

The question of issuing a new complete catalogue should receive immediate attention from the Board. It is three years since the one now in use was printed. As to the form and style of the new catalogue, that is largely a question of cost. Cataloguing is always found to be one of the most expensive items of library service. The most satisfactory catalogue is probably such as is issued by many libraries, viz.: one having an alphabetical author list, followed by a subject list. But such a catalogue is expensive. This may be illustrated by the latest partial catalogue issued by the Toronto Public Library, which cost \$1,001 for printing. A catalogue of our library produced in the same style would cost about the same amount. As the expenditure of such an amount by your Board would not probably be entertained, the next question to consider is whether the new catalogue shall be an author or a subject catalogue. From our every day experience in the Library I am inclined to think that the new catalogue should be on the plan of our last one with some slight improvements. Such a catalogue could be produced at a probable net cost of \$200.

This cheaper style of catalogue could be made to answer our purpose for two other reasons, viz.: (1) On account of the plan adopted by us of allowing limited access to the shelves, and (2) of inviting readers looking for special books or searching for facts and figures on special topics to make their wants known to the Librarian or the Assistant at the magazine desk. Both these plans seem to work well. Discretion is necessarily exercised in allowing admission to the shelves—no loitering is permitted, those admitted being asked to make their selection promptly. I can safely say that the privilege is very greatly appreciated, and I may add that every care will be exercised to see that it is not abused. Inquiries from readers for special books and for information on general topics are answered daily. This policy of inviting readers to make their wants known instead of themselves searching through the catalogues and wall lists will be continued with we trust increasingly satisfactory results.