

tops, kites, &c., and a little over, there can be nothing more improving & interesting than the study of philately. He supplies himself at a very moderate cost with a good album and catalogue, and goes to work. In the interval of study and rainy days, when outdoor sports have to be given up, he can always find an inexhaustible store of amusement in his album.

In pursuing this study, he becomes acquainted with a part of the history of different countries, some of which perhaps he would never otherwise have heard of. He learns who the sovereigns were, and naturally turns to his history to find out all he can about them. He comes across a stamp of "Heligoland," or the "Orange Free States" and straightway consults his geography to find out the localities of these heretofore unknown lands. He sees many different varieties of paper, good, bad, and indifferent, and is led to inquire the process of manufacture, how the water-marks are put in, &c. Viewing with an artistic eye the engraving on a stamp, his mind naturally inquires how it is done,—how the perforations are made,—in short, there are many of these little points of interest that are as a sealed book to the "profane." He further becomes acquainted with the currency of different countries, and heraldry, if he has a taste for armorial bearings, his fancy can be amply gratified in this occupation—as many of the stamps are simply a picture of the coat of arms of the country to which they belong.

If his means will allow, let him take a good journal, and keep himself well up in the changes taking place in stamps, new emissions and withdrawals. I would say to my school-boy friends, and they are all my friends, for I have a most kindly feeling for them and their little amusements, if you have time, funds and disposition, collect, and by all means take my word for it, you will find in it pleasure and profit. I don't know whether school-boys

now-a-days eat molasses candy or not (they did when I was a boy, not a great while ago.) but if they do, let them, instead of ministering to their appetites for sweets, invest in something that will certainly improve their minds. In case they become tired of stamp collecting, they can always sell their specimens for a fair price. Now, what I have been saying to the school-boys, applies just as well to children of larger growth. Anyone who will give himself the slight trouble to investigate the subject of Philately, will be sure to find in the science a vast fund of general information and pleasure. Some days since I had the pleasure of conversing with a middle-aged gentleman, who I discovered purchasing stamps, and upon my expressing my gratification at so practical a man as himself making a collection, he informed me that his pet hobby for years had been the collecting of minerals, but accumulating, they took up too much room to be properly displayed, so he had packed them in boxes and commenced stamp collecting, and found it more interesting to him by far than minerals.—E. S. P.

The Stamps of Sarawak.

The country of this name is little known and seldom spoken of except in connection with philatelic matters. Sarawak is not mountainous as it lies between the hills and the shore. The government of this interesting country is a peculiar one. Its head is an Englishman with a Hindoo title and Mala subjects. A great many of these latter belong to tribes of Dyaks. The first issue of stamps appeared in October 1868. It was a three cent. brown on yellow. In the corners were the letters J. B. R. S., which signify James Brook, Rajah (of) Sarawak. In the centre was his portrait. In 1871 the new Rajah issued another three cent stamp, same color, bearing his portrait. The letters in the corner remain-