

STUDENTS IN THE GERMAN UNIVERSITIES¹

SINCE the establishment of the empire the number of students at the German universities has regularly risen from about 13,000 until in the middle of the 80's it had already doubled and the threatened overcrowding of academic pursuits was recognized. The German student body tripled its original number by 1904, and reached in the current summer 57,230 as compared with 54,847 in the previous year. Of the entire number of students to-day 54,678 are men, 2,552 women; of these at present about 53,000 belong to the empire and about 4,300 are foreigners. A comparison of the figures for the different departments for the present and previous year and for 1906 shows what changes in the direction of studies have occurred in consequence of the influence of the needs of the state and society and especially what occupations are favored. In this respect the rapid growth of medicine as a profession is striking, the number of medical students rising from 6,683 in 1906 to 10,682 last year and now to 11,927. Nearest to them stand the students of philosophy, philology and history who number at present 16,158 as compared with 15,475 and 10,832; mathematics and natural science, 8,442 (last year 7,937, in 1906, 6,323); law, 11,023 (11,323 and 12,375); evangelical theology, 2,825 (2,507 and 2,329); of catholic theology, 1,834 (1,840 and 1,841); political economy and agriculture, 2,729 (2,406 and 1,801); pharmacy, 916 (1,147 and 1,767); dentistry, 1,046 (1,264 and 755); forestry—only matriculated in Munich, Tübingen and Giessen, 170 (123 and 114), and of veterinary surgery—only matriculated in Giessen 160 (141 and 114). According to this the number of law students has diminished in consequence of the overfilling of the profession and this is still more the case with pharmacy. The recent reduction in the number of dental students is to be attributed to raising the entrance requirements and the lengthening and increase in cost of the course.

¹From the *Journal* of the American Medical Association.

Of the present student body 28,981 are enrolled at the ten Prussian universities as compared with 27,577 in the summer of 1910. At the three Bavarian there are 9,445, last year, 9,369; at the two Baden, 5,532 (1910, 5,279), and in the other six state schools, including the imperial at Strasburg, there are 13,222 as compared with 12,602 in 1910. The university of the metropolis stands at the head, having at present 8,039 students, including 695 women, as compared with 7,902 and 626 last year.

All the universities except Giessen have gained this year, most markedly Greifswald, Kiel, Rostock and Halle, and least, Heidelberg, Münster and the three Bavarian universities.

THE ASTRONOMICAL FELLOWSHIP OF THE NANTUCKET MARIA MITCHELL ASSOCIATION

THE Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association offers an astronomical fellowship of one thousand dollars, to a woman, for the year beginning June 15, 1912, under the following conditions: The year shall be divided into two periods, approximately as follows: June 15 to December 15 on Nantucket, where the observatory is equipped with a five inch Alvan Clark telescope. This period shall be occupied in observation, research or study, and in lectures or instruction to classes or individuals. February 1 to June 15 at one of the larger observatories. This semester shall be occupied in original research and study. During this period a distinct plan for the following Nantucket period shall be formulated. Every fourth year the fellowship shall be available during the entire year for study at one of the larger observatories in Europe or America. The fellowship will be awarded annually, but in order that the work at Nantucket may be combined advantageously with the work at the selected observatory, the preference will be given to the same candidate for three successive years. This candidate shall have first consideration among applicants for the special quadrennial appointment. A competitive examination will not be held. The