

NEW BRITISH BOOKS.

LONDON, December, 27.

THERE has been a brisk Christmas trade, but the war has, to some extent, interfered with book sales, especially novels. There is, however, a large demand for books about Africa, and Fitzpatrick's "Transvaal From Within" has had an enormous sale, and tops the list.

With January will go into force the new attempt to diminish the discount system in retail sales. It is really an increase in the number of "net" books. The plan agreed upon is this: Every bookseller will be expected to sell a net book at the publishing price—not a penny less. Should this rule be infringed anywhere, the local branch of the Booksellers' Association is to report to headquarters. Next the matter will be placed before the Publishers' Association, which holds the final power. Inquiry will be made by the Publishers' Association into the complaint, and if there has been a breach of the rule the offender will be visited in this manner: All the publishers will stop his supply of net books, unless, indeed, he chooses to pay full price for them he will lose all discount advantages.

The following are some new books, not fiction, which promise to sell well at home and abroad:

- "Memoir of the Duchess of Feck," 2 vols., 32s., Murray.
- "History of Lord Lytton's Indian Administration," 18s., Longmans.
- "Reconquest of the Soudan" (Churchill), 2 vols., 30s., Longmans.
- "South African Recollections," 7s. 6d., Longmans.
- "My Autobiography" (Robert Buchanan), Redway.
- "Life of William Pitt" (Maxwell), 2 vols., 36s., Low, Marston.
- "Franco-German War" (Maurice), 21s., Swan.
- "History of South Africa to the Jameson Raid," 5s., Frowde.
- "Gulf of Greater Britain," 3s. 6d., Clarke.
- "British Empire Dictionary," 3s. 6d., Newnes.
- "Transvaal Under the Queen," 4 to 6s., Sands.
- "Imperial Russian Navy," 50s. net, Tlacker.
- "Transvaal and the Boers," 10s. 6d., Chapman.
- "Expansion of the British Empire," 4s., Clay.
- "Colonization of Africa by Alien Races" (Sir H. Johnston), 6s., Clay.
- "Story of South Africa" (Worsfold), 1s. 6d., Marshall.

Mr. Harold Gorst, son of Sir John Gorst, M.P., has now finished the monograph on Lord Beaconsfield, which he is contributing to the "Victorian Era" series. It should appear early in the new year. The book is a close study of Beaconsfield as a personality and as a strenuous figure in English history. Another volume shortly to be issued in the series deals with Ireland during the Queen's reign. The writer is an Oxford man, Mr. J. A. R. Marriott. A third volume which

might be mentioned is by Mr. R. P. Karikaria, and is on Indian life and thought since the Mutiny.

Lord Rosebery's article on Sir Robert Peel in the first number of The Anglo-Saxon Review having attracted attention is to be issued by Messrs. Cassell as a self-contained volume. In a speech at Perth, Lord Rosebery alluded to the fresh instalment of the Peel memoirs, which had just then been published. The essay was a later result of his study of the memoirs.

A short life of Grant Allen is going to be written by Edward Clodd. Grant Allen was the briefest of correspondents, and it is doubtful if many letters by him will be available.

The issue of new novels closed as the Christmas season approached, but new fiction galore is promised for the Spring. Among the books on the way are: "In the New Promised Land," by the author of "Quo Vadis," a volume of short tales, by Annie Swan, "The Lady from Nowhere," by Fergus Hume.

WALL PAPER AND DECORATIONS.

THE National Wall Paper Company of the United States declared a quarterly dividend of 2 per cent. on the debenture stock, payable January 2.

Oscar Reyneke, a wall paper manufacturer of Paris, France, who has lately been visiting the United States, says that the wall paper manufacturers of France are working up a lucrative business in the United States, despite the fact that trusts exist and that the tariff on wall paper is 25 per cent.

Colin McArthur & Co., Montreal, now that all their building operations have been completed, are looking forward to a very busy season's trade. They are at present engaged in shipping orders, and report that, so far, orders are ahead of last year. With new appurtenances and increased accommodation, they are in a position to meet their customers' needs in a more systematic and satisfactory manner than heretofore. They are sending out, this month, a sample-book of the various shades of ingrain paper carried in stock, and also electrotypes of six beautiful friezes made to match the different colors. Each cut of frieze states the width—9, 18 or 21 inches—and gives a list of the shades which the border is colored to match. All of the borders have specially matched ceilings, and, in every case, the combinations will be found suitable for fine decoration. Ingrains will, it is said, be more in demand even than last season, and the trade are advised to stock some of these goods.

MULTUM IN PARVO.

The Watson, Foster Co., Limited, wall paper manufacturers, of Montreal, have issued a handy sample book of ingrains. Although small, it is very complete, and so arranged that it is a sample-book and price list combined. It contains 19 selected shades of ingrains, and on the back of each shade are printed the numbers of the ceilings and friezes to match the ingrain hangings. Together with the price, at the back of this sample-book, are half-tone illustrations of the ceilings and friezes.

The Watson, Foster Co., Limited, seem never to tire of originating some handy method to assist the retail dealer in wall paper to push and increase his business. In this respect, we think no firm on the continent have done more, and we are sure that this little sample-book and price list, which can be carried in the pocket, will be a great help to the up to date dealer and assist him very much, not only in taking orders from customers who cannot visit his store, but also in making a selection for his own stock.

All dealers should have one or more of these books, and, although The Watson, Foster Co., Limited, have issued a very large number, still someone may have been overlooked, and any dealer who has not received one should write to the company for it.

AN OLD-TIMER DEAD.

One of Toronto's early business men, Magnus Shewan, is dead. Deceased was born in Dunrosness, Shetland, May 4, 1816. When a lad, he engaged in the trade of fisherman with his father. When 16 he began sailing on a schooner. To America he came in 1841, settling in Toronto. He sailed the lakes for four years, and took charge of the old steamer Transit, running between Toronto and Niagara. In 1855 Mr. Shewan opened a bookstore in the eastern branch of the old market on King street. It was burned down. When rebuilt, his cousin entered into partnership with him, and they did business in what was called the Arcade Bookstore, working up an extensive trade. Deceased was the first bookseller in Canada to sell newspapers outside of the office. He sold The Globe, The Patriot, and The News of the Week. In 1866 the cousins dissolved partnership, Magnus retiring and entering the employ of the G.T.R. The store was moved then to the northeast corner of King and Jarvis streets. Mr. Shewan's cousin died in 1883, and the stock was purchased by a son of deceased. He sold out about three months ago. Deceased was married in 1845. He was a Liberal, and always took a great interest in public affairs.