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## EASTER DISPLAY IN NEW YORK BOOKSTORES.

Written for BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER.

THE custom of giving Easter cards, so far from dying ont, has developed, and now an Easter gift is almost as customary as a Christmas gift. At present, the shops are thronged with people buying suitable books, cards, or the beautiful photographs which are to be seen at all stationers. The windows are beautifully decorated, and, in some cases, show much originality in their arrangement.

In some windows nothing is seen but Easter cards, large crosses composed of strings of Easter lilies or violets hang in the centre, and around them in all directions the cards are arranged. Another window is filled with books of a religious character, Lenten reading, Easter hymns in illuminated covers and little devotional books, are to be seen.

In the actual Easter cards it is very plain that lilies and violets are still the favorites, as they have been so long. Besides this style of card, in which there is not much change from year to year, there are large displays of numerous cards in which the rabbit and the chicken play a prominent part. These seem extremely popular, if one may judge by number and variety. In every direction one sees rabbits, some popping out of egg-shells; some, out of compliment to popular feeling, dressed as soldiers and carrying muskets; some dressed as old women and carrying baskets of eggs. The chickens are even more popular, one card representing two very small chickens in an incubator, to whom a large yellow chick was remarking, "Have you lost your mother?" Another represented two dimunitive down things, holding a roll of music, singing an Easter carol. Some chickens are dressed as sailors, and in one shop there is a model of a man-of-war, manned, if one may use the word, by yellow chickens.

Photographs finished in platinum, instead of silver, are beautiful as well as new. Most of the bock stores show large supplies of these, which are very popular for Easter gifts, sacred subjects being naturally the most suitable. These photographs, however, are somewhat expensive.

Besides cards and photographs, the stationers usually have a supply of decorative work for sale during the Easter season. Letter cases have drawn on their covers stamped envelopes, on which appear the post mark, "New York, April 10th, 1898." Veil cases and handkerchief boxes are to be seen. Stamp cases, book markers—almost everything dainty that is likely to make a suitable Easter present. The best bookstores keep supplies of handsome ribbon, stamped in gold, "Easter Greeting," with which books and fancy work are tied, which adds much to the appearance of the article.

## A BOOM IN BURNS.

The boom in Burns, which is, no doubt, largely due to the recent centenary celebrations, is well illustrated in the fact that a copy of the first Kilmarnock edition of the poet's works has lately been sold by auction for the record price of 545 guineas. Twenty-five years since the copy was advertised in a Forfarshire local paper, when the highest offer received was £8 10s., for which it was then sold to a Broughty Ferry purchaser. Seven years later it was again sold to the well-known Dundee collector, Mr. A. C. Lan.b, who, a year afterwards, refused an offer of £120 made to him for it by a big London bookseller.