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PAPER
Daily and Saturday
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The Daily Nebraskan

TO-DAY'S
WEATHER
Snow on rains east-
erly winds.

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WON'T KEEP IT UP

The New Examination Scheme Likely to be Quietly Abandoned.

NOT SATISFACTORY EVEN TO THOSE ORIGINATING IT

No Advantages to Offset the Numerous Inconveniences that were Discovered when it was Put to the Test.

The people of the University were given a great surprise at the end of last semester by the sudden announcement that examinations would not be held in the usual way, but that classes would be massed in large rooms, where all examinations would take place. This announcement was sent out from the administrative office to all the professors and instructors the Thursday previous to examination week. What it all meant, no one was quite able to determine. The announcement stated that the object of the change was to secure the students "better light, heat and ventilation" for their tedious two-hour examinations. There was a feeling generally, however, that something more was sought than merely these accommodations for the students, and that the new system was simply an attempt to eliminate some of the evils that attend ordinary examinations.

Both professors and students began to speculate on the real object of the change and the arrangements that would be made to accommodate such a large number of students where there were no tables or chairs fitted especially for writing. The plan was not openly objected to, but expressions of disapproval were common. The action taken by some of the professors was strong evidence that the introduction of the new system, without either the knowledge or approval of the fac-

ulty as a whole, was considered as rather an encroachment upon faculty rights. Some examinations were avoided altogether, some given at different times and places than the schedule called for, and others were supplemented by extra work on the part of the individual members of the different classes. Most classes, however, met the requirement and went through the ordeal. Memorial hall, the old chapel, and the art gallery were the large rooms most used in giving the examinations. Each class was given a section of the room. Posters told the students which section to occupy, and instead of chairs with a wide arm on which to write, the seats ordinarily used in these rooms were made use of and the students compelled to write on lap-boards.

Now that examination week is past and the second semester well begun, the inquiry is made as to whether the new plan of conducting examinations met the expectations of the University administration, and whether it will be continued in the future. Little can be learned regarding the origin of the scheme, its real object, or the plans regarding future examinations, but it is known that the experiment was not regarded as a success, and that the new system is not permanent. One trial has been sufficient to satisfy the originators of the new method that there are no particular advantages in it sufficient to justify its continuation. No express announcement of its abandonment can be obtained from headquarters, but various indications point clearly to a quiet return to the older method.

Among the members of the faculty opposition is almost unanimous, and varies chiefly in the intensity of its expression. Some of them were inclined to be rather emphatic in their condemnation, asserting that the system would inevitably lead to the abolition of examinations by the majority of instructors. Others merely say that the system worked no better than they expected it to, and they did not believe it would be tried again. For the general feeling of disapproval the suddenness of the appearance of the new scheme is no doubt largely responsible, and a good many hasty expressions will probably be withdrawn when it is discovered that no further attempt will be made to carry it out. That it will be abandoned is almost a certainty, and its disappearance will be welcomed by practically every one who came in contact with it.

Our Tuesday Letter

[It is the hope of The Nebraskan to fill this column each Tuesday with a letter from some alumnus of the University who is at present outside of the state. After a week or two, these letters will be especially written to and for The Nebraskan; but the following extracts from a personal letter of Frank S. Philbrick, '00, enable us to begin the series at once through the use of borrowed material. Mr. Philbrick writes from Berlin University, which he soon leaves for a semester at the University of Paris.—Ed.]

A NEBRASKAN AT BERLIN.

I fell in love with Germany at first sight, during my first five days in Hamburg and Hannover, but I long ago recovered. Hamburg is a very handsome city with a hustling and interesting street life. There is no crush of business such as an American expects in such a port. Still less can one find in Berlin such a thing, although a city of two million; nor is there any quarter that can vie in massive blocks with the heart of American cities of equal size. But for cleanliness, solidity, variety of architecture in city blocks, and street life combined, I do not know how we could pass Hamburg. Hannover is a beautiful place with some charming residence districts—not merely modern and beautiful houses (or "villas," or "palaces" they would call them here doubtless), though there are plenty of those—but with a mingling of old places and formal gardens that tone down their neighbors pleasantly. Berlin is not particularly attractive externally. Its business streets are only ordinary. It has no heavy, handsome city street, but only blocks rather fitting a city the size of Hannover. Unter der Linden, though it has some brilliant cafes and shops, is nothing extra as a business street at all; and though flanked by several palaces, embassies, etc., and beautiful with rows of limes along broad pedestrian ways in its center, it is rather mediocre as a boulevard—in short, a decided disappointment.

Germans do not know the comforts of life in their homes, and an American's first weeks here are consequently unpleasant. Business is not quite so easy in some ways, either—partly because of formality and slowness, as in banks, and partly because of official self-esteem. Besides, as you will be told when you look for rooms, "all Americans" are rich; nothing is too high for the "American standard," and as sure as your face, speech, broad shoes, flared coat or rolled hat betrays your nationality, so surely will people "do" you if they can. I know one Westerner here whose theory is that whenever he asks a price in a store he must buy something, and that it is easier to pay any bill than to object. You can imagine the results of such a lack of back-bone, financially.

The University of Berlin has some remarkable departments as compared with our own schools. They give almost 370 courses in medicine, and one can learn almost any Oriental language that he pleases. This latter, however, is peculiar to Berlin, and is not true of other German universities, being the result of engrafting on the university here what is practically an independent school for the linguistic training of candidates for the colonial and diplomatic services. In history and political science the opportunities do not seem to me extraordinarily remarkable although there is of course no school at home where one could begin to have the courses given here in historical aids. Only a few general courses even are given in modern history. But courses in everything—courses for beginners, courses in aids,

seminars, etc.—the catalogue makes a rather formidable list.

The Royal Library, of about 1,000,000 volumes, has a manuscript author catalogue, very imperfect from an American point of view, and in its older parts often exceedingly hard to read. The subject catalogue, such as it is, can only be consulted by special permission. Thus the most important part of a library to one working up a subject is here inaccessible. So, too, with the University Library. This has only about 200,000 volumes and is very uneven outside of German literature. Of course American books are in general unknown. At the Royal Library the choice of our periodicals is fairly full, but peculiar. In medicine we are—rightly enough—fairly represented, but not more than fairly. They have the North American Review, but no other serious or political magazine; none of our literaries—the Atlantic, Scribners, Harpers, Century; they have the American Historical Review, but not the Political Science Quarterly, the Quarterly Journal of Economics, or the publications of either the American Economic Association or the American Academy. Johns Hopkins is the only university whose publications are out in the periodical room, and I suppose no others are known here save through University exchanges.

Last year there were 156 American men and 52 women in the University. Many who come are undoubtedly "weak sisters." We are judged in the main by those who come, and of course so long as any come, German conceit draws the conclusion—and sometimes American students are told so—that the best come, and because we have no schools in the United States.

So far I have been hearing a good many lectures, and for about a month shall probably continue them. From the first I have been able to follow the general drift of things, and now get almost everything when paying close attention; but I cannot take notes without instantly losing ground, because the professors speak too fast for me to take their words exactly, and if I try to put it otherwise of course the lecture sweeps by me. In fact, I have done little work. The language is perhaps the most important thing just now. General reading to help me in that I am doing, but little of special historical reading. Later I shall try to do considerable reading on political theories, and some on Prussia.

FRANK S. PHILBRICK.

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