

the ancient conception of an ass-headed deity is heightened by the fact that there is a reminiscence of the same belief in the Egyptian picture of Set which has been preserved among some Semitic tribes, and persists in the report that the God of the Jews was ass-headed. The last traces of it are found in the ass-headed crucified deity worshiped by Alexamenos and pictured in a scribbling on a wall on the Palatine commonly called the *Spott-crucifix*.

That this odd conception was also attributed in certain circles to the Christian Saviour appears in several passages of patristic literature where it is resented by Christian authors. For further details compare the article "Anubis, Seth and Christ," *The Open Court*, XV, 65. P. C.

#### ALLEGORICAL MYSTERIES IN PRIMITIVE CHRISTIANITY.

We call our readers' attention to Mr. Kampmeier's article written in defense of the historicity of Jesus against Professor Smith's theory of a purely divine and humanized saviour. But it seems to us that an incidental point will prove of more interest than Mr. Kampmeier's main contention. This is his reference to the apocryphal Ascension of Isaiah which throws light on passages in St. Paul's epistles, especially 1 Tim. iii. 16 where the "mystery of godliness" is mentioned, and in 1 Cor. ii. 7, where Paul says: "We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory." The apocryphal book explains further details of this mystery which probably contains reminiscences of such mysteries as were performed in Eleusis, in the Orphean mysteries, and probably also in innumerable other pagan religious initiations. There need not have been a Christian mystery play of the kind described in the Ascension of Isaiah, but we may well assume that the ideas have been taken from pagan mysteries of a similar kind. P. C.

#### THE AMERIKA-INSTITUT AT BERLIN.

The Amerika-Institut, Berlin, was founded October, 1910, under the auspices of the Prussian Ministry of Education. It is located in the new building of the Royal Library in Berlin. Its aim is to advance and strengthen the cultural relations between Germany and the United States by providing an organization that shall act as a medium of inquiry and exchange in matters of reciprocal interest.

Americans and Germans in various public and scientific pursuits in America and Germany, often find themselves in need of information as to what has been done in one or the other of these countries, and are at a loss how to obtain the desired information. The Amerika-Institut is becoming increasingly useful in acting as a medium of inquiry and instruction on all sorts of subjects.

The Institut has a special arrangement with the American Copyright Office by which it undertakes to facilitate German authors and publishers in obtaining a copyright for German books. During the two years of its existence 1190 books have been copyrighted through its agency. In connection with this service the Institut has found opportunity to encourage the translation of books of one country into the language of the other.

The Institut is developing a library (now numbering about 9200 volumes) that is intended to be a representative collection of Americana, dealing with the history, life and conditions of the United States. It is the object of the Institut to provide a good working collection, and to supplement the service of other libraries in Berlin by making the books more informally available. The library is used by Germans studying American questions, and by Americans desiring the advantages of an American library abroad.

The Amerika-Institut is cooperating with the Smithsonian Institution of Washington, D. C., in the international exchange of documents between Germany and the United States which in 1911 involved the handling of 31,882 packages, and this service is increasing.

The work of the Institut, in short, is to serve in a concrete way the every-day needs of those Germans and Americans who are interested in the life and institutions of the other country. Thus it affords practical opportunity for promoting and developing the ideal of understanding, good-will, and cultural interest between the two nations. It is the belief of the Institut that this work can be done more effectively by gradually eliminating the naturally haphazard and accidental means of intercourse and substituting in their place methods that are to some degree organized and systematic.

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#### BOOK REVIEWS.

PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY. By *Wm. de Hertburn Washington*. New York: National Publication Co., 1911. Pp. 887. Price \$4.50.

The author of this comprehensive work is a descendant of George Washington's brother and a successful civil engineer well known in social as well as business circles in New York. The book contains more than twelve hundred illustrations and surveys the progress of civilization in the several departments of engineering, finance and business; the making of roads and railroads; the handling of power; artificial waterways; the beginning of the real new world; the winning of the west by steam; banks and banking; the origin of corporations; capitalization with its counterpart over-capitalization; an analysis of profits; labor and human machinery; trusts and trustbusting; postal, express and baggage service; railway rates; accidents; railroads in the United States and other countries; government ownership; the future of the new world; the golden age; the progress and prosperity of the future, etc.

The book is brimful of valuable and interesting information, and it is only a pity that the illustrations are too small. They are just enough to give an idea of the text. Most of them are reproductions of rare old prints, some of them are photographs with a wide-angle lens which make the horses' heads too large, as, for instance, on page 253. All in all it is a valuable book for engineers and others to have on their shelves. The book follows the modern method initiated in science by Professor Mach of tracing the historical development of ideas as well as of industrial contrivances. The method of presenting the subject matter is by diagrammatic pictures illustrating the significance of statistical figures, as for instance when the railroad tracks of the United States are shown to cover a distance from the earth to the moon and 100,000 miles beyond.