

NEWS AND COMMENTS

THE performance of classical plays seems to be finding favour in America. The November *Classical Journal* mentions that the *Rudens* (shortened) has been given at San José, California, by boys and girls, under the training of Miss E. D. Whitmire: and at Emporia, Kansas, the *Agamemnon* was given in English (Goodwin's translation of the dialogue, Plumptre's of the choruses). The *Alcestis*, given in English at Beloit College, is stated to be the twenty-first of that kind given at Beloit. The classical class of the University of Idaho represented the scene of Horace and the Bore. 'They had togas, but no scenery, and the hilarity was duly tempered by a paper on the Via Sacra.'

The *Classical Journal* also contains a paper on 'A New Greek Course,' outlining a course of study for those who know no Greek, exactly after the fashion of the 'Experiment' which Prof. Sonnenschein describes in our last issue.

WE are informed that Prof. H. A. Strong, of Liverpool, is translating into English, Weise's *Charakteristik der Lateinischen Sprache*.

MANCHESTER University has just founded a Greenwood Professorship of Hellenistic Greek. The first professor is Dr. J. H. Moulton, whose *Prolegomena* to New Testament grammar has excited so much attention in this country: he will probably combine with it Indo-European philology from the Greek standpoint, Prof. Conway taking the Latin side of that subject. The new chair is an amalgamation of the Greenwood lectureship of Hellenistic Greek and the lectureship on philology held by the late Prof. Strachan.

Manchester is leading the way for Oxford and Cambridge in encouraging studies other than scientific: witness the new chair and that of Pali. Besides these subjects, Cambridge has no official provision for Zend or Modern Greek, both subjects of importance, not to mention Tibetan; Oxford has a little advantage here over Cambridge. There is no indication that a certain department, which we will call the horse-leech's daughter, has ceased to cry 'Give, give,' and perhaps other departments may now begin to use the modern substitute for argument.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of THE CLASSICAL REVIEW.

EPICURUS AND LUCRETIOUS.

GIUSSANI is, I believe, the first editor of Lucretius who has attempted to disentangle the argument of Epicurus ('Letter to Herodotus' 56 ff. *Usener*) in proof of what is known as the doctrine of 'minimal partes' composing the atom, and to apply it to Lucretius, i. 599 ff. But, if Epicurus is obscure, Giussani, in spite of his admirable penetration, and partly perhaps in consequence of it, is not easy reading either—at least I have not found him so; indeed, between the tortuosities of the Greek and the subtleties of the Italian, I have been very nearly driven off my head in attempting to understand the argument in question. In the hope therefore of being corrected,

if I am wrong, or, if I am right, of saving some other student, as dull-witted as myself, from much painful effort, I venture to put forward the following brief abstract of what seems to me to be the argument of Epicurus, as a help towards understanding the reasoning of Lucretius. Lucretius himself has dealt very cavalierly with 'the intricate prose' of his master, and has been commended—I wonder why—by Monro for so doing. Giussani, however, is as thorough here as elsewhere throughout his brilliant book, and, if the following statement of the argument is right, the merit is his, while if it is wrong, the fault must lie with me.

But first it is necessary to understand clearly what exactly is meant by the terms 'visible' (*αἰσθητόν*) and 'invisible' (*νοητόν*) in Epicurean physics. Many people, I believe, if asked 'why is an atom invisible?'