

With the new machinery lately introduced, some exceptionally good results are shown in the blended and clouded frieze effects.

An arts and crafts association has been formed in Boston with the aim of aiding designers and artists by spreading the best ideas on designing and decorating.

When Mr. McArthur, of Colin McArthur & Co., was in New York lately he picked up some good designs, of which the Canadian trade will get the benefit.

Sorting-up orders continue to come in to M. Staunton & Co. in more than usual numbers, even for this season of the year. They have a very good assortment still of their best selling patterns.

Colin McArthur & Co. are extremely busy with their new samples. They say there are many new features this year, so that it will take them all their time to get the samples ready for the trade.

A new use for wall paper has been devised in the construction of pasteboard boxes for florists' use. They are covered with flower-pattern wall paper.—The Wall Paper News and Interior Decorator.

Colin McArthur & Co. say that last season they manufactured the largest output they have had since they have been in business. This is extremely gratifying to the firm, as it was an evidence that their efforts in the production of high-class wall paper had been appreciated by the trade.

THE NEW U.S. DUTIES ON BOOKS. HOW THE DINGLEY BILL DIFFERS FROM THE PRESENT TARIFF BILL.

THE New York Evening Post points out the difference between the Dingley bill and the present (Wilson) tariff bill in regard to the duties on books, beginning the comparison with the McKinley bill, since that is the first of the three in point of time. The differences are found in the free list of the several measures, and are as follows:

McKINLEY	WILSON	DINGLEY
(1.) Books, etc., more than 20 years old, free.	(1.) Same, plus scientific research.	(1.) 25 per cent.
(2.) Books, etc. in other languages than English, and books for the blind, free.	(2.) Same.	(2.) 25 per cent.
(3.) Books, etc. for colleges and societies, not exceeding two copies each, free.	(3.) Same.	(3.) Free except such as are made in the U.S.
(4.) Books as household and personal effects of persons returning from abroad.	(4.) Same.	(4.) 25 per cent., unless included in the \$100 worth exempted for personal baggage.
(5.) Books for the use of the United States and Library of Congress, free.	(5.) Same.	(5.) Free.

"Nothing," says The Post, "illustrates the reactionary and mediæval character of the Dingley bill more strikingly than this tax on knowledge, which, according to the author of it, was adopted, not for revenue and not even for protection, but to save trouble for Custom house inspectors. Those hard-worked people can be required to count the number of threads in a square

inch of cotton or linen cloth and the number of tufts of bristles in a tooth-brush, to measure the 'lines' of pearl buttons, to make intricate and prolonged chemical tests every day, in order to arrive at the dutiable value of a thousand different articles of commerce. No wonder they are tired, poor things, when they have made all these experiments, and have no strength left to tell whether a book is more than 20 years old, or whether it is printed in a foreign language, or whether it is imported for an educational institution, a public library, or a philosophical society."

MR. FISKE'S LITERARY METHOD.

PROBABLY nothing has been done in the direction of child-study the results of which will be more interesting to educators than the recent work of Professor C. H. Thurber, of the University of Chicago. Professor Thurber has obtained from some 3,000 children of ages from six to fifteen inclusive in the public schools of Chicago answers to a series of questions, the first two of which are as follows: What books have you read since school began last September? Which one of these did you like best? The answers to the second question paid a high tribute to America's great historian, John Fiske, in that they placed his History of the United States for Schools as No. 15 on a list of 100 books receiving the greatest number of votes.

This book also appears in the first ten voted for by boys 13 years old and in the first ten voted for by boys 14 years old.

Mr. Fiske's object in writing this book was to bring forward in a clear and simple manner the leading facts of our history and their philosophical relationship. In this connection his early experience with the History may be of interest. At first he tried, under the influence of a public school teacher, to "write down" to children, since he was told that he must make his book very simple, and use only language that children could readily understand. He wrote many pages over and over again, although in writing other books he has, as a rule, never been obliged to rewrite his first draft. After several months of toilsome work he threw away his manuscript with a feeling of dissatisfaction and started afresh, saying that he must write in a natural manner or not at all. The great success of his book, as shown by the votes of 3,000 children, and the many commendations of teachers, proves that he was entirely right in his decision to regard his readers as young men and women rather than children.

It is remarkable that the second book on the list is "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and that Longfellow's "Evangeline" stands No. 13, while many books especially prepared for children come in toward the end of the list. It is hoped that all educators will secure Prof. Thurber's report as soon as it is printed, and give it careful study.

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