

THE GERMAN STUDENT.

German student life, as the German university, has changed comparatively little in the last twenty years. So that Mark Twain's account in "Tramp Abroad" is still one of the very best accounts written. Years ago when I first read the articles gathered together in "Tramp Abroad" I thought Mark Twain was drawing entirely upon his imagination, but when I saw for myself, I realized that he told the unvarnished truth. Facts in Europe are strange enough. Clements need not invent oddities in order to make one laugh.

That the students still fought duels, I could scarcely believe. I thought even twenty years ago the custom was dying out; yet almost the first sight I saw in Berlin, was a student, with a large wad of cotton held on his cheek by a dark bandage, strutting up and down "unter den Linden" as if he was the emperor. Behind him a rod or so, were several admirers. No one dared to speak to the dread fighter; one must only worship and stand in awe. I enquired what it was and when one of the boys told me "A student who was proud of having been licked in a duel" I was quite shocked. However I soon learned the student duel was a common affair.

The duellists in Berlin don't bother Americans. Americans choose pistols, and several years ago killed divers Germans; since when Americans have been gingerly left alone.

Work in the universities is supposed to begin in the middle of October, but lectures seldom begin until November 1st. A student need not appear on the scene even then.

If one overlooks the red tape connected with a German university, the work seems very lax, a sort of a go as you please affair. For instance—you are allowed until after Thanksgiving to visit about and decide under what professors you care to work. You can usually attend any professors' lectures until Christmas without registering. There are no records kept of your doings the first two years. You simply take your book in the beginning of the semester, the prof signs his name in it; at the end of the semester he signs his name again, which means you have taken his course of lectures. You can send your book to be signed by a friend and never go near the university at all if you wish.

German students having been closely guarded and diligently crammed until they go to the university, usually go in for beer drinking and what they call fun their first two years. They join a student corps and enjoy themselves. Their last year they leave the corps house and going to private dwelling "ox" it to get their degree. So that there are two years play and one year's work in a German university course.

For the American student things are different. His first six months are put into language and custom learning; then a year and a half into getting a degree. For now days two years is all a hard working American needs in he can bluff or work the profs into letting him come up for exams.

German students, as all Germans, seem not to know how to work. They are great diggers, they "ox" it, but they are very poor at drawing conclusions themselves or at seeing into things. They are so accustomed to submit to superior opinions; so use to having their thoughts and actions dictated to them, that they scarcely dare to branch out for themselves. They are not daring thinkers, mostly machines.

Libraries in America are so nicely arranged and catalogued that one can hardly realize how affairs could possibly get into such a muddle as one finds at the Berlin university library. Imagine a library with a catalogue made of brown paper volumes scribbled in ink by numerous hands. A library, half of whose volumes no one knows about. It's confusion worse confounded. The national library is slightly better arranged, not much. It makes work very difficult.

In days of yore 'tis said the university profs associated with the students but now such association is rare. The professor comes in a second late, rushes up to his pulpit yells "Meine Herrn" while opening his roll, then reads away as fast as possible until the end of the hour. The last words of the manuscript he reads as he struts to the door. Sometimes they lecture without manuscript. This has one draw-back as they very often get lost in a long sentence and forget how they started. However they get out of the difficulty by thinking a moment for the verb and it comes not, crying "findet statt." Curious, the Greek historian, ended very many of his sentences with "findet statt." He was old however and it was no wonder he lost his way in the maze of a German sentence.

There is one thing American students should be warned of ere they go to Germany. Students there are from the up-

per families. Anyone cannot get the cash to go to school there. So naturally the student is sought often by mothers with daughters to marry!

In Germany if you take a girl alone to the opera, or almost any other place, you are supposed to be engaged to her. Unsuspecting Americans take the girls and the first thing they know they have a "frau" on their hands, or at least great trouble to keep from having one.

Not that German girls are not good wives. The sweet home life of the Germans has a charm in it which is very hard to resist, especially for the American student who has roomed and chophoused the greater portion of his life. So if the boys marry in Germany it is not to be wondered at.

One never realizes what a crowd of gad-about we Americans are until he goes to Germany. There home life is everything. In fact they are too much of a stay-at-home people. Their children are always kept children.

Living in Germany is not cheaper than in America, if you live as well. Food is dearer there. One can live cheaper and poorer. The student class there live no better than our farmers or mechanics. Neither are clothes cheap there. I hope all who intend going to Germany will remember this.

The food there is healthier but it is not nearly as appetizing. They lack our fruits, cakes, biscuits, pan-cakes, and above all pies. One longs again for American variety, even if it is not quite so healthful.

Perchance what the student will most miss is college enthusiasm. College life without football, baseball, tennis, rowing, oratory or college journalism is hardly college life. The Germans take all their exercise in beer-drinking contests, in dueling, and in the indoor gymnasium work. One can't help but repeating, "Oh but they are dead."

The smarter students in Germany are the foreigners and especially Americans rank high. Germany has sent her best middle class to America and what is left is not of the same sterling quality. So the student in Germany of today is not what he was of old, while the energy of America is forcing her students to the front everywhere. Both in Germany and in France the American student is leading. E. A. G.

AMONG THE FRATERNITIES

What the Greeks of the University are Doing.

(Continued from first page.)

The seven sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta are back this year. They are: Leola Vancil, Nelle Randall, Jessie Morgan, Charlotte Clark, Emily Weeks, Jean Tuttle and Minnie Miller. There are two new Thetas with them this year: Miss Johnston, who is instructor in mathematics, and Mrs. Kolben who is taking post graduate work.

The Tri Deltas have the honor of the first initiation of the season. Last Saturday at the home of Miss Clara Smith, Winifred Bonnell, who was pledged last year, and Mamie Miller were initiated.

The active members of Delta Delta Delta, are: Belle von Mansfeld, Ada DuBois, Nelle Dean, Mrs. Dorothy Bacon, Nan Frankish, Daisy Bonnell, Anna Vore, Veda Wilson, Winifred Bonnell, Mamie Miller. Of the graduates of '96, Sara Taylor is teaching in South Omaha, Clara Bryant at Anacosta, Mont. Members of the classes of '95 and '96 are scattered. Mrs. Minnie Mannarban is in St. Paul, Ellen Holman, is assistant principal of schools at Boone Iowa. Maysee Ames and Clara Smith are in Lincoln, Anita Muir is at Hillsdale, Mich.

At the opening of the year Pi Beta Phi is seen to be as strong as when its members separated last June. The chapter roll numbers eighteen members as follows: Bessie Turner, Mae Lansing, Lulu Bell, Jennie Barber, Edna Carscadden, Belle and Grace Reynolds, Adeline Quintance, Kate Snow Walker, Oda Z. Closson, Melinda and Anne Stuart, Amy O. Robinson, Anna Lytle, Mary W. McGahey, Gertrude Wright, Quete Haskell, and Waueta M. Bunting, a pledged member.

Miss Barber and Miss Wirt were not in the university last year, but Miss Barber expects to return in February. Miss Wirt, as last year, is teaching in the York schools.

The three patronesses, Mrs. C. H. Morrill, Mrs. V. J. Bryan, and Mrs. W. S. Summers have been of much assistance to the fraternity, and Mrs. Raymond who is spending this year in Europe with her son and daughter, will be greatly missed. The work of the chapter has been much advanced by the alumnae in the city under the direction of Mrs. W. S. Summers. During the year and a half the Pi Beta Phi has been organized, it has worked steadily, and the outlook for the coming year is most encouraging.

"ANY OLD THING."

Anyone would think that the student was the most helpless creature on earth, to watch the way in which some of them conduct themselves in their various capacities. As a rule there is a class that always depends upon some one to keep track of things for them. This was illustrated the other day in the Co-Op. A young lady in the second year French class did not quite get the full title of the book that was to be used. She thought however that certainly the young man at the university book store would know just what she wanted. So with all confidence she brushed up to the counter and enquired for that book "which you call in English 'Choice Things'."

It was during the summer. The campus had been mowed. Even the weeds about the tennis courts had lost some of their natural height. He looked around for the sight of something familiar, but nothing rewarded his eye. In a feeling of despair he wandered into the lavatory of the library building. For a moment he stood still with astonishment. Then he burst into a flood of tears. Yes here was something familiar—it was the same old towel.

There is always a number of changes contemplated in the management of different university institutions, at the opening of the college year. These may be on a large or small scale. But nevertheless they are contemplated. It is so this year. One of the institutions which will be seriously affected is the Co-Op. Colonel Parmelee assures us that the present semester will witness some "sweeping changes" in this department!

A member of the freshman Shakespeare class wants to put his evidence to prove the old adage that there is nothing new under the sun. He says that artists who produced such wonderful articles in the way of posters, got their ideas from the third scene of Macbeth. He cites this original source as evidence. "The weird sisters, hand in hand, Posters of the sea and land." Now what can be more conclusive he thinks, than that the artists started out with the awful ideas inspired by these creatures.

Now that the Chancellor has demoralized baths, and thereby committed the heinous crime of 1891, the student-body is breathlessly waiting to hear from the boy surgeon of the corps of cadets, on the emancipation of the gym classes and the tennis association members. The question of the free and unlimited coinage of baths at the ratio of sixteen cadets to one bath, is one that is predicted to rend the factions of the university in twain.

A good joke is going the rounds on a young lady from Omaha. The captain's deep basso voice read her name off in military science 1, at a recitation of that class. It seemed so strange to members of the class that they could not suppress their surprise at the courage of any one of the opposite sex who would dare to take that study. The captain passed it over with the remark that Miss M— must have gone in to the other division. But the young lady has not yet appeared there. She is wondering now how her card happened to go to that class, and who has been doing her the kindness of registering for her.

NOTICES AND PERSONALS.

NOTICE—Students are requested not to wear McKinley buttons in American history or psychology classes.

WANTED—A few healthy and hopeful freshmen to play football on the scrub eleven. All the requirements are a tough skin and a forgiving disposition when the members of the regular team feel like kicking someone by the way of exercise.

NOTICE—The zoology department has some prize packages to be purchased by the students in zoology 1. The package contains one note book, two lovely pencils, three sheets of writing paper, an eraser, a penwiper and a piece of smoked glass. Price sixty-five cents; separately and without paper and string, twenty-eight cents.

The ark is prepared. The modern Noah has arrived. The chosen few are being gathered. The second flood is Dec. 25.

This is the belief of Joe Lynch and the 100 members of his "sanctified band" down in eastern North Carolina. The Chocoma river is a small stream, but deep enough near Currituck sound to bear up the four arks of the modern Noah. A short distance to the east lie the treacherous rocks of Hatteras.

After a three mile ride in a rowboat in a crooked river the waters suddenly widen, forming a pondlike harbor. Upon the left bank the forest sets well back from the shore, leaving an open space of sandy desert. Here Joseph Lynch fastened his arks. A more isolated spot would be hard to find. The few inhabitants of this region live miles back from the dense river borders and are generally of an illiterate class, to whom deaths and births are of very little concern. These are the people so ready to accept the modern Noah's faith.—New York Journal.

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