

those of the Empire, and lastly, with the establishment of the present republic, we find that the old design, with the head of the Goddess of Liberty, has been re-issued; we also learn who is the ruler of the country by the head which appears on the stamps, as in Great Britain and her colonies, showing the head of the Queen, and if there have been several rulers, we usually see them all represented, as in the cases of Portugal, Servia, etc.

III. Knowledge of foreign languages and money.

From the inscriptions found on stamps we obtain a slight knowledge of the language of the country, and get to know the money, its foreign value, and its foreign name; and if ever travelling in a foreign land, what can be more necessary than an accurate knowledge of the value of its money.

IV. Neatness and carefulness.

Now in a collection of stamps, care must be taken so that the specimens may be arranged neatly, and this gives to the owner, orderly and correct habits. Some stamps, of entirely different issues, are so much alike that it requires some trouble to distinguish them one from the other; or sometimes the name of the country is not mentioned in the inscription (as the stamps of Austria, first emissions of Brazil etc.,) and much time is taken before it is discovered. In these instances care is required, and when it is made use of, the collection will have such an appearance of beauty, that not only will the casual observer be pleased, but the owner will have his reward, in looking over his book at any odd time that may hang heavily upon him; while an untidy album soon disgusts the observer, and tires the owner by its sight, and he will take the first opportunity of ridding himself of it.

V. Exactness.

The many forgeries of valuable stamps that exist, teach the collector an extreme

exactness of eye, the differences from the genuine often being very minute.

With so many prominent advantages, I am not at all surprised that stamp collecting should be so universal as it is at present; and I am certain that it will be found in every way useful to those who engage in it.

[The above is the first article that we have received from any of our Canadian amateurs, and although there are many advantages to be derived from philately, not therein enumerated, yet as a first attempt at essay writing, it does infinite credit to its author. We would say to each of our subscribers "go thou and do likewise."—Ed. C. P.]

Reviews.

Descriptive Price Catalogue of Government Postage Stamps.—WILLIAM P. BROWN; New York. 3rd. Edition, 1872:—

This is as the author claims the most complete price catalogue published in America, but we would go further, and say that it is the most complete published in the English language. It is well printed, mentions watermarks, shades, and perforations and is brought up to such a recent date as to include the new issues of Ceylon, Mexico etc. This being a list of *government* stamps, locals, very properly, are not included; but we think it a mistake to omit post cards, and the reason Mr. Brown gives for doing so, has no force whatever. The money table is very correct, and the Stamp Dealers Directory will, we have no doubt, be found useful. If we might suggest an improvement for future editions, it would be to adopt the European system of numbering the stamps of each country, this would make it almost perfect; however it is well worth the small sum asked and should be in every collector's hands.