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Pithy Philatelic Points.

Sayings and Articles of Noted Writers Carefully Condensed.

BY GEO. W. STARNAMAN.

Writers for the philatelic press speak of collectors examining their stamps so as to avoid placing counterfeits in their collections, yet it is very seldom we hear a writer get down to solid work and endeavor by comparison to enlighten his readers as to distinctive differences between the genuine stamp and the counterfeit.—L. M. Stæbler.

Our philatelic societies are by no means a totally neglected part of philately: still we have as yet tasted but little of their possible benefits, experienced but little of their possible power, owing to the widely scattered condition of both societies and adherents.—W. Cullen Brown.

The mere existence of our great societies lends new dignity to the pursuit in which we are engaged; by giving the outside world tangible evidence of an earnestness in our philatelic service that no effervescent or shallow pastime could possibly inspire. I maintain that the society does more to foster philatelic enthusiasm than any other single factor, with the sole exception of the philatelic press.—Lewis G. Quackenbush.

Match and Medicine stamps are beautiful and attractive. All the novel shapes, colors, sizes and designs are found among

those stamps. We have the Humboldt square stamp, the Centaur rectangular, and the strap hinge diamond shaped Jaynes. An increased demand for these will come sooner or later, which means a very remarkable increase in price.—S. E. Miller

The early issues of the Swiss stamps have always been in favor with the collector on account of the beauty in their design and coloring, as also they have attracted the attention of numerous counterfeiters that have overrun the stamp market with fraudulent productions.—E. A. Stigeler.

It is reasonable to assert that many values of the different departments (U. S.) are destined to become "rarities" in the true sense of the word. Most of us know what the stamps were listed at in 1860, and some of us can tell what the prices were in 1885; so, reasoning by analogy, what will they be quoted in 1900? In 1905?—C. E. Severn.

To ascertain the benefits and pleasure and benefits of specializing, it is only necessary to question one of its devotees. The satisfaction of gazing on well-filled pages, of discovering occasional varieties not previously chronicled, and of possessing an inexhaustible stock of information in regard to each stamp in every issue, combine to make this branch of our hobby full of fascination and profit.—H. L. Wilber.

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