

ODD POSTAGE STAMP DESIGNS.

TO start with I may take the three countries which have copies of their Great Seal on their stamps, viz.: New South Wales, Nevis and St. Vincent. The New South Wales stamps are the celebrated Sydney views about which there has been so much discussion. The Nevis design is on the first issue of their stamps and is symbolical of the healing virtues of their mineral baths, for which the Island is celebrated. Over some of the springs a magnificent hotel named the bath house has been erected, and the grounds around laid out in gardens. Another spring issues from the side of a very large rock, forms a large pool and runs in quiet a large stream to the sea-shore. This is supposed to be the one illustrated on the stamps. The St. Vincent stamp referred to is the 5 shilling one, having an upright figure holding a branch in one hand, in front an altar with a kneeling female holding a wreath, above an imperial crown and the motto "Pax et Justitia." The figures I do not think are symbolical of the motto. Another odd stamp is the Reunion 1852 issue; a rather narrow rectangular stamp, with Ile de la Reunion above, the centre composed of underlaced lines looking much like the tale pieces of chapters in very old books, at the bottom "Timb Post" 15c. or 30c. as the value may be. A genuine used stamp of this issue is said to be worth \$50. What are called reprints are sold unused for \$1.00. The genuine stamps are printed on very poor paper and small bits of straw can be seen in it.

The 6 kop, 1864, Russian Levant enjoys the distinction of being the largest stamp used to pay postage. The first issue of Natal are of not so peculiar a design as they are in make, being merely embossed on colored paper. The Virgin Islands carry out their name (or rather they did) on their first stamps having the image of a virgin in various styles on all the values.

NOTES.

The Youth's Ledger has appeared in a new dress and Magazine style, it is needless to say that it improves it very much.

The Hawkeye State Collector is now issued weekly, a new departure for a Philatelic journal.

WE have received from the publisher, F. Trifet, of Boston, the April No. of his paper, the *Galaxy of Music*. The contents of it are very interesting to the musical critic, who especially commended the adaption of Gounod's "Margarethe" by Louis C. Elson.

The Toronto Phil. Journal for April has a cut of F. J. Grenny and sketch of his life. The balance of the number is Composed of official reports. It is to be hoped that in time we shall see some reading matter of interest.

The Philatelic Gazette has a very seasonable article on foreign correspondents, and what you are likely to get from many of them, it is worthy of careful reading.