

judgment in the matter. As there were only nine divisions, it followed that but nine men had work assigned to them, what the others were to do was not yet apparent.

During the next ten days I visited the seminar rooms regularly, and watched the students at work. The most regular visitors were men not engaged in seminar work proper; they gave all their time to the preparation of the thesis that must be presented and accepted before the candidate can go up for the examinations. Of the nine men who had had topics assigned to them, those were present the most frequently whose work must be presented in the near future, those having the most of the semester before them took life very easy and appeared very seldom in the rooms.

At about four in the afternoon, they began to drop in, and at six the room presented a lively scene. Perhaps one man slipped in for a moment to get a note book from his drawer, to glance over the book-reviews and whisper a few words to a friend, and then with a "*Mahlzeit*," or "*Gute Nacht*," delivered over his shoulder in a general manner, went out, sometimes this was answered, sometimes it was not. Very seldom did I find any one in the rooms during the forenoon, never more than one or two, and these were almost invariably the advanced students. On Saturday afternoon and in the holidays, the apartments were quite deserted.

If I were to characterize in a single sentence the manner of work, I should say that it consisted, for the most part, in consulting authorities and in copying judiciously portions of the text. This applies both to men who are preparing a thesis, and those working up a seminar topic, the latter do little more than this, while the former must proceed to the second and more difficult part of the task, the construction of a true and well-balanced essay from the material collected. The indispensable thing with both is to make use of original documents or reliable reprints.

"Do German students apply themselves more closely than American students?" Not a particle! Some very erroneous ideas prevail on our side of the Atlantic in regard to this matter: every German student must be a model of industry. Nothing of the kind, the young men here are like all young men the world over, and consist of good, bad, and indifferent. The members of the historical seminar are supposed to belong to the best class of students; they are drawn from a body of more than 3,000 men, and yet, I venture to say that I could match them, man for man, in one of our smaller colleges.

#### Teachers in Germany.

The place which the teacher has made for himself in the educational system of Germany is certainly most impressive. This place of responsibility and influence is not newly acquired. It is an inheritance from the past; a transmission of powers won by the courage, zeal and intellectual strength of the teachers of three centuries.

Beginning with the reformation—the time from which the present school system of Germany dates—the teacher has filled a prominent place in all educational reforms. Witness the work of Luther, Erasmus and Melancthon, of Trotzendorf, Wolf, Sturm, and a host of others, not only in promulgating new philosophies and methods of teaching, but in putting into practice new courses of study, in calling out for education the active interest of princes and people, and, whenever it was necessary, in shaping legislation relating to education both high and low.

With such a past history, we hope the present attempt of the emperor to transfer the management of all educational matters from the state to the ecclesiastical bodies will not receive the consent of the Diet. May the leading educators remain faithful to the people. May they control public opin-

ion to such an extent that the emperor, for policy if for no higher motive, will find himself obliged to withdraw his recommendations.

#### Literary Notes.

A customer came into a store one day and asked for "Browning on Rats." The clerk was staggered, but another clerk, who knew the customer, suggested the "Pied Piper." It was right. Later this same customer asked another for Crawford's "My Cigar,"—("A Cigarette Maker's Romance.")

Pope received \$25,000 for his version of Homer. But the prize winner in a competition opened by the proprietors of a half penny journal in England has just been paid \$5,000 for five lines of verse composing the poem which was adjudged the best. This is at the rate of \$1,000 a line, and, say \$100 a word, making this the most costly poem on record.—*The Writer*.

"Things Japanese," a unique and invaluable pocket encyclopedia of Japan, has been re-issued in a second edition with a score or more of new titles and many additions and revisions. In the list of books on Japan, the accomplished critic and author, Professor Basil Hall Chamberlain, places "The Mikado's Empire" (now in its seventh edition) second and Miss Alice Bacon's "Japanese Girls and Women" as third in value. Both these books are by American authors.—*Literary World*.

The book entitled "The History of David Grieve" is creating a good deal of interest and curiosity at present. This curiosity is the result of the fame its author gained from her book "Robert Elsmere," which was so thoroughly discussed by readers of all classes and especially theologians. The author of these two books, Mrs. Humphrey Ward, is the grand daughter of Dr. Arnold of Rugby. She and her husband, a man of means and cultivation, reside in a spacious house in Russell square. Her last work, "The History of David Grieve," is selling so well that the editors have concluded to issue a second edition immediately.

*The Temple Bar* tells a nice little anecdote illustrating the courtesy of the great poet, Robert Browning. On one occasion, so the story goes, Mr. Browning's son had hired a room in a neighboring house in which to exhibit some pictures. One day, during the absence of the artist, the poet was receiving a number of fashionable friends; and, while standing near the door an unannounced visitor appeared. Mr. Browning shook hands with her, when she exclaimed: "Oh, I beg your pardon, but please, sir, I am the cook. Mr. Barret asked me to come and see his pictures." "And I am very glad to see you," said Mr. Browning in his usual courteous manner. "Take my arm and I will show you around."

#### EXCHANGE.

The Illinois Wesleyan University, has admitted the students of the junior law class into the oratorical contest.

The University of Virginia has decided on the location of its \$25,000 gymnasium. The students seem to be pleased with the new site and wish the gymnasium completed.

The *Union Signal* has changed hands. The new editorial corps is headed by Miss Francis E. Willard. This in itself will be enough to guarantee that the paper will be better than ever before.

A congress has been established at Leland Stanford. The University of Pennsylvania has a congress with forty juniors in the House and twenty seniors in the Senate. Why not let the University of Nebraska have a congress? We need it. It will be the greatest parliamentary educator in the state.