

NEW IDEAS IN EUROPEAN STATIONERY.

From Berlin and Paris Letters.

Berlin The latest novelty in writing
Inventions. paper is the sky or azure blue variety. It is a very stylish-looking material with a rather dull surface. The sheets measure 12 by 14 centimetres, and the envelopes 8 by 12 centimetres. The flap of the latter is long and cut with five corners. Besides the plain sheets and envelopes, there are those with embossed white flowers in the left hand bottom corner, and those with a narrow white embossed border. They are packed in boxes covered with glazed paper of the same hue. Another novelty, called "Papier de luxe," is of a delicate lilac tint. It is decorated with fantastic embossed flowers in white, and possesses likewise a white line border. The envelopes are long and narrow, and their corner is formed by the stamped-out outlines of a flower embossed on the flap. "Rokoko" is called a novelty in notepaper, which, as the name indicates, is richly embellished in that well-known combination of the renaissance and baroque styles. The envelopes are standing on edge in a richly decorated box, while the sheets are contained in a pocket on the inside of the lid.

A new letter card has just been introduced, for which a patent has been granted by the German Patent Office. This institution, as is well known, refuses protection for anything but genuine and striking novelties bearing the character of inventions. The letter card in question, therefore, seems to deserve attention. It is constructed in such a manner that copies of the letter can be taken without the gummed edges sticking to the damp tissue paper. There are, of course, the usual two halves of the letter card, but the one, the back of which is reserved for the address, is on its three free edges a little larger than the other one. When closing such a letter card, those protruding strips of paper are moistened, bent over, and then pressed down on the back, where they meet with a gummed border, to which they, of course, adhere. The usual perforated lines are provided for the opening of the letter card.

A new attempt has been made to provide a non-rigid penholder. For this purpose a wooden holder is supplied with a short piece of strong india rubber pipe. Between this and the wood the nib is inserted and the latter gives to a certain extent during writing. Thus the advantage of the quill is procured without any of its drawbacks. It

is also claimed that such a penholder requires much less exertion of the muscles of the fingers than plain wooden ones, or those with metallic fittings. Another advantage is that the nib will never stick fast. Penholders which will easily release a worn-out nib have lately been introduced in various designs, but, nevertheless, one of our inventors thought it advisable to create quite a new utensil for the writing table, which is well adapted to overcome the resistance of the most obstinate of corroded nibs. It consists of a pair of pincers, the grippers of which are shaped to the form of the ordinary steel nib.

A very useful little article for card-players is a combination of card box, card press, and note block. Being small and compact, it can easily be carried about in the coat pocket. It is made of wood, with a lid overlapping the body of the box by half an inch all around. On the outside of the lid a small note block can be fixed, by the side of which is a resting-place for a pencil in the shape of a groove in the wood, while, on the inside of the lid, a spring is fixed, which presses on the packet of cards and keeps them perfectly flat when the box is closed. The inventor is willing to sell the manufacturing rights of this handy little article.—Correspondence London Stationery Trades Journal.

Paris
Novelties.

Those who like eccentric notepaper, will find what they want in "More than Smart."

The name may appear curious, but is due to the fact that the word "smart" has been appropriated by the French as the latest addition to society slang. They, of course, use it in the most extraordinary way, though, perhaps, not more than the Americans from whom they borrowed it, for I have heard a pretty American girl say that a picture by Raphael was "real smart." The "More than Smart" notepaper has nearly half the length and breadth taken up by a poppy or daisy plant in that heavy, highly-colored style which is mistakenly called "ornamental."

Paper fans are now on sale at nearly every stationers' or "fancy repository." I do not mean the sham Japanese, in which the occidental designer so carefully catches all the Oriental ugliness and misses the originality; nor do I mean the cheap Spanish fans with huge pictures of bull fights. The new

paper fans are made of a thick, colored paper, which, by a stretch of the imagination is supposed to resemble velvet, and covered with silver spangles. One house make a special line of a peculiarly shaped fan, artistically colored to resemble a butterfly's wing.

This is the time of year when articles de Paris—quaint or dainty little articles, more or less useful, for the study, dressing-table, or smoking-room—make their appearance. They are brought out for the special benefit of tourists who wish to take back to friends or relatives at home some memento of Paris. For this purpose they are eminently suitable, being pretty, cheap, and very portable.

A neat, pretty inkstand is a molosse, or great Danish dog, lying half out of its kennel. The roof of the kennel opens, and the inkwell is inside. Like the elephant, the dog is well modelled, and is by no means dear at a trifle under 2s. Pocket inkstands, made to resemble various sorts of hats, soldiers' caps, etc., are curious, but do not call for any especial remark, nor do I greatly appreciate a Chinaman in china—the material, not his native land—with a yard measure rolled up inside his stomach.

The first of the Victoria University Library series of publications has appeared. It is entitled "A Bibliography of Canadian Poetry (English)." By C. C. James, M.A. The author has compiled a valuable list of English-Canadian verse-writers, gives the names of their works, with a few data concerning the authors. The book is well printed by William Briggs on superior paper, and will be prized by all collectors.

Stationers would largely increase their business if they would put on sale as fast as issued some of the many novelties that are constantly being placed upon the market. Most of the trade are too timid. Novelties not only pay good profits, but the reputation of keeping such articles in stock brings customers who buy other goods. But all fancy goods should be displayed and attention called to them. No goods sell themselves; even the best known staple articles had years of constant pushing before the public would ask for them.—Ex.

A new Walt Whitman book, entitled "Notes and Fragments," has just been prepared by Dr. R. H. Bucke, of London, Ontario. "Notes and Fragments" consists of material made up from manuscript notes in Walt Whitman's hand, written mostly in the fifties, which came to Dr. Bucke under the poet's will. They throw a flood of light upon Walt Whitman's aims, studies, ambitions and intentions during the important preparatory years of his life. Moreover, these notes present a valuable narrative to the critic who would fully comprehend the poet's mental evolution.—Publishers' Weekly.