

pick up information concerning them, that cannot be gained in any other way, and there is no better way to study them than by taking the used and unused specimens and comparing them together.

We notice in *The New York Sunday World* of March 13th, an article entitled "Postage Stamp Swindle" in which it shows how a dealer in Stettin, Germany, (name not given) got people in all parts of the world to collect stamps for him, and send them to him free. The *modus operandi* as given in the article was this—He sent out circulars all over the world stating that for every 1,000,000 stamps sent him, he would board, clothe and educate an orphan until old enough to support itself; his brother being in league with him would of course supply the orphan, but as *The World* puts it—in his mind.

By this method he would obtain hundreds of thousands of stamps daily, and thus he is able to under sell all other dealers. The article also goes on to state that about 5 years ago he started an imaginary mission in the city of Chang Kiang, China, the Holy Sisters of which agreed, for every million stamps sent to him to save from the jaws of the crocodiles of the Yellow River at least one Chinese baby, and that they would support, educate and christianize it. Finding that to work so well, he has since issued circulars stating that for 1,000,000 stamps a home will be found for an old lady or gentleman for the remainder of their lives, in one of the three homes, either at London, New York or Cincinnati. For half a million a bed will be endowed in an hospital and for 100,000 a home will be found for some orphan for one year.

Now as most of us know this article, which appeared in the *World* is to some extent overdrawn, but in the main it is only too true. That there is a dealer in Germany who has agents collecting for him all over the world, and that people who are not *philatelist* think that they are doing a good thing by collecting stamps and sending them off to this fraud we also know. We ourselves have had personal experience; for not long since, a couple of young ladies came to us requesting us to give them some stamps as they wanted to obtain 1,000,000 which they were going to send to an agent in New York, who would forward them to Germany, and the dealer who would receive them would pay for an old lady to be admitted into an "Old Ladies" Home.

Thus it shows how easily people can be taken in, and if one tries to explain to one of these generous people that the whole thing is a fraud they will scarcely believe you.

Selling stamps from approval sheets appears now to be the general method by which retail dealers supply collectors, for although a good many of them still issue price lists, comparatively few stamps are sold from them in comparison with what are disposed of from approval sheets. Collectors as a rule like to see what condition a stamp is in before making a purchase.

We think this approval business a first class way to buy stamps, but at the same time we are grieved to know that it presents to persons who are not as strictly honest as they should be, a great temptation to appropriate what does not belong to them. In fact there are