dinner, with some trifling indulgences in particular colleges. In the case of noblemen, however, and the eldest sons of baronets and knights, the time for taking the first degree is shortened.

The student, on entering his college, is assigned to the superin­tendence of some one of the tutors. This, however, in most of the colleges, is little more than a form, as the tutors, who are ge­nerally three, four, or five in number, usually divide among themselves the discipline and instruction of the college ; and the student is equally under the superintendence of all. The instruc­tions of the tutors are directed solely to the preparation of the students for taking a degree, and consist of catechetical lectures, mixed with reading and discussion, on a portion of some classical or mathematical book in common use at the university examina­tions. Of these lectures, the students at first generally attend three or four daily. In the colleges which have a considerable number of under-graduates, divinity is usually taught by the dean, and mathematics by a separate tutor ; but, with these excep­tions, there is not much division of labour between the tutors in the same house. The subjects which form the academical education may be taken indifferently by any. Besides the class lectures, the tutors have from time to time interviews with their pupils separately, for the purpose of ascertaining more ex­actly their state of preparation for the public examination, con­sulting with them on the most effectual means of removing their peculiar difficulties, and arranging generally their plans of study. They also prescribe weekly exercises in composition, in Greek, Latin, and English. In this department, however, the college tu­tors are not the sole labourers. Although recognised neither by the universities, nor by any particular college, a very numerous class has long existed both at Oxford and Cambridge, who, under the denomination of *Private Tutors,* superintend and assist the stu­dies of individuals. Without interfering with the operation of the college lectures, they are occupied rather in securing for the student the best use of them, and, in the latter part of his course, in preparing him generally for his public examination. The fee of a *private* tutor at Oxford is L.50 a year ; at Cambridge, where the academical year is somewhat shorter, L.40. The course of college lectures closes at the end of each term, with a formal examination of the students separately, by the head and tu­tors. This summing up of the business of the term is called, in the technical language of the place, *collections* or *terminals,* and oc­cupies from two days to a week, according to the size of the col­lege or hall.

According to the statutes, residence and attendance upon the university professors are requisite for all degrees. Students in arts are required to attend the lectures of the professors of that faculty during a period of four years to qualify for bachelor, and during seven to qualify for master ; the particular branches for each year being also specified. The present practice, however, is very dif­ferent ; it has already been stated that the professors have been entirely superseded by the college tutors ; and although the de­grees emanate from them, they have no share whatever in communicating the knowledge which is requisite for their attain­ment. The degree of B. A. is the only one for which residence is indispensable.

The academical year is divided into four terms: 1. *Michaelmas,* which extends from the 10th of October to the 17th of December ; 2. *Hilary,* from the 14th of January to the day before Palm Sun­day ; 3. *Easter,* from the tenth day after Easter Sunday to the day before Whitsunday ; 4. *Trinity,* from the first Wednesday after Whitsunday to the Saturday after the act, which is always on the first Tuesday in July. The year of academical residence thus in­cludes nearly seven months. The following is the time requisite for obtaining the different degrees.

*Bachelor of Arts* (B. A.) ; sixteen terms, for all except the sons and the eldest sons of the eldest sons of peers and peeresses in their own right, baronets, and the eldest sons of baronets and knights, who are admissible to their degree after having completed three years. Of the sixteen terms, however, twelve only are ne­cessary in residence.

*Master of Arts* (M.A.); twelve terms after admission to a bachelor’s degree. A master of arts becomes a regent after the act subsequent to his degree, and thereby obtains the privilege of voting in convocation.

*Bachelor in the Civil Law* (B. C. L.) ; three years, to be calculated from the regency. For those who do not pass through acts, twenty- eight terms are necessary, of which seventeen must be in residence.

*Doctor in the Civil Law* (D. C. L.); five years from the time at which the bachelor's degree was conferred ; shortened to four for those who intend to practise at Doctors Commons.

*Bachelor in Medicine* (Μ. B.) ; twenty-eight terms after matricu­lation.

*Doctor in Medicine* (Μ. D.) ; three years after taking the ba­chelor's degree.

*Bachelor in Divinity* (B. D.) ; seven years from the regency.

*Doctor in Divinity* (D. D.) ; four years after taking the bachelor’s degree.

*Degrees in* *Music* are merely honorary ; but the performance of some piece of music is required by way of exercise.

Candidates for the degree of bachelor of arts are required in the sixth or eighth term, unless dispensation be obtained for a later period, to undergo the preliminary examination called *responsions ;* that is, to answer questions publicly proposed by the masters of the schools.@@1 This exercise consists of an examination in the Greek and Latin languages, chiefly with a view to their grammatical construction ; and in the rudiments of logic, or a portion of Euclids Elements of Geometry. This examination is technically called the “ little go and to have failed three times in passing it (or, in the Oxford phraseology, to have been “ plucked”@@8 three times) is generally considered a disqualification from further pursuing the studies of the university.

The public examinations are held twice a year, viz. in Michael­mas and Easter terms. The public examination comprises, 1. The rudiments of religion, under which head is required a competent knowledge of the gospels in the original Greek ; of the history of the Old and New Testament ; of the thirty-nine articles of the church of England ; and of the evidences of religion, natural and revealed. 2. The *Litera humaniores ;* under which head is com­prised a sufficient acquaintance with the Greek and Latin lan­guages, and ancient history ; with rhetoric and poetry ; with moral and political science, as derived from the Greek and Roman writers, and illustrated, if necessary, from modern authors ; with logic, which is indispensably required from all candidates for the first, second, or third classes ; and with Latin and English com­position. 3. The elements of the mathematical and physical sci­ences.

With regard to the examination in some parts of the literæ hu­maniores, and in the elements of the mathematical sciences and of physics, the examiners have a discretionary power ; a knowledge of the latter branches not being indispensable. They are however bound to examine all candidates in at least three Greek and Latin classical writers, in logic or the first four books of Euclid, and to ascertain their proficiency in translating from English into Latin. With respect to the rudiments of religion, they possess no dis­cretionary power ; and any failure in this part of the examination must preclude the candidate from his degree, without regard to any other attainments.

Such are the acquirements necessary to enable a student to ob­tain a degree. Those who aspire to “ honours” are required to embrace a wider field, and are subjected to a more strict examina­tion, which lasts three or four days. The candidate for honours may attain them either in classical literature and moral philosophy *(in literis humanioribus),* or in mathematics (*in* *disciplinis ma­thematicis et physicis),* or in both. As a preliminary condition, he must however satisfy the examiners of his proficiency in di­vinity, though he is not in general subjected to a severer trial than those who merely present themselves for a common degree. The candidate for mathematical honours must, in the first instance, “ pass” in classics. The candidate for classical honours is allowed to choose his own books for examination, which generally amount to fourteen or sixteen. Among those most commonly chosen are, Herodotus, Thucydides, Livy, Sophocles, Horace, Virgil, and Aristotle’s Rhetoric and Ethics. To these some add, according to their inclination, Aristotle’s Poetics, Lucretius, or a scientific dia­logue of Cicero, part of Homer or Pindar, or Æschylus, some plays of Aristophanes ; and some few take a selection from the orators, or from Polybius or Tacitus. The necessary extent of knowledge in mathematics and physics, though inferior to that which is re­quired at Cambridge, embraces geometry, algebra, Newton’s Prin­cipia, mechanics, hydrostatics, astronomy, and optics. The exami­nations are conducted principally by means of printed papers.

When the examinations are concluded, the names of those who have honourably distinguished themselves, by passing a good ex­amination in a wider range than that necessary for a mere degree, are distributed in alphabetical order into four classes, under the two divisions of *literæ humaniores* and *disciplina mathematicae et*

@@@1 There are three masters of the schools, who must have been admitted regents in arts, one of whom is nominated in convocation by the vice-chancellor, and one by each of the proctors, annually, on the first day of Trinity term. The presence of two masters is necessary at the responsions.

@@@3 This phrase had its origin in an ancient custom, by which any one who objected to a degree about to be conferred in congregation, noti­fied his dissent by plucking the sleeve of the proctor’s gown.