

and not for reading like history and similar subjects. If the catalogue were printed and published as an ordinary Government publication by the Stationery Office, it could be bought by the public at the cheapest rate—perhaps as low as 16s. or 17s. for a foolscap folio volume of 1,000 pages. If the edition were for 2,000 copies, the charge for each copy might be considerably reduced.

"6. The committee cannot doubt that the trustees of the British Museum would readily give all facilities for printing, and allow one of the sets of the titles of the books already made to be used by the printers.

"7. The committee propose to circulate specimens of the page which has been prepared extensively at home and abroad and to invite subscriptions for copies. If the Stationery Office would say at what price a volume could be published, it is obvious that the subscriptions would be all the more definite and satisfactory. It cannot be doubted that copies would be wanted in the United Kingdom, by the several Universities, and by the libraries at Dublin, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and other provincial towns, now exceeding a hundred, besides by other libraries out of England. The libraries throughout the world might be asked to subscribe.

"8. The specimen appended to this report contains 58 entries in the page. Assuming that the British Museum Catalogue has 2,500,000 entries, and taking an average of 55 entries to occupy a page, there would be, say, 45,500 pages, or about 45 volumes of 1000 pages each.

"9. The national importance of this work, giving the information where one million and a quarter of the printed books of the world may be consulted, is great. Mr. Bullen says (liv. 209), 'No catalogue in the world, whether in print or in manuscript, is equal to that of the British Museum. It remains only that it should be printed to make this appa-