

WINDOW DRESSING.

Many of our large stationery and book stores, says The Western Stationer, possess large show windows, and are at a loss how to use them to the best advantage. One thing is certain, however, you might as well not use them at all as to have them crowded with an unattractive lot of stationery goods. A little taste displayed in the decoration often brings to a store many customers who have noticed some attractive article in the window and desire to possess it. A window should be decorated at least three times a week, in order that the goods displayed may be fresh and clean. For the first day, decorate it with stationery and stationery novelties; arrange open boxes of your latest stationery in a semi-circle, and inside of this semi-circle place, according to the size of the window, a few bunches of "engagement" and also "commercial" pencils, tied together with bright ribbons; place a half dozen of your new inkstands around among the pencils and try to have all of a different style or design. A calendar, a few pens and novel paper cutters, may also be interspersed among the other goods, but be careful and not have them crowding each other. If there is plenty of room left, place cards, rubber bands, or anything else you may have in this line, around in good order. Do not let this decoration remain more than two days, and then treat the passers-by to an attractive display of your books, stand a few of the latest books on end so an observer outside may read the title on the front cover without much trouble or effort; place the others in different positions; do not try to get a hundred books into an inch space. If you have any booklets you wish to display, scatter them among the others in such a way that they may be easily seen. A good background for the window is the crepe tissue paper that was recently placed on the market. It can be draped among the books, and it is really wonderful to see how it improves the appearance of the window. It is inexpensive, and may be changed every time the window is decorated. White-covered booklets would surely show up better if placed against a black or dark background. They will be noticed by people across the street, and will naturally attract much attention. For the third decoration, display your fancy goods, such as pocket-books, bill-books, purses, card cases, and fancy pen-wipers. Use some light color crepe, pink or light blue would do, and make the crepe paper draped up in several places and then tied with ribbon to match. You can then arrange your articles to suit yourself, as there is not so much danger of crowding them as the other goods. Try this plan, and you will always have a group of admirers in front of your window, and it will also lead to a better and more profitable trade.

EARLY CLOSING.

Wherever there are two or more retail booksellers and stationers within the range of each others, competition, there ought to be an agreement now entered into to limit the hours of shopkeeping throughout the summer. In many places the only guarantee for the keeping of such an agreement is in the honor of the parties who undertake it. In this province we have an early-closing act which empowers municipalities, upon the petition of three-fourths of the resident traders, to pass a by-law fixing the hour of closing, and making the carrying on of business after that hour a misdemeanor. In all cities, towns and incorporated villages the book and stationery trade ought to be solid for the passing or the yearly renewal of this local by-law. When the hour of closing is fixed by statute, though the statute be merely local and temporary in its scope, it is on a better basis than voluntary arrangement can put under it. But sometimes voluntary arrangement is the best foundation for early closing that can be got. In those towns, etc., where the by-law is not recommended by a sufficient majority of the traders, traders of a particular class can get limited hours only by agreeing among themselves to adopt and maintain them. The same is true of traders who do business in country places or hamlets. Their locality has no municipal existence apart from the whole township, and it would be difficult to get a petition signed by three-fourths of the traders in the township. They have therefore no basis for an early-closing hour other than their own mutual pledges. These they ought to collect now, and be ready at latest by the first of June to begin closing at a specified hour.

LIABILITY OF MERCANTILE AGENCIES.

A recent decision regarding mercantile agencies by the Supreme Court at Ottawa is of interest to the business community. Mr. Cossette, of Valleyfield, Que., sued Dun, Wiman & Co., for damages for furnishing to a subscriber information concerning his financial standing and business which was entirely incorrect and which had the effect of completely ruining his credit and financial reputation. The defendants contended that the information contained in their report had been by them obtained and communicated to their subscriber in good faith and in the usual course of their business; that mercantile agencies such as theirs are lawful and useful, and that they are now considered as a necessity by the mercantile world; that the report in question was communicated by them confidentially to one of their subscribers at his request, and in consequence the communication was a privileged one for which no action would come against the agency, though the plaintiff suffered damage thereby. The Supreme Court held against

the agency on all these points, and decided that mercantile agencies which make it a business to supply for a reward information concerning merchants and their business, must suffer the consequence resulting from the false and incorrect reports communicated to them by their subscribers.

THE DYAS TESTIMONIAL.

The special committee appointed by the association to raise funds for a testimonial for Mr. J. J. Dyas have not met with the encouragement which the object deserves. Six hundred postal cards were sent to the trade in Ontario, and only a few responses were received. Mr. Dyas was one of the organizers of the association, and devoted much of his time to the interests of the trade for which he received no recompense. Those who have not done so should send their contributions to the secretary at once. The city has not yet been canvassed. The following are the amounts received:—

N. T. Wilson, Toronto	\$5 00
Wm. Veitch, Plattsville	1 00
Wm. Bremner, Wallaceburg	1 00
R. S. Cormack, Whitby	1 00
E. W. Attwood, Petrolia	1 00
Thos. Stevenson, Orangeville	1 00
Victor Marenette, Windsor	50

GAMES AND SPORTS.

Among the newest things in indoor games is one called "Tiddledy-wink Tennis," and it is meeting with great favor among the trade. It is an adaptation of the "funniest game on earth"—tiddledy-winks to a miniature tennis court. It is put on the market by Hickson, Duncan & Co.

Sporting goods are booming, though the wholesaler complain that competition has knocked the life out of them so far as profits are concerned. Bicycles are meeting with great favor, not only for men but for boys and girls and even married women. It will be sign of poverty very soon for anyone to walk to business or school.

The season has opened up with a good demand for all field sport goods. Lacrosse goods have had a tremendous sale in all lines. Cricket has grown in favor, judging from the demand for supplies for that famous game. The better class of goods or those used by experienced players, have been in good request, and it would not be amiss to say that the game will be a strong favorite this season with both old and young. Football goods have been following well up in the procession, and some dealers report difficulty in being able to supply their customers as promptly as desirable. Lawn tennis promises to be one of the leading outdoor sports this season, and orders for tennis goods have been coming in rapidly. Baseballs, gloves, masks, bats, etc., are in not nearly so strong request as they were a year ago. Still a fair amount of trade is at present being done in those lines.