

The Methodist Book and Publishing House, Wesley Buildings, Toronto

IN our "Men of whom you ought to know" photograph this month, we show a group of representative "heads" of our Book Room. In the centre of all is the veteran Book Steward, Rev. Dr. Briggs, one of the best-known men in Canadian Methodism, and one of the best beloved by any body of workmen in any country. Grouped about him are the chief captains and lieutenants under whose direction the immense business of the House is carried on. We have not space to name these managers and foremen, nor can we deal at all exhaustively with their several departments; but it will be of interest to our readers to glance through our pages and see a few flashlight illustrations of the many-sided work carried on in a plant so extensive as that of the Methodist Book and Publishing House.

And a few facts about some of the more prominent departments may be informing, especially to our young people, who should know more than many of them do

periodicals and mailing the same. The work involves the handling over 40,000 separate orders each year (some of them two and four times during the year), and the mailing of over 42,000 separately addressed papers or packages every week, representing over 325,000 copies of one or other of the different periodicals issued by the House. These go out week after week, without intermission, and are carried by the Post Office Department to the farthest ends of our Dominion, and away across the seas. They are read in homes in Labrador and the Yukon, in the remotest parts of British Columbia and our Western Provinces, in sunny Bermuda and the West Indies, in Great Britain and many of the United States, and in far-away China and Japan.

The Wholesale Department deals entirely with the booksellers in Canada. This department has a staff of four travellers, whose duty it is to call on the trade from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coast. They cover the entire ground

lishing Houses in Britain, as Hodder & Stoughton, T. & T. Clarke, James Clarke & Co., The Religious Tract Society, James Nisbet & Co., T. C. & E. C. Jack, Oilphant Anderson & Co., The Macmillan Co., The Clarendon Press, and our English Methodist Book Room. From the United States come thousands of books from such houses as Scribner's Sons, Funk & Wagnalls, Houghton Mifflin & Co., Pilgrim Press, Sunday School Times Pub. Co., Fleming H. Revell Co., Eaton & Mains, and others too numerous to mention. Indeed, any book published anywhere in the world may be ordered through the Book Room.

The General Office Staff is necessarily large, as a glance at the flash-light illustrating this department will clearly demonstrate. Ask if they are busy, and you will probably be told by some bright and smiling young lady clerk something, as we were told not long ago: "Busy? Oh, yes, most of the time; but occasionally in the lunch hour one is able to find a 'Playmate'; you know. Work, of course, comes first; but we manage to have an 'Era' of 'Pleasant Hours,' while we keep moving 'Onward' under the 'Banner' that is kept waving over us by our 'Christian Guardian.'"—And that's about the truth of the matter, for the General Office Staff not only keep busy, but seem to enjoy their work in the spirit of fellowship of a family rather than in the drudgery of hirelings.

Much more might be written of this splendid concern, but this is enough for this time. A cordial invitation is extended all our friends to call and see for themselves the extensive plant in its multiplied operations.

The old historic site will not continue as Book Room Headquarters very much longer, for the demands of the business have become so great and imperative, that a new site for a larger and more adequate plant has been purchased by the Book Committee, and plans are now being perfected for one of the most thoroughly modern and best equipped Publishing Houses on the continent. This new site comprises a splendid block of land on Queen, John and Richmond Streets, Toronto. It will be a couple of years, perhaps, before the complete business will be removed to the new quarters, so you have plenty of time yet to call and see the old, where you will always find a cordial welcome.



Mr. Kettlewell.

Dr. Briggs.

Mr. Redditt.

IN THE BOOK STEWARD'S PRIVATE OFFICE, WESLEY BUILDINGS.

of this great connexional concern, generally known as The Book Room.

The Publishing Department alone employs over 350 persons, exclusive of the office staff, trade and retail departments. The plant comprises 37 printing presses, viz., 11 Gordons' and 26 cylinder presses. These consume 650 reams of paper per day. The large presses alone issue 68,000 impressions per day.

There are 14 linotype machines, which are in operation, together with a large number of the presses, both night and day. In addition, 2 type-casters are constantly making new type, so that fresh type is cast for every new work.

There are 9 folding machines, with an average capacity of 2,500 sheets each per hour; 6 sewing machines for book-work, and 7 wire stitching machines for the same purpose.

These, together with proof presses, embossing presses, case-making machines, and casing-in machines, furnish the working plant for the largest publishing house in Canada. Quality is the watchword at all times.

The Periodical Department has charge of entering the orders for our various

twice a year, calling on the booksellers and showing samples of all the more important books published by the Book Room, and also showing a full range of Bibles, Prayer Books, Hymn Books of all denominations, Christmas Cards, Picture Books, in fact they show samples of most lines necessary for the carrying on of a first-class booksellers business.

The manager visits Europe each year, spending about two months on this trip searching the markets for new ideas and for the latest and best books. This branch of our Book Room business continues to grow year by year in no small way.

The Merchandise Department includes the Store and the Mail Order trade exclusive of the regular book-trade, which is supplied from the Wholesale section of the House.

Books in this department are chiefly of a theological and religious character. This department also handles all supplies, except periodicals, for Sunday Schools, Epworth Leagues, and for ministers. In this branch are handled as part of the regular immense stock carried, books published by such well-known Pub-

When the Hens Begin to Lay

There is laughter in the barnyard;

There is cackling o'er the way;
When the rooster sounds his trumpet,
And the hens begin to lay.

There are holes around the straw stack;

There are others in the hay;
There is watching round the corner;
When the hens begin to lay.

There are smiles within the farm house;

When the lambs are at their play;
When the fair calves are dancing,
And the hens begin to lay.

There are omelettes superior,

On the table every day;
And the hired man is happy,
When the hens begin to lay.

Now's the feathered harvest time,

Then list to what I say;
Be sure and leave a nest-egg,
When the hens begin to lay.

—The Khan.

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it to anyone else.
—Charles Dickens.