

of the Postal cards—proposals for which were expected about this time—until Congress makes a specific appropriation to pay for them. By the Postal Code bill the Postmaster General was authorized and directed to prepare and furnish postal cards; but when this bill passed the Postal Appropriation bill had already been acted upon and contained no provision for said purpose. The department, however, under the direction of the Postal Card law, prepared specifications, &c., for the postal cards, believing they could be paid for out of some general appropriation; but, on the matter being submitted to the Attorney General, it is discovered that this cannot be done, and, consequently, the establishment of the system must await a specific appropriation by Congress at the next session."

Stamp Collecting and its Advantages.

BY JOHN LINDSAY.

One of the most obvious advantages of Stamp Collecting is the gradual way in which money is expended; nearly every other hobby costs so much to begin upon, and (as in the case of the rearing of animals as pets) a certain regular sum to keep it up, but the mania for collecting stamps is different, as it may be commenced upon almost nothing.

When one first begins to collect stamps, a small book, which can be bought anywhere for five or ten cents, or a few sheets of paper, may serve as an album. The pages should be headed by the names of the countries, leaving more or less space, according to the number of stamps issued, and their price; the greater the value, the less room should be allowed, as when the collector wishes to purchase the rarer stamps, he will require a more pretentious album; this may easily be seen by referring to any

price catalogue. When the collector has nearly completed a set, he should endeavour to obtain the stamps that are wanting; but should never buy or exchange stamps, without referring to a trustworthy price catalogue, of some conscientious dealer, above the prices of which he should seldom if ever go, and he will find that he will often be able to buy much lower, as many of these prices, are generally above the real worth. At starting, packets of stamps are very useful; the sixpenny packets of one hundred specimens, which are sold by the English dealers, will give about sixty varieties, while the remainder may be kept for purposes of exchange. By degrees it will be found necessary to enlarge the boundaries of the album, and the collector must decide whether to continue the blank book system, or to use one of the many printed albums now published.

The advantages of stamp collecting are numerous.

I. Knowledge of geography.

A considerable amount of knowledge of this kind may be obtained from stamp collecting. Nearly all stamp albums have the countries arranged under five heads, namely the divisions of the globe, Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and Oceania. Now it is evident that the collector must know in what quarter of the world the country is situated before he can arrange his stamps; but apart from this, every ordinary person, would have some curiosity to know the whereabouts of a place, when they see its stamps.

II. Knowledge of Political History.

Acquaintance with history is derived in various ways from stamps; when a country changes its form of Government it is shown by a corresponding change in the device of its stamps, as in the case of France, where we first see the stamps of the Republic; as Napoleon's power increased the stamps of the Presidency appeared, then