

Among the Magazines.

Holly decorations, Christmas stories, timely suggestions for Christmas gifts, are some of the significant warnings given by the magazines to the effect that old Kris Kringle will, soon, once more be on his rounds in his stocking-filling quest. Before the next issue of *The Review* appears we will have begun to date our letters "1913," so the Magazine Reviewer takes this opportunity to wish his readers a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are accustomed to receive *Scientific American* in plain black and white, but, occasionally, the publishers depart from this austerity and enhance the usual attractiveness of the magazine with a colored cover design. The design, as a rule, depicts some picturesque phase of industrial life; and, as the execution of the cover designs has, in every case so far, been masterly, we hope that the publishers will continue their "lenient" policy. In a recent number of *Scientific* we read of a labor-saving device which would be a valuable addition to any reference library. It is a photographic device which delivers within a few minutes a duplicate of a design or drawing, or of a page of a magazine or book, thereby saving one the onerous task of transcribing long passages or copying cuts, not to mention the saving in time.

It appears that *Saturday Night* has been criticizing our Civil Service in the performance or, as *Saturday Night* would have it, in the mis-performance of its work. To this criticism *The Civilian* vigorously objects, declaring that the cause of the inefficiency, which sometimes crops up in the Service, is not to be imputed to the Service itself, but to the patronage system, according to which not a few civilians receive appointments. A case in point is cited. A financial department needed a man of certain educational qualifications for its outside service. A Patronage Committee of 35 men disputed about the appointment, and when they could not agree upon a nominee, they cleverly decided that the department did not need a man. It developed that the Committee did not know the nature of the office to which they were about to make an appointment. Finally a bricklayer, without education, or any previous financial training, was nominated to the vacant position. If this case is authentic and, as the article claims, typical, the Civil Service of Canada certainly has a grievance.

The Missionary contains, in its November issue, a short poem in memory of Fr. Doyle from the pen of Maurice Francis Egan,