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Two of the recent publications of the Johns Hopkins University may interest some of our readers. One is on "The Study of History in Germany and France," by Paul Frédéricq of the University of Ghent, translated by Henrietta Leonard, and gives a somewhat minute account of the methods now pursued in teaching history in the universities of Germany and in the various higher schools in Paris. The historical courses in the German Universities are of two kinds, theoretical and practical, of which the former are like those in our own colleges, while the latter are intended to teach the student both to investigate and to criticize the original authorities. It is these practical courses, as pursued in the historical seminaries, that M. Frédéricq most extolles; and he devotes many pages to an account of the way they are carried on, the students doing most of the work, and the teacher making suggestions and criticisms. Some foreign observers have thought that this mode of investigating history was degenerating into a mere criticism of texts and study of trifles; but M. Frédéricq thinks otherwise. Though he admits that the French historical courses in general be esteem'd less highly, but speaks with enthusiasm of those at the Practical School for Advanced Study (L'Ecole Pratique des hautes études), founded in Paris a few years since, and which resemble to some extent those of the German universities. On the whole, M. Frédéricq's monograph, though too minute for most readers, is well-prepared, and will doubtless be suggestive to American educators. The other pamphlet which we alluded to is "Notes on the Progress of the Colored People of Maryland since the War," by J. R. Brackett. This author had previously published an account of the negroes and of slavery in Maryland before the war, to which the present work is therefore a supplement. He speaks first of the political action of the negroes, which, in his opinion, has not helped them much; and then goes on to state what they have done in accumulating property and otherwise improving their condition. He reports, that, according to information to which he has access, not more than two thousand of the Maryland negroes own any property, though the number of negroes in the State is over two hundred thousand. Considerable difficulty has been experienced by them in gaining admittance to the professions of law, medicine, and teaching; but they have finally succeeded in all these cases. The prejudice and caste feeling still prevails; but, on the whole, the status of the negro in Maryland seems to be improving as fast as could reasonably have been expected.

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