

to pick out the cruel nettle-stings and thistles." The pendant to this, which may be found in Mrs. Burns' account of the circumstances connected with 'the writing of To Mary in Heaven, is infinitely touching. She told how, on a frosty autumn evening after a day spent in harvest work, he appeared, as the twilight deepened, to grow "very sad about something," and she found him slowly striding up and down the barnyard contemplating the sky, which was singularly clear and starry. When he entered the house he immediately wrote the verses exactly as they now stand, as if copying from memory—

"Thou lingering star, with lessening ray."

Nation.

LEDGER PAPERS.

As a result of the marvellous development of manufacturing, mercantile, and agricultural enterprises in this country the consumption of writing papers has become a business, the magnitude of which is little realized outside of the paper trade, and with this increasing demand for quantity, has also followed the requirement of a better quality. Especially has this been the case as regards that class of papers known as ledger papers, used for the varied forms of blank books. To produce these papers having the numerous points to suit the varied uses, tastes and requirements that the scribe, as book-keeper, secretary, clerk, etc., deems essential, calls for a knowledge on the part of the papermaker of chemistry, to compound his material, of mechanics to form his sheet to that uniform thickness and body so important in a blank book—and withal an artistic eye and touch whereby to judge of the finished production.

Book-keepers may well be critical, from the fact that the body and surface of the sheet, if in any manner defective, can but annoy and distract the mind from the subject matter of the entry, to the mechanical difficulties encountered.

A soft spongy sheet, or a glaring, glossy surface, which once broken by a necessary erasure will not admit of re-writing, are common defects.

Another important quality the paper used in account and manuscript books should possess (and this is one often lost sight of in ordering books made) is strength of fibre to withstand the repeated handling to which they are daily subjected.

Papers called ledger papers, water marked linen, etc., and having the thickness and appearance of a good article are plenty in the markets and are often used, but when made into books, brought into daily use in the counting-house or general office and there has been entered upon them accounts, titles, deeds, etc., invaluable as evidence in reference to values, ownership, etc., they become yellow, tender, the leaves get loose, break off from the back, and then is realized that the saving of a shilling or two in the cost of a book was poor economy.

The requisite ability, knowledge, and skill to produce uniformly a ledger paper possessing all the qualities needed for long use and wear, a paper which, when put into a book and containing valuable records can be depended upon as durable for reference for generations yet to come, comes only from long experience in this special line of manufacture.

Many manufacturing Stationers continue to use hand-made papers, and with good reason; for there

is always a demand for account books, which are ordered year by year, price and quality as before; but machine-made papers have improved so much in quality during recent years that the demand is steadily increasing and their strength and durability cannot be denied. There is room for both classes of paper, for there are customers who will not change either the make, watermark, colour, or price. It behoves the Stationer to cater for both classes of consumers, and to remember that good Paper deserves a good Binding.—*The British and Colonial Printer and Stationer.*

TABLE OF SIZES OF ENGLISH BOOKS.—The figures are approximately the dimensions of the full page (uncut or un-trimmed), but not of the covers, unless the book's edges have been trimmed. The English standard of size is Demy.

Imperial Broadside	22	by 30
“ Folio	15	“ 22
“ Quarto	11	“ 15
“ Octavo.....	7½	“ 11
Super Royal 8vo.....	7	“ 10½
Royal Broadside.....	20	“ 25
“ Folio	12½	“ 20
“ Quarto.....	10	“ 12½
“ Octavo.....	6½	“ 10
Medium Octavo.....	4	“ 9½
Demy Folio	11½	“ 17½
“ Quarto.....	8½	“ 11½
“ Octavo.....	5½	“ 8½
Crown Octavo	5	“ 7½
Post Octavo.....	5½	“ 8½
Foolscap Octavo.....	4½	“ 6½

The sizes given above are those of books commonly in use.—*Exchange.*

PAPER PIANOFORTES.—The *Zeitschrift für Instrumentenbau* gives an interesting account of a pianoforte made in Paris, in which paper was made to take the place of wood, the whole case being manufactured from paper so compressed that it was able to receive a hard surface, which took a perfect polish. The colour was cream-white. The tone of the instrument is reported not to be loud, but very sweet. The short, broken character of the sounds emitted by ordinary pianofortes is replaced by a soft, full, quasi-continuous sound, resembling somewhat that of the organ. It has been suggested that the evenness of texture of the compressed paper may have some existence in effecting this modification of sound

HOLYOKE is the centre of paper manufacturing in the United States. It has grown up there on account of the excellence of water, and because the industry got a start there earlier than anywhere else. The clearest and purest water is required in fine white linen papers. Ten years ago most of these papers came from England. One Scotch manufacturer, whose paper is the fashionable writing paper of England, formerly had an American trade of \$500,000 annually. But between tariffs and improved paper he now does only about \$10,000 worth of business, where it formerly reached half a million. The fashionable New York stationers use Holyoke paper in place of Scotch or English. All this, too, in spite of