

THE WORLD'S FAIRS

The immense Rotunda of Vienna, with a dome that equals that of St Peter's at Rome in size, now serves for concerts and popular festivals. During the exhibition the Rotunda contained a thoroughly international selection of the most valuable products from all the departments. This idea had the disadvantage of, as it were, discounting in advance the decisions of the Jury. To be in the Rotunda gave an exhibitor at once an advantage over his competitors. This can not have been the intention of the organising committee, who in thus forming a small universal exhibition within the large one, were probably mainly actuated by the wish to give the immense Rotunda some useful besides ornamental employment in connection with the exhibition. They would probably have better attained their end by making it, the department of plastic art, whose subjects would have presented a more harmonious aspect, than did the heterogenous mass of industrial products.

In beauty of the grounds the Philadelphia exhibition surpassed those of Europe; and Memorial Hall, which permanently adorns Fairmount Park, can rank worthily by the side of the Vienna Rotunda and the Trocadero Palace at Paris.