

is suspended. These long vacations enable the scholars to earn, at least in part, the wherewithal to pay for their schooling.

THE UNIVERSITY

Down to 1847 the Grammar School in Reykjavík was the highest educational establishment in Iceland, while for professional studies the university in Copenhagen was the usual resort. But as the instruction at the Grammar School was given, partly at least, with a view to preparing the scholars for the Church, those who had passed *examen artium* (*stúdentpróf*) could be ordained. But in 1847 a *theological seminary* was established in Reykjavík, followed by a *medical college* in 1876, and a *law school* in 1908. Finally, in 1911 the *University of Iceland* was founded, and dedicated on the 17th of June the same year, the hundredth anniversary of the eminent statesman and scholar Jón Sigurðsson. The university has four faculties, viz. Theology, Medicine, Law, and Philosophy, representing Icelandic philology and history. The university is a State institution under the management of a Rector, elected by the joint teaching staff from among themselves for a term of one year, and supported by the Academical Consistory, composed of the deans of the faculties.

The academical year is counted from the 1st of October to the 15th of February and from the 15th of February to 30th of June. There is no fixed time for the duration of courses of studies, but the minimum for theology is assumed to be 3½ years, for law 4 years, and for medicine 5 years. In many cases, however, the time exceeds the periods here given.

The degrees conferred by the university are '*kandidat*', candidate, in the three first-named faculties (*candidatus theologiæ*, *candidatus medicinæ et chirurgiæ*, *candidatus juris*), and *meistari* (magister artium) in the faculty of philosophy. Doctor's degrees may also be obtained, but it is rather rare, and only acquired by those graduates who go in for a scientific career.

Those who desire to study other branches of science than those taught at the university of Iceland must still go abroad. The majority of Icelandic students who visit foreign universities go to Denmark and Germany, while others proceed to France, England, etc.

LIBRARIES

The National Library (Landsbókasafn Íslands), founded in 1818, is the largest library in Iceland, containing some 124 thousand printed volumes and about 8000 MSS. Its collection of books on chess, be-