

their proper places among the old. The advantage of the bevelled edge is this: That in whatever position the cards in the drawers may stand—inclining forward or backward—the labels are easily read. A tolerable substitute for these blocks, if the room which they occupy is grudging, may be found in cards about one-fifth of an inch higher than the title-cards in the drawers. On the projecting margin of these the labels are written, which are very conspicuous when the cards lean backward: when they do not, it is easy to give them that inclination. These projecting cards and blocks also facilitate the manipulation of the title-cards, and partially save them from wear.

CLASSED CATALOGUE, OR "INDEX OF SUBJECTS."

The great advantage of keeping the *alphabetical* catalogue of a rapidly-growing library on cards, each containing a separate title, is now generally acknowledged. What is once done correctly is done for ever; and the cards that are written from day to day can be immediately inserted in the drawers, and made available to readers from the very beginning of the work. But I am not aware that the attempt has heretofore been made in any library to provide for all who use it, a *classed* catalogue, with numerous sub-divisions, kept in the same manner on separate cards, each containing a single title, and so arranged as to enable a person to find with facility all the works in the library that relate to the subject of his inquiry.

In an alphabetical catalogue, the title, as we have seen, may often be greatly abridged. In a classed catalogue it should, if possible, retain everything that characterizes the work so far as it relates to the subject under which the title stands.

The cards used are of the same size as those employed for the catalogue of authors, and are ruled in the same manner, except that the first cross-line on the left is blue instead of red. This enables a person to distinguish at a glance the cards which belong to the two different catalogues, and thus facilitates the proper distribution in the drawers of those which are written from day to day. The two upper lines of these cards are reserved for a notation of the class and the sub-division (if any) under which the title is placed. The author's name, preceding the title, generally begins (two or three classes for special reasons being excepted) on the third line from the top, at the point where it is intersected by the second cross-line. The title is thus a permanent thing, and requires no change, whatever change may seem expedient in the designation of the class or subject. This designation in doubtful cases may be made in pencil, so that a future alteration, if required, will cost little trouble.

SPECIMEN OF A CARD.

Lang.	—	Greek.
		Gram. (Eng.)
4.33		Hadley, James. A Greek Grammar for Schools
		and Colleges. N. Y. 1860. 12mo.

The mode of indicating sub-divisions may be illustrated by taking a class which has already been referred to for a different purpose. We have in our primary alphabetical series of classes a division designated by the heading *THEOLOGY—Dogmatic*. All the cards belonging to this large class have on the first line, in the left-hand corner, the abbreviation, "Theol.—D'gm." This of course brings them altogether when they are arranged in the drawers. If the titles are those of general or comprehensive works, the second line of the card is left blank. If they relate to any particular doctrine or subject which comes under this head, the name of the subject or its abbreviation is written on the second line of the card, at the intersection made by the first cross-line on the left. Whatever is written on this second line is for convenience termed a *section*,—the word on the first line, in the left-hand corner, being the name of the *class*, which may or may not have a *branch* on the same line, separated from it by a dash.* Thus under the class *THEOLOGY*,

* It is sometimes convenient to add a secondary "branch" to the primary one. Thus, works relating to the *history* of Christian doctrines may have on the first line of the cards the heading "THEOL.—Dogm.—Hist," which of course brings them altogether as a supplement to the division "THEOLOGY—Dogmatic." The sections may also have branches like the classes; and further sub-divisions, in cases that require it, may easily be made, without violating the principle that the secondary arrangement shall form either an alphabetical or a chronological series under the primary.

branch *Dogmatic*, we have the sections *Death*, *Future Life*, *Heaven*, *Resurrection*, *Sin*, *Trinity*, &c. These sections are arranged in alphabetical order under this class and branch. Under each section, the titles belonging to it may stand in the alphabetical order of their author's names, or they may be arranged chronologically, the date being placed on the second line, in the middle, so as to strike the eye at once. The cards for the general works, which have nothing on the second line at the place for the name of the section, of course immediately precede this series of special treatises.

The annual report of the librarian of Harvard College, shows that there have been added to the library during the past year, 4,597 books and 6,200 pamphlets. The library now contains over 100,000 volumes and nearly 70,000 pamphlets. The librarian complains that Gore Hall is getting too small for the use of the library—that it is uncomfortable at the best—and urges the construction of a larger and more commodious building.

2. LIBRARIES IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

We extract the following from the last report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction:—

The number of volumes in the district libraries is reported as follows—

	Cities.	Rural districts.	Total.
In 1863.....	93,656	1,078,748	1,172,404
In 1862.....	101,104	1,225,578	1,326,682

There was expended for libraries—

	Cities.	Rural districts.	Total.
In 1863.....	\$6,365 70	\$23,099 95	\$29,465 65
In 1862.....	6,365 82	26,559 10	32,912 92

The amount expended for school apparatus was—

	Cities.	Rural districts.	Total.
In 1863.....	\$124,580 03	\$8,626 17	\$133,206 20
In 1862.....	85,968 78	8,487 40	94,456 18

The amount expended for libraries and apparatus during the past year, was \$162,671 85. (Of this sum, \$55,000 was appropriated from the income of the United States Deposit Fund. The balance, \$107,671 85, was raised by voluntary taxation in the cities and rural districts.)

The \$55,000 appropriated for libraries, was divided between the cities and rural districts, according to their population, as follows—

Cities.....	\$20,142 14
Rural districts.....	34,857 86

\$55,000 00

The number of volumes in the district libraries, in the whole State, as reported for several years, is as follows—

In 1858	1,402,253
In 1859	1,360,507
In 1860	1,286,536
In 1861	1,305,377
In 1862	1,326,682
In 1863	1,172,404

This statement shows that the reports of the trustees are not accurate; indeed, it is well understood that they seldom take pains to make them so, by counting the books belonging to their respective libraries.

Your attention is invited to the fact that the average amount apportioned to the rural districts was only \$3 05; and that the average amount reported as having been expended for the repair of old books and the purchase of new ones, was only \$2 77; a sum too small to keep a district circulating library in repair, and entirely inadequate to furnish it with new books as fast as the old ones ought to be worn out by proper use.

3. DISTRICT AND TOWNSHIP LIBRARIES IN MICHIGAN.

In his Report for 1863 the State Superintendent of Public Instruction thus refers to this matter:—In former reports, I argued at considerable length, the vital necessity and great value of these libraries, and I can only reaffirm with new emphasis, the views before presented. It must however, be confessed that the majority of the people do not seem to hold them in high esteem. Meagre sums are appropriated by the townships for their support, while in a majority of the townships the matter is neglected entirely. The interest in the libraries seems to be fitful and short-lived, both in our own and older States; and a few friends of education, yielding to a hasty and ill-considered opinion, would dispense with them entirely.

In this State, many are ready to charge the decline of the libraries to the change from township to district libraries; not remem-