

STATIONERY

MONTHLY TRADE SUMMARY.

SCHOOL supplies are the main feature in the trade at present, and the season of 1901 will not be behind any of its predecessors in the volume of business handled. Indeed, there are indications that it will be a record breaker. Orders are being filled by the jobbing houses with as much dispatch as possible. The Toronto houses have, of course, been handicapped somewhat, owing to a lack of proper facilities, but under the circumstances they are covering the field excellently.

There is at present a heavy demand noticeable for writing tablets, and the Fall business in papeteries is opening up with excellent prospects. There is to be noted a growing tendency to place on the market Canadian-made papeteries. Some of the goods being manufactured to-day in this country certainly compare favorably with the bulk of imported articles.

As regards the paper supply, a prominent paper dealer stated that the paper industry is at present in a flourishing condition. To use his own words, "It is safe to say that very few mills are idle at the present moment. Whereas at this time last year many mills were working on stock, at present all are busy on orders. This all points to the necessity for more and better mills. In fact, we expect to operate a new one some time next month."

UNITED STATES PAPER MARKET.

ALL grades of paper are a little weak because of the poor demand due to midsummer dullness. As a rule, though, prices are held quite firmly, as the manufacturers realize that cutting their prices will not do much good. Any cutting of prices that is going on is being done by the smaller mills, that cannot fall back on contract orders or run on stock sizes. These mills are in most cases selling under the market price, though in doing so the owners are not making any money.

SOME GERMAN NOVELTIES.

A NEW cleanser for slates is made of wood in the shape of a U. It can be slipped over the frame of the slate, where it is held by means of a spring. The outside sides and end of the cleanser are covered with thick felt. The end piece takes the place of a sponge, and the side pieces are reserved for drying the slate.

A new device for making envelopes more secure against attempts of indiscreet people has been introduced. It consists of an ornamental gummed paper star, which is stuck over the point of the closing flap. The ornamentation is provided by a perforated design underlaid with colored tissue paper. It is claimed that the latter would tear were an attempt made to clandestinely remove the star. To make steaming of the letter without detection impossible, the coloring matter in the tissue paper is of such a nature that the slightest amount of moisture will cause it to run.

German stationers have taken up a new article for horticulturists. It consists of waterproof paper bags for the protection of rose trees and the like against frost.

Since then the idea has been carried further, and now a large business is being done in similar but perforated bags for pears, apples, and grapes. There are even large perforated sheets to take the place of nets which protect fruit trees trained on walls or trellis against birds.

Paper fly-catchers are made in three different styles, and consist of cardboard boxes containing scented bird-lime, besides a rolled paper tape. The end of the latter is drawn out through a slit in the side of the box and comes to light covered with the sticky substance. As soon as it is black with flies it is simply cut off and a further length pulled out. One such fly-catcher contains material sufficient for a whole season.

Mother-of-pearl paper and cardboard are new materials for the first time introduced at the last Spring fair in Leipzig, Germany. The paper or cardboard is in the first instance colored brightly on one side only, and then tiny scales of mother-of-pearl, closely placed together, are securely stuck all over it, only allowing a little of the colored foundation to become visible where the scales do not quite meet. It shines, however, through the very thin scales, thus considerably adding to their natural brilliancy. This new material is of highly decorative effect, and will, in the form of cardboard, for instance, be found useful for picture mounting, and in the manufacture of greeting cards or fancy cardboard boxes.

Another novelty is the cloud paper. In the manufacture of this material some very fine short fibre, like cut cotton, is dyed and then deposited on paper of a different color. As the fibre floats on to the only half-finished paper, there are never two pieces alike, and the effect produced is mostly that of more or less massive clouds. These effects can be varied to any extent by the employment of differently colored fibres for the same paper, in which case the finished material often resembles stone-like granite, malachite, marble, etc. White fibre on dark paper and vice versa, however, produces most realistic cloud pictures. This paper has already been used for envelopes and for bookbinding purposes, and it is sure to become very popular.

Where pins are used in offices and warehouses some delay is often caused if they have to be picked out of boxes, but they can easily be got at if kept in a newly introduced glass tray specially constructed for the purpose. The bottom of this tray is curved as if it were constructed of a bent strip of cardboard or metal, and it rises at either end to the edge of the receptacle.

Ever since quite a fortune was made by the lucky individual who hit on the good idea of providing pencils with a piece of india-rubber at the end, various pencil attachments have from time to time appeared on the scene. The latest is a twine cutter of very simple but effective construction, which no doubt will be found very useful in certain trades.

There is also a new self-closing ink well, very cleverly constructed, but not much good for practical purposes. The user is expected to press with the little finger of his right hand on a lever which causes the lid over the well to slide back, and while that finger is thus occupied the pen has to be dipped in the ink, as the lid closes again as soon as the lever is released.