

[CORRESPONDENCE.]

UNIVERSITY.

The Educational machinery of America has been greatly improved within the last decade. The standard of the common school has been raised. In many cases, the high schools have been placed in more immediate affiliations with the colleges. And now the work done by the colleges themselves is to be supplemented by that of a "Correspondence University," by which it will become possible for students to enjoy at their homes the advantages of a collegiate course of study.

The idea of imparting instruction and directing the course of an individual's study by correspondence is not altogether a novel one. It has been adopted by various literary and scientific societies with fair success. And its extension to the wider fields of general education is but the natural result of its observed advantages in the particular cases.

The "Correspondence University" is an association of experienced instructors, who have been carefully selected, not only for their knowledge of the subjects assigned to them, but for their skill and ability in teaching. Its purpose is to enable students to receive at their homes systematic instruction at a moderate expense, in all subjects, which can be taught by means of correspondence; whether the subject be collegiate, graduate or professional, or preparatory for the higher institutions of learning.

Those whom it is intended directly to benefit are:—

(1) Persons engaged in professional studies which can be taught by correspondence; (2) Graduates doing collegiate or advanced work; (3) Undergraduates in the various schools and colleges; (4) Those preparing for college either by themselves or at school, where instruction is not given in all branches; (5) Members of cultivated families that are obliged to live in remote localities; (6) Officers and men in the United States army or navy; (7) Persons who intend to try any of the civil service examinations; (8) Young men or women in stores or shops, or on farms who are desirous to learn, but cannot leave their labors to attend school; and finally those in any walk of life who would gladly take up some study under competent private guidance.

A fee of six dollars and thirty-five cents will be charged for four weeks' tuition in any study of

the grade required for admission to a college or scientific school, while a fee of eight dollars and thirty-five cents will be paid for four weeks' tuition in studies of an advanced grade.

Informal examinations by correspondence will be held by each instructor at his discretion. Pass and Honor examinations will also be held in the presence of some person of high character who resides near the student examined and certificates signed by the examiner will be given to those who succeed in them. Arrangements have been already made for giving extensive courses in Science, Mathematics, Classics, Modern Languages, History, Hebrew and Philosophy, while provision will speedily be made for instruction in other subjects.

This enterprise does not lack the quality of ability in the staff of its instructors. It includes thirty-two professors selected from the many American colleges from Harvard University in the East to the John Hopkins University at the South, and the University of Wisconsin at the West. The high standing of the men in charge of this new educational organization leaves no room for doubt as to the character of the work that will be done on their part; but the progress of the student and the value of his labor will depend more than in a college upon his own honor and exertion. It will therefore attract only those who sincerely desire to educate themselves and who are unable from various causes to attend colleges or schools, and for all such it will afford the much coveted opportunities for systematic directed and effective study. It will doubtless stimulate to methodical study persons who otherwise might find no opportunity for intellectual work, and is thus likely to increase the number of worthy applicants to good schools.

To the masses of earnest students throughout the United States and Canada who cannot spare time and money to get a university education in the usual way this plan of educating means a great deal. And it seems very probable that the inauguration of this method of affording university instruction may be the beginning of an important epoch in the educational history of America.

HISTORIES make men wise; poets witty; the mathematics subtle; natural philosophy, deep; moral, grave, logic and rhetoric, able to contend; studies pass into character; nay, there is no obstacle or impediment in the wit but may be wrought out by fit studies.—*Cicero*.