nor peer-engulfed court and throne;
Nor the intrigues of busy life;
But ardent Boyhood's generous strife,
While yet the enthusiast spirit turns
Where'er the light of Glory burns,
Thinks not how transient is the blaze,
But longs to barter Life for Praise.

Look round the arena, and ye spy
Fallid cheek and faded eye;
Among the bands of rivals, few
Keep their native healthy hue;
Night and thought have stolen away
Their once elastic spirit's play.
A few short hours and all is o'er;
Some shall win one triumph more;
Some from the place of contest go
Again defeated, sad and slow.

What shall reward the conqueror then
For all his toil, for all his pain,
For every midnight throb that stole
So often o'er his fevered soul?
Is it the applaudings loud
Or word-ring gazes of the crowd;
Disappointed envy's shame,
Or hollow voice of fickle Fame?
These may extort the sudden smile,
May swell the heart a little while;
But they leave no joy behind,
Breathe no pure transport o'er the mind,
Nor will the thought of selfish gladness
Expand the brow of secret sadness.
Yet if Ambition hath its hour

Of deep and spirit-stirring power,
Some bright rewards are all its own,
And bless its votaries alone:
The anxious friend's approving eye;
The generous rival's sympathy;
And that best and sweetest prize
Given by silent Beauty's eyes!
These are transports true and strong,
Deeply felt, remembered long;
Time and sorrow passing o'er
Ender their memory but the more."

SIR W. R. HAMILTON.

Contributions.

STUDENT LIFE IN GERMANY.

In presenting to the readers of this paper some articles on German student life, I shall endeavour, to the best of my ability, to lay before them a faithful picture of an existence which, in many aspects, differs greatly from that led by students at English or American institutions. In fact, students in the full sense of the term are to be found only in Germany. There they form a very distinct class in society, having few acquaintances outside the university and still retaining some of the privileges accorded to them in olden times. I must begin by stating that German universities are not constituted in the same way as ours are. Students study specialties always, there being nothing to correspond to our Arts course. The general training which we receive in this course is supposed to have been already acquired by the student at the public school or "Gymnasium," and once at the university all his attention is devoted to some particular subject.

There are always four faculties, viz.:—Law, Medicine, Theology and Philosophy, and to take a degree in either a student must have studied at least six terms at a German university, and must have prepared a thesis. Then he is required to pass an oral examination, which takes but very little time, making up for this latter deficiency in its severity. There are no examinations but this final one, and in point of fact, the thing most looked to is the thesis, which takes usually two whole terms to complete. For instance, suppose the student to be going in for natural science, and that he has selected chemistry as the subject to which he intends to devote most of his time. In order to graduate he must perform some entirely original experiments in the laboratory and hand in a printed account of them. He may set to work to discover and produce some compound hitherto unknown in the annals of chemistry, or he may experiment on the occurrence of some known substance in hitherto unknown or only suspected ways. In any case the work must be entirely original, and approved of by the Professor in charge of the laboratory. Then he must pass an oral examination in three more subjects, one of which must be philosophy, and the other two of which the student selects, usually geology and mineralogy. The day on which the examination is to be held is fixed upon and may be at any time during the term, for there is no such thing as whole bodies of students being examined together, and needless to say there are no competitive examinations. There is only one degree given, that of Doctor. A graduate is always known as "Doctor" afterwards, no matter what he may have graduated in.

It will be seen by the above that simplicity is one of the greatest characteristics of the German university system. Another admirable point is the arrangement between the different universities, which provides that a term passed in one is as good as a term passed in any other. The vast majority of students take advantage of this, and during their period of study, wander from one place to another, spending, however, the two last terms, at least, at one university, in order to get up their theses. Very few succeed in graduating in six terms, and many stay six or seven years instead of only three. Although they are not particular during the early terms as to which university they visit, yet there is a great difference between one university and another as regards graduating. At some they are far more