

THE Bookseller and Stationer

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CURRENT TOPICS

THE list of books published in this issue of the Bookseller and Stationer makes no pretensions towards being an absolutely complete list of the books published in Canada during 1903. It is merely a compilation of the publishers' lists for the past year and takes little or no account of such books as were issued privately or of such books as are not usually handled by booksellers. Of both these classes, however, the number is so small as to make their omission scarcely appreciable. The rule followed with regard to the listing of the books was to select only such works as bore the imprint of a Canadian publisher and not to take account of questions of copyright, since the number of books actually copyrighted at Ottawa was comparatively small. It is hoped that booksellers will find this list a serviceable one.

Our Book List for 1904.

PUBLISHERS' announcements for the coming Spring season indicate a fairly strong line of publications.

There will not be a large representation of the more popular writers, but there are evidences that several new writers of undoubted ability have been discovered.

The Spring Season.

The past month has witnessed a decline in book sales, naturally due to the falling off in the demand for books after the Christmas holidays. The favorites of the Fall season still lead the van in point of sales. "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come," and "Wings of the Morning" continue to be popular, while "The Vice-Admiral of the Blue," by R. B. Molinoux, has exhibited strength. Among the newer books "Rebecca," by Kate Douglas Wiggin, is doing well.

THE Publishers' Circular, of London, compiles an interesting summary of the publications of 1903 in Britain. The total amounts to 8,381, of which 6,699 were new books and the balance, new editions. This total is about one hundred below the totals for 1898 and 1899 and four hundred below that for 1897, while it exceeds the total for 1902 by one thousand. The total of fiction is about one hundred in excess of 1902.

Theology, educational, politics and commerce are up in number; arts and sciences and law are down; history and

biography, voyages and travels about the same; medicine, year books, belle-lettres, poetry and the drama slightly up. The year's fiction amounted to over 2,600, of which 800 were new editions.

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YEAR by year the number of books published in Germany is increasing, so that to-day book-production in that country has attained the proportions of a deluge. During the past twelve months the number of separate publications amounted to over 25,000, a total greater than the combined output of England, France and America. Thoughtful Germans regard this extraordinary production with alarm, believing it to indicate an intellectual weakness, which if not checked will lead to literary decay. Nearly one-third of the general literary works of the country are issued about the Christmas season and are sold as gift books. The rest are for the most part books of a character which pass into the circulating libraries or are bought by collectors.

The Deluge in Germany.

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A MODIFICATION of the United States copyright law in so far as translations are concerned has received assent from committees of both Houses at Washington and will in all probability become law. It will be inserted as an amendment to section 4952 of the Revised Statutes of the United States and reads as follows: "Whenever the author or proprietor of a book in a foreign language, which shall be published in a foreign country before the day of publication in this country, or his executors, administrators, or assigns, shall, within twelve months after the first publication of such book in a foreign country, obtain a copyright for a translation of such book in the English language, which shall be the first copyright in this country for a translation of such book, he and they shall have, during the term of such copyright, the sole liberty of printing, reprinting, publishing, vending, translating, and dramatising the said book, and in the case of a dramatic composition, of publicly performing the same or of causing it to be performed or represented by others."

U. S. Copyright Revised.