

that which it purports to be, a magazine.

The most noticeable article for December is the first instalment of a series on "The Postage Stamps of Japan" by Larcus Viridis. This will in all probability be quite a valuable contribution to scientific philatelic literature. The article is well written and carries with it the aroma of personal investigation and research. Regarding the issue of 1871-72 we make the following excerpt:

"Various catalogues distinguish two complete sets of this issue: on *wove* and *laid* paper. The distinction is not justified, although specimens are found showing no trace of the laid lines, for at the time there was no native wove paper in Japan. The paper was largely made by small private manufactures and entirely by hand in forms with a bottom of thin bamboo strips, which produced the laid lines. The material of the paper consists of fibrous plant stems; it was not chopped or ground, but merely softened and mashed, hence its great strength in direction of the cellular tissue. As the texture is very porous and no sizing was used, the paper was unfit for writing with pens. One side of the paper is smooth, not by means of calendering, but by being brushed upon a smooth drying surface. All native Japanese paper of this early date shows a faint yellowish tinge, as no bleaches were used. It is important to remember the *laid* quality of the paper, as very good counterfeits exist on European tissue paper of wove texture. The paper will not tear in a straight line, while the native paper on account of its peculiar manufacture will always tear in a straight line."

A pleasing feature about the *Virginia Philatelist* is that it gives a half tone and sketch of a Southern collector every month. The editorials are bright and timely and the review

forms not the least interesting part of the journal.

At ten cents a year the *International Philatelist* is grand value. But, with a circulation of 6000 and liberal advertising patronage, we doubt very seriously whether as a *magazine* it is living up to its possibilities. The I. P. does not *pose* as an advertiser pure and simple, although it affects to a tremendous degree the appearance of that class of periodicals. The November number contains "A Mooted Question" by F. A. Lilly, in which the collectibility of United States newspaper, periodical and postage due stamps is established. A short article appears on "The Connel Essay," concerning which Mrs. A. G. Craig relates with indisputable emphasis: "When Mr. Connel received a sample of his venture he was in St. John, stopping at the Waverly Hotel on King Street, and it is a well known fact, there and elsewhere, that he wrote quite a number of letters and used his stamp. These letters passing through the mails gave the stamp all the eclat of the genuine article."

The *Evergreen State Philatelist* from the Pacific Northwest closes the year with an attractive cover. The E. S. P. is sadly in need of solid reading matter, although the versatile "Veritas" is once more in evidence. The entire contents is made up of notes and comments of which editorials form the most readable portion.

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