

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

THE BOOK STORE.

THERE should be a housecleaning time, as well as a stocktaking time, in every well-regulated book store at least once a year, and that preferably in the spring, says *The Publishers' Weekly*. After stock has been taken, those in authority might profitably spend their spare time in going over the stock sheets with a view to marking out the stock that is old or has proven unsaleable, or for some reason become obsolete. It would be a good plan when new stock of a certain character is received that, in addition to the cost and selling price, a mark should be made showing the date of receipt. When the annual or semi-annual inventory is taken, every article in the stock should be itemized, and opposite, in parallel columns, there should be noted the cost price, the selling price, and the date it was placed in stock.

After the inventory has been completed it should be carefully analyzed and separated into sections. Every article over six months old should be at once moved, even at a sacrifice, if necessary, unless there is good reason to give it a longer lease of life on the shelves. Frequent inspection of the shelves should be made to prevent old stock remaining on the shelves to form a base for a new supply of the same kind. If this is permitted, the stock which remains at the bottom, no matter how "live" it may be in other respects, will be bound to become shopworn, stale and unsaleable, and so cause loss which might have been avoided had it been placed on top of the new supply, or otherwise arranged so as to have been the first to be sold.

Remainders, slow sellers, broken or damaged stock, and occasional "errors of judgment" are bound to occur at some time or another in even the best managed book-stores. But they should not be tolerated longer than necessary. There is hardly a season of the year more favorable than spring for the retailer to rid himself of these

impediments. As the weather becomes milder more people are apt to be about than during the colder months past or the warmer days to come. "Shoppers" and "bargain hunters" especially are on the wing and apt to bite at anything that may



Robert Louis Stevenson.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON.

The Memorial Fund to create or establish in Edinburgh some monument or memorial of the late Robert Louis Stevenson, the eminent Scottish novelist, has now reached the sum of £1,000. A good committee was formed in Canada to accept contributions, and one was also formed in the United States. The total sum raised was less than was expected. Dr. Robertson Nicoll, editor of *The British Weekly*, explains that "the smallness of the sum does not show any want of loyalty to Stevenson's memory. The fact is, these memorial funds are greatly overdone. When a man who has deserved well leaves those dependent upon him in poor circumstances, there is never the slightest difficulty in raising money, but many people object to busts and medallions and burials and the like. They think there are too many of them in the world already. I understand that it is not quite settled that the biography of Stevenson, prepared by Mr. Sydney Colvin, will appear in October. The materials are immense and valuable, but there is no chance of their being fully used. Mr. Stevenson's representatives are strictly inhibiting the publication of all letters." The novelist had many admiring readers in Canada, and the last book from his gifted pen, "St. Ives," was brought out in a special Canadian edition by The Copp, Clark Co., Toronto, to whose courtesy, by the way, the accompanying portrait of the dead author is due. The same publishers have other works of his besides "St. Ives," which, despite the great fame achieved by "Kidnapped," "Catriona," "Treasure Island," and the "Master of Ballantree," is entitled to hold its own with the best from his pen. Stevenson was born in Edinburgh in 1850, was educated at University, admitted to the Scotch bar, but adopted literature as a profession. His fame was established in 1883 on the appearance of "Treasure Island." From 1890 until his death, Dec. 3, 1894, at the age of 44, he resided at Vailima, in the Samoan Islands, owing to his very delicate health.

strike their fancy, provided it can be had at a bargain.

Let this kind of stock be attractively laid out—in the windows, or on counters near the open door—and put in charge a clever salesman; it will be sure to go, if not at one price then at another. It is just as likely as not that this kind of bait will secure a customer or two, who, in time, will more than make up for the loss sustained in this sort of housecleaning.

C. THEORET'S NEW BOOKS.

Mr. C. Theoret has now in press "The Conflict of Laws," Prof. Lasleur's new book, which was referred to in these columns some months ago. The author is one of the Faculty of Law at McGill college, and is a recognized authority on international law.

Another work about to be issued is Mr. W. J. White's treatise on "Canadian Company law." The book is intended to be uniform in character with Abbott's *Railway Law* and Holt on Insurance. It covers the whole field of Canadian company law under all Dominion and Provincial Acts.

"Rules of Practice," in force 1st May, published in French and English, is now ready. As its name implies, it deals fully with the rules governing the practice of law at the Bar of the Province of Quebec, under the new code of civil procedure.

ECONOMIC STUDIES.

The latest issues of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Philadelphia, are: "Political and Municipal Legislation in 1897," by Prof. Durand, of Stanford University (price, 15c.), a view of the principal features of new laws in the United States; and "Sociology Applied to Politics," by Dr. F. Sigel, of the University of Warsaw (price, 35c.), a study of economic and social conditions in Russia, and a glance at the possibilities and intentions of the Slav movement.

A LETTER FROM MR. HALL CAINE.

Mr. Hall Caine, the eminent novelist, has written Mr. Morang, the publisher of the Canadian edition of "The Christian," expressing his appreciation of the reception given the work in Canada, and the evidence it affords of a separate publishing interest existing in this country. "The Christian" was certainly marked by success in Canada, over 10,000 copies having been sold. The factors in the success were Mr. Hall Caine's reputation, the merits of the story, and the systematic advertising which the publisher gave his well printed book. Believing that a Canadian edition as well turned out as a London or New York book, and as extensively advertised, would succeed here, the publisher put his faith into practice and the result has proved satisfactory. Mr. Hall Caine, in the letter referred to, intimates