

Joseph Cook has been engaged to deliver a course of lectures on Modern Materialism, before the Theological students of Oberlin, to begin about the first of May.

In Germany students who transgress the bounds of the civil law are not tried by the ordinary means, but are immediately handed over to the Faculty for kind treatment.

Prof. Watson, the well-famed Ann Arbor astronomer, has been offered charge of the observatory of the State University, at Madison, Wis. The latest accounts state that he has accepted.

Oxford counts 2,000 students. The students' rooms are sacred. Not even the master or proctor can force an entrance, no matter what his suspicions may be relative to inside proceedings.

The students of Ann Arbor and Beloit are growing unruly. At the former place they have openly defied the civil authorities, and at the latter they have instituted brawls between town and gown.

Prof. Ives, of Washington University, St. Louis, has brought from Europe, for the benefit of the art students 1,600 carefully selected copies of the Old World's master-pieces, and many plaster models of ancient statuary.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

Asphaltum is said to be the best composition for resisting moisture.

Germany makes one-half of the phosphorus consumed in the world, or over 250 tons annually.

The Statistical Bureau, of Berlin, estimates the total steam motive power of the world at 25,000,000 horses.

The botanist Fournier, finds in Mexico 638 varieties of grasses, of which 376 occur in no other land. Of the remainder 82 are found in the United States, 30 in Europe, and the rest in the West Indies, South and Central America.

For one part of flesh-formers in Scotch oatmeal, there are over five parts of heat-givers, reckoned as starch; but the actual quantities of both flesh-formers and heat-givers are unusually large.

Plaster of Paris, mixed to a thin paste with gum arabic water, is excellent for mending broken glass, china or parian ware, but must be used immediately as it soon hardens. It is best to mix only about enough at a time to mend one piece.

Sponge paper, made by adding finely divided sponge to paper pulp, has been used in France for dressing wounds. It absorbs water readily, and retains moisture for a long time; it is therefore applicable to many purposes in the arts and manufactures.

The British military authorities in experimenting with balloons have discovered a method by which they can prevent leakage of gas. It is proposed to compress the gas to about one-third of its volume, and to convey a supply of it in cylinders, which can be used in emergencies as pontoons.

The electric light seems in Europe to be greatly favored for railroad purposes. First it was heard of as used at the great Paris passenger and freight stations, then in some great workshops, and now comes the news of its employment on trains. On the Crown Prince Rudolph Railroad, in Austria, it has been applied as a head-light, "so that the engineman is enabled, even in the darkest night, to see the track ahead to such a distance that he can discover any obstruction in time to stop the train before reaching it." An exchange describes the apparatus as follows: It is known as Shukert's dynamio-electric machine, a small three-cylinder steam engine and an electric lamp. It takes so little room on the locomotive that one not knowing of it would not be likely to notice it, and it is said that those who have had any thing to do with its operation are extremely pleased and do not hesitate to say that it answers the purpose perfectly.