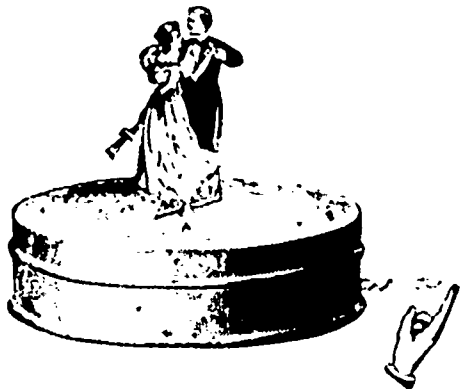


cheese dishes, pickle jars, celery trays, syrup jars, decanters, salt dishes, individual salt cellars, olive dishes, etc., and other articles suited to the fancy goods trade for gift and other purposes.

THE MAGIC BOX.

Among the ingenious toys of the day the magic box, which the trade can retail for 75c., is one of the cleverest. The principle of the lodestone no doubt explains the mystery of the dancing figures on the top of the box, which go round and round the small metal point in the



centre, and present a droll and interesting appearance. A number of flat metal figures also perform the same movements, all due to a simple pulling out of a lever at one side of the box. Nerlich & Co. are offering it to the trade.

THE CARE OF BLOTTING PAPER.

A QUESTION which is engaging the attention of dealers and stationers to a greater or lesser degree is that of the preservation of blotting paper in such condition that it will always be marketable. Probably the wholesalers receive more complaints from their customers respecting blotting paper than any other article. In conversation with Mr. Alex. Buntin, of Buntin, Reid & Co., a few days ago Paper and Pulp News obtained some valuable information respecting the care and treatment of blotting paper. For the benefit of those who have not given the matter close attention, and there are many who, while complaining that their stock becomes hard and loses its absorbent powers, do not attempt to ascertain the cause, the experience of Mr. Buntin as related by himself is repeated. "Some time ago," said Mr. Buntin, "I bought about \$3,000 worth of blot from our own mills and had it stored on the third flat where it remained for a long time, not a sheet of it being sold. It had got hard and dry and no one would take it. I had it removed to the cellar and placed on a low platform in the dampest place I could find, and every day one of the boys sprinkled the concrete floor in that part of the cellar with water. In a short time that paper was in prime condition, and I had no difficulty in disposing of it at remunerative rates. Blotting paper if properly manufactured will absorb from

the surrounding atmosphere just sufficient moisture to keep it in prime condition - always provided that the moisture is in the atmosphere for it to absorb. The moisture keeps the fibre open and the clay moist. Many dealers store "blot" away in the upper storeys, where the air is usually warm and dry, with the result that the fibre becomes close, the clay hard, and the "blot" is practically useless. That experience of mine has proved most valuable to me, my sales having largely increased since I have adopted this method of handling "blot." I have frequently made experiments, with the result that a 60-pound "blot" after being stored for some time in an upper flat weighed out only 52 pounds, and was dry and hard. The same paper after being treated as I have described has weighed out 64 pounds."

"OUR MONTHLY" CEASES.

"Our Monthly," the magazine published by Mr. George Moffatt for the Manufacturers' Life Insurance Co., ceases with the June number owing to the refusal of the Post Office Department to grant free carriage through the mails. The Department contended that it was an advertising scheme. Mr. Moffatt says: "I may say that a magazine similar to ours is published in Toronto by a large manufacturing firm, and doesn't pay a cent of postage. Then, again, there is a paper put out by an insurance society which doesn't make any pretension towards any kind of literary merit or anything else but advertising, and there are patent medicine sheets galore which pass the mails free. Our magazine was a bona fide literary journal of high standing, but it was not given these privileges, so we decided to discontinue."

SOMETHING NEW IN LETTER HOLDERS.

The newest letter holder for the fashionable girl's desk is in tortoise-shell. It has two compartments for the answered and unanswered letters, and is mounted in gold. On the front of this letter holder is a heart-shaped opening, beneath which is slipped the owner's most prized photograph. The heart is outlined in gold, and the holder is a convenient as well as ornamental addition to any desk.

A USEFUL HINT.

To attach leather on fancy articles mix together 2 quarts of water, 2 quarts of rye whiskey, then add 18 ounces starch powder to make a thick paste. Separately dissolve 5 ounces good white glue in 5 ounces water (by soaking it therein for some hours and then melting by gentle heat), and to this liquefied mass stir in 5 ounces Venice turpentine. Mix this compound thoroughly, and then mix the two preparations and stir until well incorporated.

SUMMER FICTION.

Six standard novels in the paper-covered series of Macmillan's Colonial Library are being sent out by the Copp, Clark Co., Ltd. They comprise Daudet's "Tartarin of Tarascon," embodying the delightful humor and satire of this charming French writer; "His Honour and a Lady," by Sara Jeanette Duncan (Mrs. Cotes), the Canadian lady now living in India, who in this book gives us some bright pictures of native and social life worked into an enjoyable story; "Casa Braccio," one of F. Marion Crawford's latest and most successful novels; and three of De Balzac's books, "The Quest of the Absolute," "The Country Doctor," and "The Atheist's Mass and Other Stories," three typical books from the pen of the great French novelist, and favorites with his readers. These Colonial Library editions are well suited to the summer fiction trade.

A NOVEL PENHOLDER.

An ingenious Frenchman has just patented an article which he terms "a hot and cold penholder." What particular service these peculiar properties are supposed to render the user does not clearly appear, but the idea is as follows: The holder consists of (1) a cylinder pierced with three small openings at its upper part, and enclosing, for winter use, a combustible carbon cylinder, or for summer, a wad of sponge or cotton impregnated with a solution of chlorohydrate of ammoniac salt; (2) a second cylinder, carrying a clip for the nib, and fitting into the first; and (3) another cylinder on ordinary paper tube to slip over the others, which serves to help the metal ones from coming into contact with the hand, and also regulates the combustion, which is said to be carried on without smoke or smell. To "start up the works" in winter time the carbon cylinder is lighted and placed in the holder; the other cylinder with the nib is slid on the latter and the paper tube is then fixed over both. In summer the chemically saturated wad just mentioned produces sufficient cold to keep the hand cool whilst using the pen.

NOVA SCOTIA NOTES.

This has been an unlucky spring for some Halifax booksellers and stationers. Knight & Co. have gone under. The assignee is selling off the stock and the business will be closed up. A. Knowles & Co. have assigned to T. C. Allen & Co. Their liabilities are fairly large and are mostly in the Upper Provinces. The business will also be closed up. Lane & Connolly have dissolved, James Lane continues the business. J. L. Connolly has gone to Ontario. T. P. Connolly has opened a general stationery store on Barrington street. E. L. Nash, Lunenburg, has effected a compromise at 25c. on the dollar.