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LIFE IN THE MEDIEVAL
UNIVERSITY

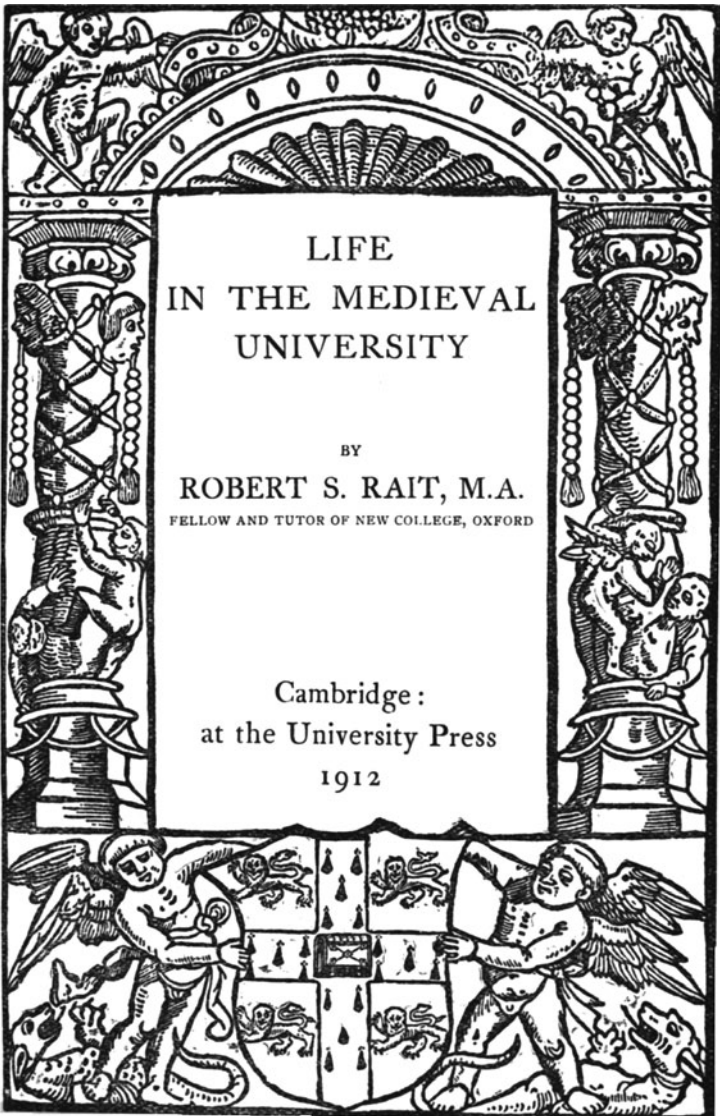
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THE STUDENT'S PROGRESS

(From Gregor Reisch's *Margarita philosophica*, Edition of 1504, Strassburg)

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NOTE ON THE FRONTISPIECE

IN this picture the schoolboy is seen arriving with his satchel and being presented with a hornbook by Nicostrata, the Latin muse Carmentis, who changed the Greek alphabet into the Latin. She admits him by the key of *congruitas* to the House of Wisdom ("Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars," *Proverbs* ix. 1). In the lowest story he begins his course in Donatus under a Bachelor of Arts armed with the birch; an the next he is promoted to Priscian. Then follow the other subjects of the *Trivium* and the *Quadrivium*, each subject being represented by its chief exponent—logic by Aristotle, arithmetic by Boethius, geometry by Euclid, etc. Ptolemy, the philosopher, who represents astronomy, is confused with the kings of the same name. Pliny and Seneca represent the more advanced study of physical and of moral science respectively, and the edifice is crowned by Theology, the long and arduous course for which followed that of the Arts. Its representative in a medieval treatise is naturally Peter Lombard.

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NOTE

I WISH to express my obligations to many recent writers on University history, and to the editors of University Statutes and other records, from which my illustrations of medieval student life have been derived. I owe special gratitude to Dr Hastings Rashdall, Fellow of New College and Canon of Hereford, my indebtedness to whose great work, *The Universities of Europe in the Middle Ages*, is apparent throughout the following pages. Dr Rashdall has been good enough to read my proof-sheets, and to make valuable criticisms and suggestions, and the Master of Emmanuel has rendered me a similar service.

R. S. R.

23rd January 1912.

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