

any; Vice-President, Alvah Davison; Treasurer, N. W. Chandles; Secretary, C. W. Kissinger; International Secretary, W. C. Stone; Librarian, H. E. Deats; Counterfeit Detector, J. W. Scott.

Wise and Otherwise

Did you ever think what a great deal perseverance had to do with the making of a stamp collection. More especially is this the case with varieties. Possibly the recently passed summer months have found you spending your vacation in some quiet, half-forgotten, corner in the country. Did you sound the rustics there about your philatelic treasures, or did you let fishing and swimming and the general enjoyment of country life take all thoughts of your stamp collection out your head? If you did, I think I am safe in saying that you are the loser. Old stamps in greater or lesser quantities are turning up in the most unexpected places, and the collector that keeps an eye open for the vacant places in his album and also for varieties will not be without reward for his perseverance.

"Dry as statistics" is quite a common similitude, and I don't like inflicting many figures on my readers for this reason, but I ran across some information the other day that set me thinking. The approximate number of letters and post-cards transmitted annually in the mails of European countries is as

follows:—Great Britain and Ireland, 1,500,000,000; Germany, 1,200,000,000; France, 700,000,000; Austrian Hungary, 100,000,000; Italy, 250,000,000; Russia, 300,000,000; Belgium, 130,000,000; Spain, 120,000,000; Switzerland, 100,000,000; Netherlands, 100,000; Sweden, 400,000,000. The people of our own country write and post 129,000,000 letters in a year, while Uncle Sam's sixty-nine million population send 3,800,000,000 pieces of mail matter of all kinds, which averages about one piece a week for every man, woman and child. Some thirteen billion pieces of mail matter are about the annual figures for the entire world divided into eight billions of letters and five billions of other matter. When we consider that we are scarcely over celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of postal reform, we can have a better appreciation of the tremendous magnitude of these figures. It is probable that Rowland Hill's wildest dreams of the possibilities of his invention would not have reached one-tenth of what are facts and figures to-day, and the end is not yet. Philately will certainly not die out for want of material.

To Advertisers.

A mosquito would make a good advertiser, because he is not satisfied with one insertion.