

THE UNIVERSITY OF JENA.

Theodore Fischer, a German architect, has won the first prize for the plan of the new buildings of the University of Jena. The intention was to have it erected in some old German style and yet adapted to modern methods. The annexed illustration shows how well the architect has succeeded, not so much by detail work as by the *ensemble* of the whole complex of houses, in appearance like a mediæval castle with tower and walls and court yards, yet suited to the needs of university work.

AN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GERMANICS.

THE Northwestern University of Evanston, Ill., has always made efforts to be well equipped in its German department and its present president, Prof. Edmund J. James, proposes to push this feature with special vigor. We have received an announcement which proposes the foundation of an "American Institute of Germanics," to be closely connected with the Northwestern University. "The fundamental purpose of this institute shall be," as President James states, "to cultivate a knowledge and appreciation of, and consequently a love for, the intellectual and moral achievements of the German race. The institute will present an opportunity for the student to get in a brief time a cross-section, so to speak, of the entire product of German culture as worked out and achieved through the ages by the efforts of German scholars, poets, artists, writers, scientists and statesmen; it will be a monument in the midst of this rising people to the glorious achievements of a kindred race beyond the sea, and will be a standing inspiration and source of power and influence to that vast and important German element which has entered so largely into the life-blood and history of this people; it will stir the pride of the German-American and the German-American's children in the history and achievements of the stock from which they come; it will be an incentive to all other Americans to emulate the example of honesty, faithfulness, uprightness, idealism and thoroughness which are associated with the German name.

"Such an institute may well become, not merely the Mecca of the young American student who wishes to learn something of the secret of German life and power; not merely a place where the descendants of the German-American can go to receive a touch of that inspiration which comes from the study of the history of their ancestors in their great world beyond the sea—resulting surely in a quickened sense of power and vigor in our own people; but it may easily become a matter in which the Germans throughout the world will be interested and a standing monument to the achievements in science and art, in institutions and in arms of that people which has kept in its purest forms the qualities which gave it the victory over the Roman Empire at the time of Rome's greatest power and magnificence."

President James studied for a long time in Germany. He is in close touch with German science and German sentiment. His wife is a native German and she has always endeavored to make the influences of German thought paramount in her home, as well as in her husband's sphere of influence. Evanston—near enough to Chicago, where the German element is so predominant, and at the same time far enough not to suffer under the disadvantages and drawbacks of the big city to student life—will be the best

place where German culture can be taught in its most genuine, and also in its noblest form, and where the German spirit of German thinkers—German philosophy, German poetry, German music—will prevail and be thoroughly assimilated to the American spirit. President James proposes to have a suitable building erected, which shall be a specimen of German architecture at its best. It shall contain a library of German literature, German history, German philology, German law, German philosophy, a stage for the performance of the most important dramatic masterpieces, and also a museum of German civilization, with professorships of all these branches. From time to time scholars should be invited from Germany to lecture at the institute and thus afford the chance of a personal contact with representative Germans of the living generation.

It may be doubted whether the time is favorable for the foundation of institutes of learning, but at any rate the plan is excellent and we wish that President James may be successful. Undoubtedly he is the man to do it if only the necessary means are forthcoming.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

THE ETHICS OF THE GREEK PHILOSOPHERS, SOCRATES, PLATO AND ARISTOTLE.

A Lecture given before the Brooklyn Ethical Association, season of 1896-1897. By *James H. Hyslop*, Professor of Logic and Ethics, Columbia University. Edited by *Chas. M. Higgins*. New York, Chicago and London: Charles M. Higgins & Co. 1903. Price, \$2.00.

Prof. James H. Hyslop, late Professor of Logic and Ethics at Columbia University, has delivered a lecture before the Brooklyn Ethical Association on Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, and we have here an extended publication of it with valuable appendices, sufficient to give one a very clear insight into the nobility of classical philosophy.

The lecturer summarizes the pre-Socratic philosophy of Greece, as exhibited by Pythagoras, Thales, Democritus, Anaxagoras, and describes Socrates, his environment, personality, method, doctrines and influence, especially his opposition to Sceptics and Sophists. He discusses his sagacious assertion of Ignorance; also his ingenious and misunderstood doctrine of Knowledge as the basis of Virtue, and characterizes him as a marvelous conversationalist and profound reasoner, opposed to all cosmic speculation or abstract science, who emphasizes practical ethics, or the laws of true human conduct, for happiness in this natural life and beatitude in the future supernatural life of the soul. Hyslop regards him as one of the greatest moral and religious teachers of the world, pre-eminent in teaching unworldliness and immortality in the Christian sense, and standing as a unique personality—mystic, theistic, rationalistic and utilitarian, the father of modern utilitarian theories and of many ancient philosophic sects. The most ingenious disciple of Socrates is Plato, an all-around genius in philosophy and abstract thought, idealistic, transcendental and universal in the scope of his philosophy. Plato is not merely a mouthpiece of Socrates, but has modified his master's ideas. He constructs an ideal state of a communistic and socialistic republic which embodies propositions of civil service reform. Plato's system of morality depends upon eternal and abstract law, inherent in the nature of things, and is