

Letter Box System.

Inquiry at the Postoffices on the subject of emptying street post-boxes elicited the information that the system is most complete. As is well known the boxes in the centre of the city to the number of about two dozen searched by the "go-as-you-please letter-carrier," in a large district between the centre and extreme limits the boxes are searched by waggon drivers under a Government contract, while the extremely distant boxes are searched by the letter-carriers of the several districts in which they are situated. The constantly-made insinuation that such-and-such a box had not been visited, and the want of confidence generally in that late of letters consigned to the street letter boxes, is not much relished in the Post-office. As long ago as 1885 Postmaster Patteson instituted a plan by which it is impossible for the drivers of the collecting waggons to miss a box. The beauty of the plan is its simplicity. It is well known that each letter-box has a case inside it into which letters drop, the case and its contents being removed bodily to the Post-office. Each out going waggon takes out twenty-four cases with tops painted all one color, say blue. Twenty-four boxes are brought back, which are supposed to be all brown. If there is a blue one among them the driver is bound to explain. This is practically never the case except when a lock has been found frozen, and when that occurs the postoffice locksmith is sent at once to pick it. A recent invention, it is believed, will prevent the freezing of locks in future. The public may have the most implicit confidence in the punctualities of the search made of the street letter-boxes.

The New York Sun suggests that it would be a memorable rounding out of the first century of legislation under the American Union, for Congress to establish one cent letter postage throughout the United States. The country would then have the cheapest mail rates in the world.

NUMISMATIC DEPARTMENT.

All correspondence in this department should be addressed to Mr. Jos. Hooper, Box 145, Port Hope.

For information about coins, go to a connoisseur, of course.

Crown pieces to the value of twenty million marks will shortly be struck off in Germany.

THE English guinea was first coined in 1673, and derived its name from the fact that the gold of which it was at first composed came from Guinea.

THE Bank of France has found a valuable detective agent in photography, suspected coins are photographed with genuine ones, and the counterfeits are revealed by comparison.

THE coins of the German Empire may be used also as weights. A pfennig piece weighs exactly two grams; so does a gold five mark piece. A nickel ten-pfennig and a ten-mark gold piece weigh each four grams.

AN extensive robbery has been committed at Athens at the Numismatic Museum, attached to the University. Amongst the articles stolen are a quantity of gold coins of the Quinctus Plinius series, a number of Attic tetradrachms, including the well-known Mithridates Aristion series of the town of Asia Minor, and also several Ætolian tetradrachms.

INASMUCH as considerable misapprehension exists as to the precise value of the distinction conferred by the possession of a Jubilee medal, it may be well to state that the Jubilee medal ranks next to the decorations to the various Orders, and takes precedence of all naval, military, and other medals.

THE secretary to the Queen's Remembrancer, Edinburgh, has been directed to pay in equal proportions to James Bisset, William Hay, Alexander Fraser, and John Urquhart, the finders of the bronze pot and cons in Upper Kirkgate, Aberdeen, about eighteen months ago, the sum of £139 17s, 6d. the value of the treasure.