

discern what are the difficult points for an inexperienced mind to grasp. The list of authorities to which he is referred will constitute a most valuable aid in his later studies, but so numerous are these references that he is often bewildered. The system of instruction is so different from anything with which he is familiar, unless he is a graduate of one of the larger American institutions, that it is not surprising if he becomes disappointed with his progress as he approaches the end of his first semester.

At this point there comes to the aid of the student a more novel feature of University work, namely the Seminar. The seminar is essentially a club, presided over by the professor of the department and composed of students admitted to membership on his approval and pledged to take part in its exercises. The seminar meets for two or three hours, usually once a week, and takes up for discussion such questions as the professor may present. These are sometimes given off-hand at the session itself, and special preparation being under the circumstances impossible they become a searching test of one's familiarity with the general subject. Frequently the topics, announced beforehand and is discussed before the club by some member who may have given weeks of labor to the preparation. More often still the club devotes several sessions to the elucidation of some problem under the guidance of the professor. In all the exercises the utmost freedom of intercourse prevails between student and teacher. The criticisms of the latter on the quality or accuracy of the work are often severe, but the student is free to defend his position, to ask questions, or to criticise the work of another. And here in the seminar he finds that help and acquires that method in work which never could be gained from the lectures alone. The questions are so chosen as to lie in the same range of study as the lecture courses and the student is thus enabled to put into practice what he learned in the lecture-room. He gains also an insight into the professor's methods of work and receives most helpful criticisms of his own. The foreigner finds teachers and students uniformly cordial and ready to give such help as may reasonably be expected. The seminar, in many departments of the university, possesses a large and valuable library, rooms occupying a whole floor, fitted up with every requirement for quiet, undisturbed work, and open to the members from early morning till late at night. Within recent years similar societies have been organized in connection with the larger American institutions. In directing the work of post-graduate students along special lines and helping them to qualify for the higher degrees, they have proved an invaluable aid.

A word respecting the German degree examinations may not be out of place. The first requirement for the attainment of the degree is the thesis. This must be an elaborate and original paper on some