

ance for the difficulties with which he has to contend, compared with the student of to-day, he should have plenty of time to enjoy "life." For the Arts course during the early part of the thirteenth century there is no study of Latin literature. "Bec jaune" must know some Latin, for he is obliged to speak it; but he need care nothing for its literature, grammar being all that is required of him in examination. The great subject of his study must be logic—to reason well is regarded as the whole duty of man. Rhetoric and philosophy are reserved, by way of a treat, for study at festivals. "Philosophy" here means some Aristotle and the subjects forming the quadrivium—Arithmetic, Geometry, Music and Astrology.

The range is not great, but the conditions of study are far from helpful. Lectures begin at five or six in the morning (these were the dark ages) and this in the middle of winter—October 11th to the first Sunday in Lent being the session. The windows in the lecture rooms are rarely glazed, no one seems to dream of a fire, and the students sit on straw strewn over the floor. In course of time some effeminate reformers introduce a few benches, but this is sternly repressed "that all occasion of pride may be taken away from the young." Even more serious than these physical discomforts is the scarcity of books. Most of the student's time is taken up with copying and learning by rote. He has to depend very much on his teachers and they are often incompetent. At any rate they are absurdly young—twenty or twenty-one being quite the usual age for the Master. Their reverence for texts amounts to a superstition, even science—if taught at all—is taught authoritatively. It was in the seventeenth century that Galileo shook the scientific world from its dogmatic slumbers by plainly demonstrating, by experiments from the tower of Pisa, that Aristotle was wrong in stating that bodies fall to the ground in times proportional to their weights. Apparently no one before Galileo had thought of testing the matter—the mere dictum of Aristotle sufficed.

But—to return to our student in arts—

during the first part of his career he is regarded as an apprentice working under the direction of a Master (M.A.) His first step out of this stage is to determine, *i.e.*, to maintain a thesis against an opponent in open debate. We have already referred to the importance attached to skill in argument, and it seems that the students are kept in constant practice. "They dispute before dinner, they dispute during dinner, they dispute after dinner, they dispute in private, they dispute in public, at all times and in all places," says an old French writer. This love of debate seems ingrained in the French, it is remarked in the days of Tacitus; but we must not suppose that, as a mode of academic training, it is confined to Paris or to France. We find it almost everywhere in medieval times, and it has left its traces on the Cambridge of to-day in the name "Wrangler." Determination in Paris, at the time of which we speak, is a great event in the student's life. Before he can take part in this public discussion, he must prove his fitness for such a performance by passing the preliminary tested called "Responsions." At determination itself no effort is spared to attract as large an audience as possible. Wine is provided at the determiner's expense (indeed at this time drinking is essential to every important phase of life) and the day ends with a feast, with now and then a dance or torchlight procession as a variant. "Yellow-beak" has now become a Bachelor; but he is still regarded as somewhat of a junior. He is allowed to teach a little by way of practice, but he remains under the master's supervision, and has to keep up attendance at certain lectures. Not till he has completed five or six years from his matriculation, and "heard" all the books, is he free to apply to the Chancellor for the licence to teach. Before this is granted, an examination must be undergone, and the names of those who pass are posted in order of merit. It seems, however, that the Chancellor reserves the right of determining the order of precedence, and he and his assistants are sometimes amenable to pecuniary and other influences. "Even if a