

in the United States, and the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice. Large quantities of such literature, Lady Aberdeen declares still, find entrance into Canada. She announced that the Minister of Justice had decided, at the request of the Council, to amend the criminal law, so that booksellers in Canada could be punished for privately selling immoral literature.

We are sure the legitimate bookselling trade in Canada is in sympathy with a movement of this kind. They have no interest in circulating immoral literature, and are not in the habit of doing so. Besides the injury to the national morals, which is of first importance, bad books displace good books, and upon these the trade make their profits.

THE CHEAP MAGAZINES.

WE are receiving some complaints from the trade about the wide sale of the ten-cent magazines. Some dealers aver that the extra sales do not nearly compensate for the loss of other trade, as the profit on the ten-centers is infinitesimal. There is an undoubted tendency for the cheap magazine to displace the higher priced one, and purchasers of books in some instances buy several of the ten-centers instead of a book. The net return to the dealer in this way is less. It seems to BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER that, in some cases, the dealers push the cheap magazines unduly. They put a pile of them in the most conspicuous place, either in the window or on a stand outside, and placard the arrival with a promptness that does not characterize other details of their business. Many dealers, we know, pursue a more moderate course and allow the cheap magazine to pursue its way on its merits and cheap price—which it is well calculated to do. That seems the wiser course. A periodical like *The Canadian Magazine*, which nets 7½ cents to the dealer, ought to be better worth pushing than one only bringing one or two cents profit.

THE TORONTO TRADE.

The annual meeting of the Booksellers' and Stationers' Section of the Toronto Board of Trade was held March 24, when the following were elected the executive of the association for 1896: Messrs. William Briggs, J. F. Ellis, G. F. Warwick, A. S. Irving and W. J. Gage. Mr. Irving was elected chairman, and Mr. Gage deputy chairman. The question of chief importance discussed was the advisability of reducing the rate of cash discount from 5 per cent. to 3 per cent. All the members present favored this plan, and

a further meeting will be held before it is confirmed. The question of shortening the term of credit from 4 to 3 months was also considered, but no conclusion was reached.

THE HUMORS OF COMPILATION.

THE Book Catalogue prepared by the Ontario Education Department to help the committees of Public Libraries in selecting books, is a useful publication. It is well printed and nicely got up, but one seldom gets such a spice of humor in an officially prepared document. They are usually sombre recitals of cold facts.

The Book Catalogue, however, is quite a sprightly performance, with a dash of Mark Twain about it. The compiler in classifying the books has given way to a sportive mood, which produces some rather amusing results. We have all heard of the bookseller who advertised:

Mill on Political Economy
ditto On the Floss.

The compiler of our Catalogue throws this fabled personage into the shade. He has pursued, apparently, the system favored by the individual in *Pickwick* who wrote a treatise on Chinese Metaphysics, based on information supplied by the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Mr. *Pickwick* ventured to doubt whether that admirable work contained any article on Chinese Metaphysics. But his informant declared that the writer had read the article on China and the one on Metaphysics and combined the information. The Catalogue compiler has in not a few cases taken the titles of books, added them to a personal opinion of the fitness of things literary, and the combination is a curious result.

For example, with cruel directness the compiler puts works on history in the same classification with historical romances. This produces a diverting combination of Henry Hallam and G. A. Henty, Dr. Stubbs and R. M. Ballantyne. With a partiality, however, not at all complimentary to our historians, the bona fides of books on mythology are protected by the legend: "For fairy tales see miscellaneous." When we reach British history (including historical romances) Sir Walter Scott is relegated to fiction, while Miss Muhlbach and other writers of historical stories repose in the same list as Froide, Gardiner, Lecky, Hume and Macaulay. Under the heading "Historical Tales" we find J. M. Bailey's "England From a Back Window," and with "Literary and Scientific Men and Women" is included "Girlhood of Shakespeare's Heroines," as if they were historical people— which, of course, they were in a sense. The "Ocean, Sea and Sailors" is made to cover Sir Samuel Baker's "Cast Up by the Sea," an adventure story in Africa, if memory serve aright. "General Science, Discoveries, Inventions, Etc." may properly enough be placed over Rudyard

Kipling's "Many Inventions" and Mr. Tennyson's reminiscence of his railway career in Canada, because "etc." is a comprehensive term, and might correctly have designated any kind of book. We find Sam Slick under "Moral Tales, Essays, Romance, Etc.," and Ben Hur is disposed of in the department entitled "Early Church History and Progress of Christianity." Sir Walter Scott's "Tales of a Grandfather" being put under "Anecdotes and Short Stories" leads one to suspect that the compiler is having a sly joke at us, which is confirmed when we find under "Travel and Adventure in Egypt, Palestine, Etc." no less a book than Crockett's "The Raiders: John Faa, Lord of Little Egypt." However, humor is a valuable quality even—or, perhaps, we should say especially—when found in a blue book.

CANADIAN WRITERS.

THE new book by Chas. D. G. Roberts, "Earth's Enigmas," a collection of fifteen short stories, has just been issued by Lamson, Wolfe & Co., Boston.

J. Castell Hopkins has been ill in Grace Hospital, Toronto, for a month, but is now getting well. His book "The Sword of Islam" will be finished this month.

The editor of the *Canadian Magazine*, John A. Cooper, LL.B., has been quite ill for a fortnight but is now convalescent. Fortunately the April issue was ready and is one of the best yet issued.

Scribners' are issuing a set of stories by English authors. Among the writers is Grant Allen, the Canadian.

The poems of Mary L. G. Petrie (wife of Prof. Carns-Wilson, of McGill University, Montreal) have just been issued by Hodder & Stoughton, London, in one volume entitled "Tales of the East."

Two Canadian poets, Archibald Lampman and Duncan Campbell Scott, are issuing new volumes, respectively "Lyrics of Earth," and "In the Village of Viger." Copeland & Day, Boston, have the books in the press.

Fifty thousand copies of "Beautiful Joe" have been sold, and the sales are still brisk. In Canada the third edition has been issued. The book has been translated into Swedish, and is being translated into Japanese also. So much for the work of a Canadian girl, one of the many clever writers that Nova Scotia has given us. We are glad to know that Miss Saunders' latest book "Charles and His Lamb" is also having a popular sale.

The Women's Historical Society, of Toronto, are issuing in pamphlet form the paper recently read before the society by Miss Fitzgibbon, giving a history of the banner presented by the ladies of Toronto to the 3rd York Regiment in 1812. This banner is now in the possession of Hon. George W. Allan, of Moss Park, whose father was colonel of the regiment.