

## AN INTERNATIONAL REPLY STAMP.

(A Paper read in the Philatelic Association of Goteborg, Sweden, by Albert Hallbery.)

In all countries of the Postal Union which have issued a reply post card, it has proved of great use, and been a benefit and accommodation to the public, as very often information in other countries is desired, which could not reasonably be expected without return postage was sent, especially when the parties are in the largest number of cases strangers to each other. The reply card however, is only practicable for short correspondence and replies and not at all for lengthy enquiries.

There is no doubt that the mode of enclosing a postage stamp for an answer in each country's own borders is more frequently resorted to, than using the reply card. Whereas addressing a person in a foreign country and asking for information either of a private nature or occupying too much space for a post card, or wishing to have a letter or manuscript that may have been sent returned, the only way to show such person your good intention would be to enclose a 20 ore stamp, which in all cases would be of no value, and thereby rendering the obligation to return void. That there is no provision made for sending a letter with a paid answer to a foreign country seems a sort of gap in the Postal Departments, and a gap which is widening more and more as the increasing correspondence shews from year to year.

What is wanted is a reply postage stamp, and the following suggestion is one which might give some idea how such an arrangement might be effected. Each country in the Postal Union issue a new stamp shewing thereon the name of the country, its intention and value, printed in its own language, and also in that of the Postal Union, in Sweden the stamp could be called "Svarmarke," and the inscription thereon be something like this, "Sverige," "Suede," "Frimärke for Svart" and "Timbre pour la reponse," or somewhat like the cut represented here.



A letter posted with such a stamp would secure its delivery to the issuing country of such stamp. For instance, if a letter posted here in Sweden with such a stamp enclosed, it could be used to prepay a letter back to Sweden but to no other country.

If these stamps were made to correspond with the value necessary to carry letters from one country to another in the Postal Union, as Sweden 20 ore, England  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pence =  $18\frac{1}{2}$  ore, France 25 centimes = 18 ore, Austria 18 Kr. = 16, &c., &c., there would be some room for defrauding the postal