

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

candidate must present evidence of qualifications under the following heads: (1) A letter from the candidate addressed to the secretary of the committee, giving an account of previous educational opportunities and training, and of plans for future work. (2) College diploma or a certificate from the registrar of her college, and if she has already held a position as instructor or teacher in any college or other institution, a clear statement of the work done, together with a certificate as to the quality of work. (3) Examples of work already accomplished. (4) Testimonials as to ability and character. (5) Satisfactory evidence of thoroughly good health. The fellowship at all times must be used for purposes of serious study, and the fellow should be as free as possible from other responsibilities.

Application for the year beginning June 15, 1912, should be made under the above heads, and must be in the hands of the secretary of the committee, Mrs. Charles S. Hinchman, 3635 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa., on or before March 1, 1912. The committee consists of Professor Mary W. Whitney, director of Vassar College Observatory, *chairman*; Annie J. Cannon, A.M., Harvard Observatory, *vice-chairman*; Professor Anne S. Young, Ph.D., Mt. Holyoke Observatory; Dr. Edward C. Pickering, director of Harvard Observatory; Elizabeth R. Coffin, A.B., Vassar College, '70; Florence M. Cushing, A.B., Vassar College, '74; Lydia S. Hinchman, Philadelphia, *secretary*.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Vienna Academy of Sciences has elected as honorary members Professor Svante Arrhenius, of Stockholm; Professor Archibald Geikie, of London, and Professor E. Metchnikoff, of Paris.

PROFESSOR E. COSSERAT, director of the observatory at Toulouse, has been elected a corresponding member of the Paris Academy of Sciences.

THE Paris Academy of Medicine has elected as national associates Dr. de Brun, professor of pathology at Beirut, and Dr. Herrgott, professor of clinical obstetrics at Nancy.

THE celebration of the seventieth birthday of the Königsberg pharmacologist, Professor Jaffé, took place on July 25.

THE Middlemore prize of the British Medical Association has been presented to Mr. C. W. G. Bryan in recognition of his essay on serum and vaccine therapy, in connection with disease of the eye.

MR. HARLAN I. SMITH, of the American Museum of Natural History, has been appointed archeologist of the Geological Survey of Canada, with an office in the Victoria Memorial Museum, the national museum of Canada, at Ottawa.

AT the recent meeting of the American Ophthalmologic Society at New London, Dr. Edward Jackson, of Denver, was elected president.

THE following honorary degrees were conferred at the ninety-first commencement of Colgate University: L.H.D. on John Burroughs, the naturalist; Sc.D. on H. E. Slaught, Ph.D., professor of mathematics, University of Chicago, and John B. Ekeley, Ph.D., professor of chemistry, University of Colorado.

THE Dutch geologist, Dr. Molengraaf, has lately undertaken an investigation of the interior of Timor.

THE eighteenth Congress of Americanists will be held next year in London, the invitation issued by the Royal Anthropological Institute, through its president, Mr. A. P. Maudslay, having been accepted by the congress. The president-elect is Sir Clements Markham.

THE fourteenth annual session of the American Mining Congress is called to meet at Chicago, Ill., on September 26, 27, 28 and 29.

THE Michigan Health Board of Exhibit started on its first trip over the state on August 1, promulgating facts regarding typhoid fever, tuberculosis, infant mortality and general sanitation to the people of the state.

By the will of the late Dr. J. Smith, of Hanover, Pa., he devised his entire estate,