

Other courses are given on the seminary plan; that is to say, a limited field is selected for study (for example the political and constitutional history of the United States between the years 1776 and 1801). It is to be traversed during the year according to the method of independent research, the class and the professor working together on the cooperative plan. Each student takes some phase of the general subject and begins work upon it.\* He canvasses his sources, such as state papers, congressional debates, contemporary writers, newspaper files, letters and journals of prominent men of the time, etc., etc. From these he gathers materials for a narrative account which is presented to the class in a report or series of reports. In giving his reports the student is closely followed by the professor and the remainder of the class, and a single false step, such as an unauthorized statement, the naive acceptance of a doubtful authority, or the neglect of some important source of information, is likely to bring him long remembered confusion.

When all reports are in and the necessary connections and generalization provided by the professor, each member of the class is supposed to have a unified view of the period covered. Whether he has or not will depend upon the diligence shown by the individual in following the investigations of his fellows, as well as his energy and judgment in working out his particular topic. The method affords an opportunity at any rate both for a fair mastery of the subject and for training in research.

This, in a word, is the ideal of the Wisconsin graduate school. It aims to train scholars, and it recognizes that scholarship involves the two elements, knowledge of subject and mastery of method. The thesis, which is the most serious undertaking of every graduate student, is usually a good test on both heads. If the candidate succeeds in working out some problem of impor-

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\*The following list of topics was assigned in Professor Turner's seminary in 1899-1900, the subject being as indicated above: Finance; Banking and Currency; Internal Improvements; Formation of Territories and Admission of States; Foreign Relations; The Supreme Court; Party Organization; Congressional Organization and procedure; Congressional and Presidential Elections; Suffrage and Apportionment; Public Domain; Indian Policy. Some of these were subdivided.