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CURRENT TOPICS.

THE book business is once more approaching high-water mark. Reports from the trade centres indicate every prospect of a successful holiday trade. Publishers have about completed their fall lists and are already paying considerable attention to their Spring publications. The retailers

Our Book Trade Report

have consequently been able to stock up early with very complete selections. Like last Christmas a good demand is being evidenced for well-bound and well-printed sets of standard authors. Likewise gift books are to the fore, including handsomely designed editions of favorite books. The sale of popular fiction continues large, with attention directed as usual to three or four best sellers. This month "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come," by John Fox, Jr., and "On the Wings of the Morning," by Louis Tracy, have been rivals for first place in the popular fancy. F. Marion Crawford's "Heart of Rome," has been in steady demand and A. W. Marchmont's latest production "When I was Czar" has taken well. Other favorites include "The Sherrrods," by G. B. McCutcheon; "The One Woman," by Thomas Dixon, Jr.; "Adventures of Gerard," by Sir A. Conan Doyle and "The Long Night," by Stanley J. Weyman.

BBRITISH publishers are at present looking rather anxiously towards Australia, whence rumors of an alarming character regarding copyright matters are coming. The Australian printers and publishers have evidently got their heads together and are going to make every effort to preserve the Australian market for themselves. If the cable despatches may be believed, they are advocating a policy by means of which every book sold in Australia must be entirely of Australian workmanship, so far as the mechanical part is concerned. If any such law were to be put in force it would mean a serious blow to British publishers, and not only to them, but to British authors as well, for it would be

Copyright in Australia.

doubtful if the British author could secure as favorable terms from a distant publisher in Australia as from one at home

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ON another page of this issue will be found a lengthy list of the contents of all the leading periodicals of England, Canada and the United States. The question may be asked as to what use such a list is. We would reply that the bookseller will find our list of considerable benefit if he makes a proper use of it. There are such a multitudinous number of magazines to-day that no one can hope to keep track of them all and read everything they contain. It is only possible to dip here and there and pick out what is of interest to each particular reader. As an assistance to such readers, we offer our list. Let the bookseller cut this list out, paste it on a piece of cardboard and place it beside his magazine counter. Customers will be found who will glance over it and perhaps find an article to interest them and will order the magazine in which such an article appeared. It is by such means as this that business is built up.

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IN a recent issue of the Scientific American, attention was directed to the printing and publishing industries in the United States and some remarkable figures were presented. There are in the United States 22,312 printing establishments, of which 15,305 are engaged in the printing and publishing of newspapers. The total capital invested is \$292,517,072. The clerical force necessary to run these establishments includes 37,799 officials, drawing \$36,090,719 in salaries and 162,992 mechanics, drawing \$84,249,954 in wages. Of the total value of products, advertising forms 43 per cent., subscriptions and sales 35.8 per cent. and book and job printing 21.2 per cent. The total circulation of daily papers is enough to supply one for every five inhabitants and the total circulation per issue of weeklies and monthlies is one to each two inhabitants.

Magazine Department.

Printing in the United States.