

on which to put up a building for the use of the College. It was decided to purchase that on Gerrard street, next St. James' Square Presbyterian Church, for \$5,000.

The Finance Committee shewed the surplus assets to be \$7,039.80. The surplus account, for payment of interest and sinking fund, and for maintaining the College, is about \$1,500.

Messrs. N. C. Love, Toronto, and W. B. Sanders, Stayner, were elected representatives on the Industrial Exhibition Board.

The Infringement Committee was authorized to take what action they thought fit regarding those in arrears in payment of annual dues.

AT THE ANTIPODES the Book business must be good, judging from the following description of the retail department in a Brisbane establishment:—

"This is a fine, lofty, well-lighted apartment, extending the whole length of the building, the ceiling being no less than 17 ft. from the floor, and prettily coloured. Along the whole of the wall on the right-hand side, and rising as high as the ceiling, is a splendid array of books, arranged in cases with glass fronts, and all so assorted that any work required under a particular head—such as fiction, history, poetry, science, or other branch of literature—can be found without any trouble. Here are to be seen literary works of all descriptions, from the lightest of novels to the most abstruse treatises on scientific subjects, from books dealing with one special topic to the standard encyclopedias treating of all subjects under the sun. Amongst the latter are to be seen copies, bound in russia, of the greatest literary undertaking of the present or any previous age—the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' the sixteenth volume of which is just to hand. As showing the taste for solid, useful reading in this colony, it may be mentioned that shortly after this great work was commenced—a work which will, when complete, form a library in itself, and a splendid library, too—the firm secured orders for nearly 100 copies, representing a subscription list of over £4,500."

AS AN INSTANCE of how the Book Trade suffers in England, and one of the remedies proposed, we give the following:—

"To the Editor of THE BOOKSELLER.

"SIR,—Having been an assistant to a bookseller in the North of England for some years, I have come to the conclusion that, unless the discount system is altered, booksellers have a very poor chance of making a living. I fancy this would be stopped by a 'Publishers' Union;' say twenty or thirty of the leading London firms joined this Union and refused to supply drapers and others, and also those in the trade who undersold. I should think some such arrangement as this might be arrived at, viz. to make the published price of books net, and to allow booksellers a certain discount, say 20 per cent.; and any bookseller taking off discount to the public to have his account stopped for a stated period by those houses in the Union.

In the city in which I am in business a large firm of drapers take 25 per cent. off medical books, with this result, that the agent of Messrs. J. & A. Churchill has to do likewise or lose the trade. These people do not get them direct from Churchill's, who will not

supply (although some other houses which I could name do so), but they get them from the wholesale houses, who, if they belonged to the Union, would not be able to supply.

"Hoping that publishers will soon wake up to their duty in this matter, or before long they will find that they have no agents in the provinces, and will have to trust to miscellaneous people to sell their goods. Trusting that better times are in store for the book-sellers,

"I remain, your obedient servant,

"E. R. G."

THE STEEL PEN TRADE.—The greatest expansion in the pen trade of late years has been with the Continent, where, in spite of native competition and hostile tariffs, English pens of repute occupy a leading position. At the same time the demand for English patterns abroad is limited, and each market calls for a special pattern or set of patterns peculiar to itself, many of them being, according to English notions, more fantastic than serviceable. Birmingham makers, as may be supposed, have not been backward in catering for these fanciful requirements, and their foreign pattern-cards are in many cases marvels of fancy, variety, and ingenuity. Although the old firm of Gillott, the parent of the trade, still hold their own, and although their pens command a high price in all parts of the world, their production is now considerably exceeded by that of several younger firms, who have devoted themselves specially to the cultivation of the continental trade.—*English Exchange*.

#### PAPERS OLD AND NEW.

*The American Bookseller*, always a welcome visitant, has changed hands, though the management remains the same. *The American News Co.* has disposed of the *Journal* to Mr. N. R. Manachesi. On general principles, a periodical is better in the hands of an individual, and we feel confident that the new proprietor will still further enhance the value of *The Bookseller* to its readers.

The January number of *The New York Newsdealer and Stationer*, presents a handsome appearance in its newly donned cover, and the cover is by no means all that attracts, for the contents are varied and interesting.

*The Manx Note Book*, a quarterly journal to be devoted to the history, antiquities and legendary lore of the Isle of Man is to be commenced this month. A. W. Moore, of Cronkbourne, Douglas, is editor.

OBITUARY.—The sincere sympathy of many friends will be with Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Hudson in the loss sustained by the death of their infant daughter, Ethel Maud, which occurred on the 1st inst.—*Brantford paper*.

ONTARIO BOOKSELLERS' ASSOCIATION.—Those who have not yet forwarded the annual fee of \$1. will please do so during the current month.