

10 pages of reading matter! I mean a number containing about 6 or 8 pages of ads and from 18 to 24 pages of reading matter. I do not see any plausible reason for not doing so. There are enough philatelic writers to contribute matter for a 40 page journal, if necessary.

Philately has, as a general rule, improved wonderfully of late years, but we cannot say that our philatelic literature has.

Come, publishers! can you not issue a larger paper and start the ball rolling?

Publishers are continually announcing that they have more MSS than they can use, on hand. Well if so why not issue a larger paper? Many would answer that it would be too much expense. Expense should not be considered in publishing a paper. A publisher would in no time make up for the expense if he issued a good "fat" number each month which would contain *good* articles.

Now ye editors try to improve our literature. I do not say it is bad. No, not by any means; but it can be improved.

Contemporaneous Philatelic Literature

In opening this department we do not want it understood that we are falling into the ways of many of the philatelic journals of the day, who under the heading of "Review Department" or some similar caption publish paragraphs of flattery concerning publications in high standing and, if we may use a slang phrase "slung it into" papers which are still on the rough and rugged road to public favor. To our mind there seems to be altogether too much sameness in the manner in

which these departments are conducted. Instead of having men with backbone, we have a lot of space fillers whose motto seems to be "Follow my leader." If the "King Reviewer" praises one paper the other so called reviewers say the same things, clothing them in different words. We do not include all reviewers in this, there are several who review honestly and impartially but they are almost as scarce as "hen's teeth."

Now the department we are about to open is a review department but we hope to make it entirely different from what the term now implies in stamp papers.

The International Philatelic Review.

This paper in our opinion is one of the best now being issued in the interest of stamp collectors. The only fault we have to find with it is that it is not issued regularly. The last issue to hand is that for April, which arrived in June. Then again the paper might be larger, but this we can overlook, knowing that it takes money to get out a paper and that it takes a deal of working up before a philatelic paper can be made to pay. The *Review* is the neatest stamp paper published. The pretty type of the 10c 1894 Hawaii "star" stamp, transformed into a cover design, with red lettering in the mortises, is about as pretty as can be imagined. This neatness is carried through the whole paper. L. B. Elliot is the writer of the opening article, which is a treatise on the Antique, Modern and Syllabic Characters of Japanese Stamps. Philately has hosts of writers who are known far and wide as clever pen-wielders, but here is a writer very little known who has demonstrated his right to be called one of the brightest philatelic literary lights, and shows that he studies his