

STAMP DEPARTMENT.

(We will be pleased to answer any questions which readers of this journal may send. To benefit all is the aim of this department.)

During the month of August stamp societies hold their annual conventions, and a right jolly time the members make it. In Canada the Dominion Philatelic Association will hold their first convention at the Toronto Fair on Wednesday and Thursday of the second week. This will be the first Canadian convention for several years.

The publisher of the *Canadian Philatelic Magazine* (Toronto) intends issuing a weekly stamp paper regularly. In the States there are several such papers, and in Canada one ought to be a success.

New issues still continue coming out. They please some collectors and others they do not, the latter objecting to the amount of money it takes to 'keep up,' while the former are pleased because unused issues present such a handsome appearance in their virgin state, unmarred by cancellations, etc.

In the near future we may present our readers with some of the types of new stamps as issued from time to time. We aim to make this department interesting to every collector, and while many discontinue their hobby during the hot season they will be at it again in the fall and winter. If any, no matter whether young or old, desire information, we will be only too pleased to reply.

The Toronto Fair this year will have exhibits from a few dealers, and no doubt they will attract much attention from those who visit the Exhibition.

Some time ago we announced that Greece has issued a new set of stamps to commemorate the Olympian Games held at Athens, and also chronicled the different values of issue. At that time some speculators had bought up the 60 lepta value, and collectors lacking this stamp in their set had to pay a good figure to get it. Such an outcry was raised that the Grecian Government issued this value again (the stamps did not sell anything like what was expected, owing to their being 'tabooed' by the leading dealers throughout the world) in order to dispose of their remaining stock in sets, but, according to those who have seen them, the printers who turned out the job must have been colour-blind, as the stamps are different. Collectors should be wary of most new issues,

as they are simply got up to fleece collectors.

Some people wonder what becomes of all the old stamps dealers are continually hunting for and advertising. There is not a city of any size throughout the world that has not within its borders one or more dealers, and each of these dealers has his own customers in that city and in other places. For instance, some dealers cater to local trade only; others do a mail trade, receiving often fifty letters a day from everywhere. The mail of one Toronto dealer recently in one day produced letters and cards from Russia, Germany, France, Belgium, Chili, Argentine Republic, England, Austria, Italy, Spain, either asking for price lists, containing orders for stamps, or offering stamps for sale, and every day there are many letters from Canada and the States.

Some sharp person recently visited a number of residents in the western portion of the city, having in hand a fine 'steel engraving,' and taking orders for same at 25 cents each. Many unsuspecting householders gave an order, thinking they would receive a duplicate of what the agent had in his hand. Their surprise and indignation may be imagined on their receiving same week an unused three-cent stamp of Her Majesty. PHILATELY.

Andrew Lang's little volume of verse, "The Grass of Parnassus," is one of the best of books to take with one on a lazy summer vacation. His lines have the soothing sway that can best be hearkened to lying in the woods with the sun falling through the leaves and chequering the page with light and shadow, and his translations are exquisite. Listen to his reaping song:—

"Mowers weary and brown and blythe,
What is the word that methinks ye know?
Endless overword, that the scythe
Sings to the blades of grass below,
Hush, ah, hush! the scythes are saying;
Hush and heed not, fall asleep;
Hush! they say to the grasses swaying,
Hush! they sing to the clover deep.
Hush!—'tis the melody Time is singing;
Hush and heed not, all things pass;
Hush, ah, hush! and the scythes are
swinging
Over the clover, over the grass.

In this one seems to hear the long sweep of the scythe, the whispering of the breeze in the long grasses, to see the mowers toiling at their work. Other lays, too, he has for those who prefer them, stirring battle pieces, songs of love and of sorrow, tiny gems of folk lore or delightfully humorous poems. Indeed, all that this author has ever written is well worth reading. NORA HOLLAND.

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To the hundreds of ladies who have written for the treatise on Dr. Good's female health pills, we return compliments and thanks for their confidence. We want thousands to send for it this month. It is as delicately and truthfully written as any lady could desire. This space does not afford room, nor a ladies journal the proper medium for explaining the contents of Dr. Good's treatise.

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