

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.

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.