

### A Lesson from the Fair.

So many readers of this magazine have visited the late Columbian Exposition and of course the stamp exhibit in the Government building, that it is unnecessary to give any minute description of the philatelic display.

The one point we wish to mention is in regard to the arrangement of the vast collection. By this we do not mean the manner in which the frames containing stamps of the several countries are arranged, for this is very poor, some cases being ten or twelve feet above the floor, while others, so low, would be passed unnoticed by the ordinary visitor. But let us not find fault on this account, as that was probably done to economize space.

We refer to the arrangement of the single stamps themselves; mounted on paper prettily covered with artistic hand-painted designs. Of course, few of us can decorate our albums with hand painting, but we can arrange the stamps neatly and thus add much to the beauty of our collections.

How many of us in examining the collections of young philatelists have praised the variety or perhaps the rarity of the stamps, but felt constrained to condemn or be silent when asked our opinion of the arrangement.

Many of the countries represented at the Fair by their stamps have small native scenes painted on their exhibits making them look much more attractive than a plain row of stamps. Other nations have neat and simple designs.

Small stamp exhibits were to be found in nearly every building on the grounds. These are also arranged quite neatly and show considerable thought on the part of those who originated the designs. Among the best exhibits of stamps in the

Government building were those of the United States, Great Britain and Colonies, Peru, Japan, Argentine Republic, Ecuador, etc.

So many articles have been written on the general description of the stamp exhibit that it is useless to undertake such, but if there is any one lesson to be learned from the philatelic display it is that of careful classification and arrangement.

A. B. RICE.

### Postal Card Collecting.

What is to my mind one of philately's most interesting branches, and one which has assumed surprisingly large dimensions of late years, is postal card collecting.

This incidental fad or hobby will soon reach its zenith among American collectors; gradually, as if by magic, philatelists are grasping all the new ideas and arrangement of postal card collections that will perpetuate the advancing theories of the postage stamp collector, and certainly no line in philately offers a more inducive and tempting advantage than the postal card.

Since collecting has found such a stronghold among American collectors, it has gradually increased with each succeeding year, in such a manner which shows a lasting and permanent resort for the many collectors who find pleasure in this promising amusement.

We can find but few collectors, and also dealers of postal cards of twenty years standing, yet to-day the host of postal card collectors only serves to demonstrate the rapid advancement of part of our science.

From one point of beauty, postal cards are even superior to stamps, more so, when in an unused state. The price of postal cards is but little higher than that