

is a very clever imitation of a handsome stamp.

In the case of the 6d the paper is of a coarser texture than that of the genuine stamps, and has a rough feel to it when your finger is passing over it; it is, moreover, of a peculiar shade of blue, entirely different from any we have seen in the genuine.

The color is a dark yellow-green, about half way between the light yellow-green of the early issues and the deep bluish-green of the late issue; this color also is not matched by any genuine specimens yet seen.

The design is very faithfully imitated, although the stamp is lithographed, while the genuine are engraved. This gives a coarser appearance to the whole stamp.

It is so good an imitation that the aid of a glass is required, and even with that aid, a very close examination in order to accurately note the differences. The easiest test is that of a comparison of the figures "6" which appear four times on the stamp. This can be determined by the naked eye, as in the imitation the figures are of a different shape and are less heavy than in the genuine. The eight points of the four stars enclosing the heraldic flowers are more irregularly shaped and differ entirely in all minute details. The shading at the upper part of the inside of the crown also differs. In genuine this shading is somewhat broken at the top, while in the forgery it is very regular. The stem of the rose at the top of the stamp in the genuine comes well down in the lower point of the star and inclines a trifle to the right. In forgery, it ends about half way down the point and inclines to the left.

The white curved line surrounding the central design has a line of color following it on the outside and inside the genuine. The forgery presents no such line on the outside, and on the inside it is very faint. The difference in this line and in the four

figures are the best tests discovered, as they are visible to the naked eye.

J. B. SIMPSON.

## LONDON CITY CLUB.

The ninth meeting of the season was held at Keenan's Hotel, when a very instructive lecture was given by Mr. Wall on the Tintometer and Spectrum Analysis followed by an interesting and descriptive magic lantern display of forgeries and varieties of English and Colonial Stamps by the Vice-President, Mr. H. Hilkes.

At the next meeting a discussion will be held on "English Stamps Used Abroad," under the following headings (a) Under what conditions were these stamps issued by the General Post Office in London to the various foreign countries, towns, etc.? (b) Is there any difference, from a philatelic point of view, between an English stamp used and postmarked at Malta, and one used and postmarked Manchester?

## NOTELETS.

A new 2 shilling stamp was issued for Victoria, color yellow-green, but owing to the similarity between it and the 9d in color, it was withdrawn and now appears in dark green. The 1d card of this colony has been surcharged 2d.

There are many forged Japanese on the market just now, both new and used.

The Greek stamps that were printed in Paris can be recognized by the shading on the cheek. It is much lighter than on the ordinary issues.

The 6d Sierra Leone is now printed in red-violet instead of violet brown.

Barbadoes 5 shilling stamp are now all sold, and no more will be re-issued.

As soon as the present 1, 2 and 5 shilling of Jamaica are used up, a new issue is to appear on CA paper. Revenue issues are now receivable for postage, and has brought out many 3d, 3½d and 10 sh. stamps that were scarce.