

is being fed until it threatens not merely to eat up the bookseller's business, but to effect injuriously the character of young people. The taxes of the municipality are being employed to stimulate the taste for fiction.

There is the other side to the question. In many quarters it is contended that the public library is good for trade, in that it induces people to buy books. To increase knowledge is also a good thing for the community. Both these arguments we consider sound, and they might be amplified if we had space to do so. The libraries are here to stay, and when large cities like Toronto get for librarians a scholarly, thoroughly posted and intelligent bookman like Mr. James Bain, jr., the community benefits. The booksellers in all Canadian cities and towns, however, are entitled to keep a watchful eye upon the free library idea to see that it does not encroach upon the regular trade. The purchase of too many copies of any one new book is hardly justifiable.

MR. DRYSDALE'S POINTED QUESTION.

Booksellers throughout Canada, who have watched the trade being diverted from its legitimate channels by "clubs" and other hooks baited with the most alluring of flies, "Something for Nothing," will read the following letter from Wm. Drysdale, of Montreal, with grim satisfaction:

MONTREAL, February, 1898.

Editor New York Publisher's Weekly—
Dear Sir: We desire to call attention to the letter below, written evidently to order, and used that one firm may benefit at the expense of the general trade:

NEW YORK, Dec. 30, 1897.

The Union Library Association, New York City.

GENTLEMEN.—In the course of the past two years I have had frequent occasion to buy books of your Association, and I wish to say that I have been very much surprised at the low prices at which you sell books. Some of the discounts from the regular prices which I have obtained are really startling in amount.

In order to fully test your prices, I recently selected a dozen standard publications and submitted a list of them to four of the largest bookselling establishments in New York, including a department store, a second-hand establishment, and two regular bookstores. My list aggregated at retail prices \$63.75, and the best offer I got from any of the four sources was \$47.75, more than double your price, for I bought them of your Association for \$22.47. My list was selected from different departments of literature, and I regard it as a good test of the saving that may be made by buying of the Association.

Knowing the management and workings of the Association as I do, I fully recommend book buyers to become members of it.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE H. WARNER.

Now, we do not object to the competition arising from this house, but we claim that, in justice to the book trade, Mr. Warner should go a step further and give us the names of this selected list from different departments of literature which aggregated \$63.75. There could also be no objection to his furnishing the names of the four largest bookselling establishments in New York from whom he received quotations, the best offer being \$47.75, more than double the price asked by the firm he seeks to boom. The information should be fur-

nished that the trade may judge of the value of such statements. "The World's Best Literature"* is not usually slaughtered to the extent named.

WM. DRYSDALE.

The Union Library Association's reply unfortunately does not contain the information asked for by Mr. Drysdale.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9, 1898.

Editor New York Publisher's Weekly—
Dear Sir. Referring to a letter from one Wm. Drysdale in the current issue of The Publisher's Weekly, we beg to say that it is not our desire to enter into a controversy with this person, but he or anyone else may see the list of quotations by calling upon Mr. Warner. The books were selected by Mr. Warner, from one catalogue, at our regular catalogue prices.

Very truly yours,

THE UNION LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

BUSINESS MEN IN PUBLIC LIFE.

The value of having business men in public positions is demonstrated by recent events in the municipal arena of Galt. The absurdity of having in public life a strong element which is not too businesslike to thwart business efforts is also on evidence in the same town. Councillor J. K. Cranston, of Galt, has been moving in certain matters of interest to the merchants. The municipal enactments against tie-posts for the horses of country customers, against all display by merchants outside shop doors, and against projecting signs, have caused inconvenience to trade. Mr. Cranston felt compelled, in one particular, to ask that as long as signs do not project more than 3 feet and are not lower than 13 feet above the level of the sidewalk, they should be allowed. The small representation given to merchants in the council approved this and other efforts. But the rest of the council voted it down. That is the way most business requests will be met until merchants realize that their interests demand a larger voice in council, Legislature and Parliament. Mr. Cranston, if as courageous as he is public-spirited, will continue the agitation until he wins.

We have received the following letter from a subscriber:

"We still think there is a place for legitimate bookselling in Canada, and our book trade is steadily increasing. We look for your excellent journal every month and find it very useful. Your editorials are generally 'just right.'"

This is not printed merely to gratify editorial vanity, but merely as an evidence that we appreciate the friendliness of readers. BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER desires to be of benefit to the trade, and the more they make use of its columns the better we shall be pleased.

* Mr. Warner is associate editor of "The World's Best Literature," published by Chas. Dudley Warner.

LATE LONDON NOTES.

A NEW WEEKLY—THE FORTHCOMING BOOKS IN FICTION—MISS DUNCAN'S (MRS. COTES') BOOK—A NOVEL ABOUT JAMAICA.

LONDON, Feb. 26, 1898.

THE outlook is a new weekly journal, something on the lines of The Saturday Review and The Speaker. One of its editors is Mr. P. A. Hurd, of The Chronicle staff and cable correspondent of The Montreal Star. The publishing office is at 109 Fleetstreet, E.C., and the price of each issue is 3d. It is going to devote special attention to colonial affairs.

NEW FICTION.

Mr. George Ohnet's forthcoming novel is called "The King of Paris," and will deal with a recent society scandal that set two continents talking.

Mr. Robert Buchanan's new story, "The Rev. Annabel Lee," which Messrs. C. Arthur Pearson have in hand for early publication, is likely to cause considerable discussion in religious circles. The author states that his object in writing this novel is to show that if all religions were destroyed, and perfect material prosperity arrived at, humanity would reach not perfection but stagnation.

Miss Braddon's new novel, "Rough Justice," just published by Messrs. Simpkin & Co., deals with modern life in London, and opens with the return from the South African gold fields of a young man who has been lost sight of by friends and relatives during a course of years.

Among other new novels, just out or about to appear, by authors whose works circulate largely in Canada, may be mentioned: "A Forgotten Sin," by Dorothea Gerard, (Blackwood); "Plain Living: a bush idyll," by Rolfe Boldrewood, (Macmillan); "The Lady Charlotte," by Adeline Sergeant, (Hutchison); "Poor Max," by the authoress of "A Yellow Aster," (Mrs. Mannington Caffyn), published by Hutchison. Max Pemberton's "Phantom Army" will not appear till the autumn in book form.

Mrs. Steele, the gifted authoress of "On the Face of the Waters" and other Indian stories, is now re-visiting India. She is at present staying at Lucknow, where she is acquiring material for her new book, which it is understood will deal with the plague and the famine which have recently been causing such havoc in our eastern dependency.

"A Voyage of Consolation" is the title of a new novel by Sara Jeanette Duncan, which will be published by Messrs. Methuen very shortly. It describes the pilgrimage of an American girl on the Continent in the style familiar to those who have read the author's "An American Girl in London." The book contains eight full-page illustrations by Robert Sauber.