

or on social affairs is proved by experience to facilitate the increase of their number, and the day is not far distant when the Postal Union will decide on the transmission of sealed letters all over the world for the smallest coin generally used.

Some will recollect the antique rate across the Atlantic that burthened a letter with 2 shillings sterling; most will be personally aware of the 12½ cent rate; it is not unreasonable then to suppose that the present 5 cent price of transmission will be changed for a penny rate.

PIERCING vs. PUNCHING STAMPS.

Strange as it may seem, there are some people who take the trouble to *clean* postage stamps for a second use; an industry for a dishonest purpose that might be (favorably?) compared to that of the knaves who sweat sovereigns in London. The postal department of that extensive state called the Sandwich Islands is we believe the first that has taken steps to check the development of this industry; the cancelling of stamps is done there, not by an ink impression that can be easily effaced, but by a series of small punctures which cannot be cancelled or removed and which yet do no damage to the contents of the letter.

ANNUAL ISSUES.

Another method of checking but to a less degree, the use of *used* stamps is that of Spain and its colonies; the color, design and shape are changed annually. The stamps of 1880 are no longer current in 1881 but are exchangeable at the office for new stamps within a fixed period of time. If all the countries of the world were to adopt the Spanish system the stamp-album makers would have to produce albums bigger than an ordinary family bible.

There is an advantage however to a postal department in the fact that the stamp issue of each year enables a balance of accounts to be clearly made.

Stamp-collectors will understand also how readily any particular year of this style of series can become valuable by scarcity.

NEWSBANDS AND STAMPED ENVELOPES.

These articles were intended to facilitate the increase of correspondence and newspaper postages, but we doubt if the impulse has been as great as it would have been had the work been thoroughly done. The price of the newsband should be solely the stamped figure; the convenience to the post office and the saving of time to its officials would be far in excess of the minute cost of paper. A wrapper once used cannot be used again, its writings and stampings are practically ineffaceable, but a stamp can be cleaned and re-used.

If a post card is sold for one cent, card stock and all, why cannot a wrapper be also sold as cheap? A stamped

envelope is now sold at the postage *plus* the envelope price; why not sell the whole thing for the fixed figure of the stamp? The wholesale cost of ordinary envelopes is too trifling to make an important item in the aggregate cost against a year's postal revenue when stimulated by the facility of buying stamped envelopes at stamp price.

MONEY ORDER CARDS.

Germany appears to be thus far alone in the adoption of Money Order Cards, a description of which we give below without special comment.

Both sides of the card are printed as shown below and a line cuts off a coupon which serves as a certificate that the holder is the person addressed; this coupon can be sent by mail or be used as a transferable deposit if the sender makes himself the addressee. This is the form translated, and we put in italics the names of places and persons:

COUPON.		{FRONT OF CARD.}	
The sender will cut this off, and the addressee will have to present it in order to receive the amount.		BAVARIA. Stamp.	
		POST ORDER	
		For the sum of 00 Marks, 00 Pfennig.	
		00 M., 00 Pfg.	
00 Marks 00 pfg		To Johann Schmidt, Ludwigslust, Bavaria. Date Stamp.	
Otto Engshorn, Munich, Bavaria.		Munich. [Residence of sender.]	
Post Office Memorandum.		00 M., 00 Pfg. No. 000 Heinrich Fiech, Clerk	
		Munich, Bavaria, Sept. 12, 1881.	

{BACK.}		
RECEIPT OF THE ADDRESSEE.		
I, Johann Schmidt, hereby certify that I have received the full amount of 00 M., 00 Pfg. from the Post Office.		
Ludwigslust, 15th Sept., 1881.		
Arrival date.	Johann Schmidt.	P. O. Stamp.
Register No.		

REGULATIONS.

- 1 These cards can be purchased at all offices for stamp price.
- 2 Coupon can be sent in any manner to this address.
- 3 Addressee must apply within seven days for payment.
- 4 The post office is not responsible for loss of card or coupon.

REGISTERED ENVELOPES.

A number of countries in the postal union have adopted the system of registered envelopes, and the provisions printed on the face of the envelope will go far to guard against frauds and carelessness.

The blue crossed lines remind us of the old days of our grandmothers, when a silk ribbon tied a parcel of writing, and was fastened at the knot with sealing-wax. They have, however, a different purpose, and are meant to locate, for careless people, the place for each of the recording or addressing marks that belong to the message.

This registered envelope goes rightly in the direction indicated in an article elsewhere in these columns, for it includes all charges in the stamp; when the stamp is bought, the envelope on which it is impressed is paid for.

The Danish envelope, belonging to St. Thomas, has some features which we will describe in our next issue, if the rapid growth of postal intercourse has not then preceded us in news.