

RANDOM JOTTINGS.

BY HENRY A. CHAPMAN.

The American Journal of Philately for September announces the completion of The Catalogue for Advanced Collector. This work was commenced eleven years ago with little realization of the magnitude of the labor involved. As the compilers say, they have cause to be proud, but probably they will be poorly rewarded in a monetary sense.

TELEGRAPH STAMPS AND FRANKS.—Anyone interested in telegraph stamps must be pleased with the articles which have been appearing in The American Journal of Philately from the pen of Joseph L. Rich. They show a great deal of study.

LADIES' LETTERS.—The writer in a previous article, quoted from a secular journal anent the practice of some people, ladies generally, in the matter of skipping from first to third page when writing letters, then back to second, etc. In consequence one writer classes us poor men as DENSE, another lady says SHE won't do it again, and still another takes it philosophically and laughs. The latter admits that, although it is a habit she thinks it can be called STUPID, which is one of the definitions of DENSE.

TETE-BECHE—Stamps are often put to use in an ornamental manner. During the first week in September the writer attended the Empire State Philatelic convention. Among the souvenirs given away were square cards printed in colors, with the one-penny carmine tete-beche pair of Grenada. Of course "Compliments of William A. McDonnell, Charter Member, No. 1" was in evidence.

A CORRECTION.—In a previous article the writer was mistakenly made to say that there was no such place as Moline, Ind., when he in-

tended to remark that probably no pre-cancelled stamp had appeared from that locality. Moline, Ill., has had a pre-cancelled stamp and by this time perhaps Moline, Ind., has followed suit.

UNSTAMPED LETTERS.—According to a foreign correspondent, as a result of carelessness, poor gum and other causes, quantities of letters are yearly posted in England without stamps and the value of those found lying around loose amounts to \$1,500 yearly.

MINOR VARIETIES.—From the number of varieties which daily come to hand, it would seem that as a result of the South African war enough errors in surcharging alone will be found to make a South African War Album, for them a necessity. A writer in Ewen's Weekly Stamp News gives thirty varieties of V. R. I. surcharges. There are ten values, of which there have been three printings. He gives a table showing 27 possible varieties of Punctuation, and he already has nine of them. Then there are the different styles of types to be considered, broken letters, light and dark inkings, etc. The new 2½d. "Orange River" on Cape also shows several varieties. If it comes to the point that 25 or 30 varieties of every stamp issued are to be considered it will drive many collectors out of the fuel—perhaps.

A QUEER LETTER BOX.—In reading the report of the work of the Natal Post Office by the postmaster-general an amusing account appears of where a native servant unversed in pillar box uses was given letters to post and dropped them down the nearest drain. It is a common thing in this country to see people who consider themselves "toney" make vain attempts to post their letters in fire alarm boxes, etc.