

his customers, his creditors will look upon him in quite a different light when settling day comes.

We doubt whether the "leader" system works a benefit to any one. We are of opinion that the buyer is best served by studying closely his special wants, acquainting himself as thoroughly as he can with the value of all his goods, and buying of a house that always charges a profit but never demands an unreasonable one. We do not say that bargains are to be rejected when known to be such, but we do think it better that the customer should not be tempted to purchase one article unreasonably cheap, since it is extremely likely that the gain so made will be more than lost on the balance of his purchases.—*American News Company's Trade Bulletin.*

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**MUDIE'S LIBRARY.**

The whole arrangements for carrying on the work of the library are admirable. They are divided into three heads or departments—Country, Book Society, and Town. The two former are supplied by rail or carriage; in the latter subscribers exchange personally. Most people living in London at a distance from Mudie's join the Book Society branch, when their books are exchanged for them once a week by a cart, which calls before their doors, they sending a list a few hours beforehand to the library to say what they want. The exchange hall is a handsome dome, lined with books. Here ply the busy assistants who furnish customers, and the rapidity with which they do this is amazing. In a few minutes the desired book is in your hands, speaking eloquently for the order and system that pervade the whole concern. . .

It would seem the number of books issued and re-issued during the week exceeds a hundred thousand. Each subscriber has a card devoted to him, on which are entered the books he has read. These, when full are put away into an iron safe, where, doubtless, no one ever disturbs them. An interested record they will prove some day of a nation's reading.

Subscriptions vary from £1 ls. to £500. The latter sum is chiefly paid by public institutions which draw their supplies from Mudie's; but many families take large subscriptions for themselves and their servants. An idea of the amount of reading that may be had for £200 a year is shown by one public office in London that takes for this some 20,000 volumes. About 1,000 boxes and parcels per week are sent to country and colonial subscribers in India, Australia, and the Cape, and the packing and expediting of these is no trifle. Each box is arranged to hold from ten to 100 books. . .

Whether it is well or ill for literature that one firm should absorb so much of the "circulating library" business in the kingdom; whether it is well or ill for literature that these librarians, who must be governed to some extent by commercial considerations, should decide on what shall or shall not be read by thousands of persons; whether public, author, and publisher lose or gain by the system—is a very open question. Only one thing is quite certain: thousands of men and women are supplied with books by Mudie, and authors must count with him. Some readers, it is said, devour for their annual guinea works to the value of £200 to £500. Therefore, whether for good or evil, Mudie is a power in the land.—*Leisure Hour.*

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