

Periodicals along with the "Methodist Magazine" are under the editorial management of Dr. Withrow, whose name and fame as an author needs no commendation from us, and is a sufficient guarantee of their merit.

Although so many new publications have been added to the periodical list, the circulation of the "Guardian" has steadily increased from the beginning and it stands to day in the front rank of the Religious weeklies of the Dominion. Its Editors, Doctors Dewart, and Stone, are well known to the newspaper world as strong and vigorous writers on all subjects coming within their range, and the "Guardian" is sure to retain all the influence it has so repeatedly shown itself to possess in days gone by, and strengthen any cause that it may support.

As the Establishment does its own printing, binding, stereotyping and electrotyping, it has been found necessary at different periods to increase its space, which to a great extent has been done by re-arranging the interior, and adding another flat to its buildings for the purpose of making room for new machinery and material as well as to allow of the employment of additional hands. In fact, during the past year a new engine and two additional printing presses of the most improved pattern as well as additional machinery for the bindery and stereotype foundry had to be added in order that the work in hand could be got through. Their premises are now very complete, and fully equipped for performing any work in their line, in a prompt and satisfactory manner. We cannot refrain in this connection from giving briefly an idea of the amount of publishing done by the Establishment during the past year. We are indebted to the Book-Steward's report for the figures and do not include their regular periodicals. The number of books and pamphlets printed were 245,023 representing 31,071,070 pages. This number embraced such works as Stanley's "Through the Dark Continent," Withrow's "History of Canada," "Bits from Blinkbonny" by John Strathesk "Honest John Stallibras" by Rev. J. Jackson Wray, "Legends and Tales" by Mrs. Lauder, "Jock Halliday," "Aldersyde," "Studies in John," "Biblical Difficulties," "Wealth to Poverty," "Gospel to the Poor," "Methodist Hymn Books," "Music Books and their Companions," Sunday School and Ministers' Requisites, as well as Tracts, Catechisms, Class Books, Discipline and other necessaries too numerous to mention. The number printed was an increase of 35,000 over the figures of the previous year. The number of books bound during the year was 211,714, an increase of 15,000 over the previous year.

In the Sales Department the same marked increase is shown that characterized the rest of the Establishment, the sales last year in spite of the severe monetary stringency showing a large increase over any previous year. The stock is perhaps the largest of its kind in the Dominion, special attention being paid to Theological and Sunday School literature. They are in constant communication with all the prominent publishing houses of England, Scotland and the United States, receive soon as issued, all the latest books and do business largely on the cash basis. This puts them in a position to secure the best rates and discounts, as well as to have the newest works in the market with the least possible delay. Mr. Briggs pays particular attention to the

buying, attends the different Book Sales and personally visits the most prominent firms. Their large stock is being continually renewed with the best and the choicest books in their line. A traveller has recently been sent on the road with a full line of samples.

The internal management of the different departments is in efficient and well-tried hands, in fact, a perfect system pervades the whole establishment.

INSECTS IN BOOKS.

A SIMPLE METHOD OF DESTROYING INSECTS WHICH ATTACK BOOKS AND MSS.

The following paper on this subject was read by Sir Thomas Phillipps, Bart., when the British Association, met at Liverpool:—"My library being infested with insects, particularly *Anobia*, I have for some time turned my attention to the modes of destroying them, in the course of which I observed that the larva of these beetles does not seek the paper for food, nor the leather, but the paste. To prevent their attacks, therefore, in future bound books, the paste used should be mixed up with a solution of corrosive sublimate, or, indeed, with any other poisonous ingredient. But to catch the perfect insects themselves I adopt the following plan: *Anobium striatum* commonly deposits its ova in beech wood, and is more partial, apparently, to that than any other wood. I have beech planks cut, and smear them over, in summer, with pure fresh paste (i. e., not containing anything poisonous); I then place them in different parts of the library, where they are not likely to be disturbed, the beetles flying about the room in summer time readily discover these pieces of wood, and soon deposit their eggs in them. In winter (chiefly) the larva is produced, and about January, February, and March, I discover what pieces of wood contain any larvæ, by the sawdust lying under the planks, or where it is thrown up in hillocks on the top of them. All the wood which is attacked is then burnt for firewood; by this simple method I have nearly extirpated *Anobia* from my library. I am of opinion that a single specimen in a book of an impregnated female will soon destroy any volume should it remain undisturbed. There are also two other kinds of beetle in my library; one is a small brown beetle, and is probably a *Tomicus*, or some closely allied species. The second species was imported from Darmstadt, or Frankfort-on-the-Maine. It is six times larger than the former, of a black colour, with white spots or stripes, and belongs to one of the modern genera of *curculionidæ*. It appears to be partial to books bound in oak boards; it is not abundant, but very destructive."

The reading of the paper was followed by a discussion, in which Mr. Curtis suggested the employment of turpentine, as the effect of corrosive sublimate, and other poisonous substances, only lasted a short time, and stained the leather. The chairman, Mr. Macleay, remarked on the effects produced by Dermestes in his library in Cuba. It was probable that the insects which attacked the paper were different from those which attacked the paste, the former being *acari*, and the latter small coleopterous insects. He had found no method of preservation so effectual as to give the books a free current of air, and for