

THE following details are now given in regard to the establishment in Bombay of an Imperial University for India. Mr. Jamsetjee N. Tata offers a property representing a capital of over £200,000 and calculated to yield a yearly income of nearly £10,000 for the establishment of an Imperial University or a Research Institute, in order to supply the want of a higher course of post-graduate instruction in scientific research for the best students of the existing universities. A provisional committee has drafted, for the approval of the government of India, a bill which provides for a scheme of studies with a threefold division: (1) scientific and technological; (2) medical and sanitary, and (3) educational and philosophical. The last of these branches has been included in the scheme in order to give the institution the character of a university. The new institution seeks to have the power of granting degrees and diplomas, and as it proposes to offer a strictly post-graduate course of studies it will not in any way interfere with the working of any of the existing universities. The scheme of the provisional committee involves an expenditure larger than is provided for by Mr. Tata's generous offer. A grant in aid, therefore, will be asked for from the government of India. The support of native princes, of local governments and of the public generally will be sought. It is estimated that the initial expenditure required will amount to over £100,000 and the annual charge to about £20,000. On this basis, therefore, it is proposed to establish the several departments by degrees and to found subsequently special chairs through public and private munificence.

THE following statements from a circular of the German Colonial School at Witzerhausen should be of special interest to Americans at the present time, as showing what Germany is doing to promote the education of men who intend to engage in industrial enterprises in her colonies. Similar institutions are maintained in Belgium and Holland. The purpose of this school, we quote from an announcement sent by the Division of Publications of the Department of Agriculture, is to educate young men to become practical superintendents of estates and plantations, planters, agriculturists, stock raisers and merchants for the German colonial possessions. The

course of study, which is completed in two years, comprises the following studies: Plant culture in general, including the study of soils, climate and fertilizers, farm management, bookkeeping, mechanics, engineering (bridge and road building, drainage, irrigation); special plant culture, animal husbandry and dairying; culture, use and value of tropical plants; establishment of plantations; gardening; fruit culture; vegetable culture; viticulture; forestry; geology, with special reference to tropical mining; botany (physiology, anatomy, systematic and geographical); chemistry, with laboratory practice; surveying and drafting; hygiene for tropical countries; veterinary science; colonial history and geography; a study of the people; the history of education, religion and missionary work; colonial government, and commercial laws and relations; languages; trades (carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, harness-makers, bakers, butchers, etc.); practical work in field, garden, vineyard, forest, dairy, etc.; athletics (sports) of all kinds.

PROFESSOR W. A. HERDMAN, F.R.S., remarks in the twelfth annual report of the Liverpool Marine Biological Committee, says *Nature*, that there are two practices in American universities which excite the envy of professors in England. One is the 'sabbatical year'—the one year in every seven given for purposes of travel, study and investigation. The other is the frequent endowment of an expedition—or equipment of an exploring party—by an individual man or woman who is interested in the subject and can give a special fund for such a purpose. Columbia University, in New York; the Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore; Yale University, in New Haven, and Harvard, at Cambridge, have all been benefited immensely in the past by such exploring expeditions. Nearly every year of late has seen one or more of such, due to private generosity, in the field; and the work they have done has both added to general scientific knowledge, and has also enriched with collections the laboratories and museums of the college to which the expedition belonged.

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*Erratum*: Vol. IX., p. 174. Line 12 from bottom of second column, for *Australia* read *Austria*.