

necessity of supplements. The entries upon the cards are arranged exactly as they would be in a printed page, except that they come *behind* instead of *below* each other as one reads on. It would take perhaps half an hour to master the principles upon which the catalogue has been compiled. Yet apparently not a few *habitués* of a library never rise above a somewhat hazy conviction that the catalogue is a kind of post office. Those who surmount this error, but find themselves unable to remove and present at the desk the card which represents the book they are in quest of, are fain to give up the whole thing as a device, not of the cataloguer, but of one who is held in much more universal abhorrence,—and treat it accordingly.

Yet it is inevitable that a catalogue representing even fifty thousand volumes should, in the nature of things, be to some extent complex. To do no more than hint at a question of alphabetizing. The name "John" has been borne not only by the apostle, and the Baptist, but by a saint, by popes, emperors, kings, electors, dukes, artists, philosophers, chroniclers and other authors and so on. Obviously some arbitrary arrangement for these Jacks of all trades must be chosen. An order frequently adopted is similar to that given above:—Apostles, saints, popes, emperors, kings, leaving the lesser dignitaries to fall in as they may. But matters are still complicated by the circumstance that though all these worthies have answered to a common name, they have had the bad taste to spell it in a great variety of languages. Then, too, books are written under assumed names, and sometimes an author uses several of these. In such a case there will be references from each pseudonym to the real name of the writer in order that all the different titles may appear together. Further, there is a tendency on the part of the ladies (which it must be admitted the men do not strongly disapprove) to change their names; and this they do not infrequently in the intervals of authorship—a proceeding which entails fresh references in the catalogue. And still there remain books published anonymously, books issued by governments, by societies, books written by commoners who have since been raised to peers, by persons with compound names, like Baring-Gould, with names beginning with a prefix, and so on through a list far too long to enumerate. A good catalogue will, of course, by suitable references, make all such cases perfectly clear without other assistance than may be found in the catalogue itself: it must be evident, however, that a certain amount of familiarity with the principles upon which a catalogue is compiled, will save much time in using it, and is worth acquiring. Arrangement upon the shelves, or as it is technically called "Classification," is a matter that less affects most readers than does the catalogue. Only those who have access to the shelves need trouble themselves with it. Yet classification is no simple thing in a library of any size. The practice of grouping together books on the same subject involves, if additions are to be made, a system with many subdivisions, too many to be readily memorized. Nevertheless, since the divisions are generally denoted by letters, or figures, and follow one another in alphabetic, or numerical order, as the case may be, it is not difficult once the principle of arrangement has been mastered, to find one's way in almost any well ordered