

In the end the man gave him an A in the course after being determined to flunk him. But as you read what that fellow went through and how he worked. When he came to be a senior he decided that wars were ahead. This was in the 30's. He came to the conclusion people ought to know something about war. So he asked to join the Harvard ROTC. They told him, We can't give you a commission., if you come in as a senior. But we'll permit you to attend if you want to. So he attended the Calvary ROTC. He'd never been on a horse before but he learned to handle horses well that year.

Later when he became an overseer of Harvard he was one of the few overseers that voted against doing away with ROTC. at Harvard. But as you read what that fellow did-- how he worked, how he accomplished. To think if that much energy were used in the Lord's service what a different situation it would be. Of course there are very few people in any line that work like he did. From that very poor background he became an overseer of Harvard eventually. He'd published several books that have been very widely read.

I just wish -- I never had that kind of force on me. As a boy I always enjoyed thinking and reading. I loved school, always did. But I wish I'd had more discipline. I wish there had been something that had made me make the utmost use of the brain the Lord gave me and learned to apply myself. Whether I enjoyed it or not. Of course I always did enjoy intellectual things, but I feel I could have accomplished so much more.

I don't know how it is now, but the German educational system before the war at least was that of the gymnasium which was the equivalent of about half way through our college. The last 2 yrs. of high school and the first 2 yrs. of college. They had to work very very hard. They learned Greek and Latin very thoroughly. Real solid training. You had to graduate from the gymnasium to go to university. Only half the students ever got in the gymnasium. But after they got through that and went to the university it was the exact opposite. There was ~~no~~ no compulsion whatever. You'd go to class or not as you feel like. No exams until you finished the whole course and then you are examined on everything.

I met students there who said, I've been here 4 yrs. in the university. Now I'm going home to spend a year studying at home before I take my exams. The result was that half the university students never graduated. But the half that did they learned to apply themselves. They'd had a lot of discipline taught them in the gymnasium, but in the university there is absolutely no discipline except what you put into it yourself. The result was that half that graduated had a training that very few American students ever have. I often wish that we could simply have one or two courses where we'd have absolutely no compulsion whatever, but you'd be thoroughly examined at the end. I'm afraid most of our students would flunk the first 2 or 3 times.