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CURRENT NOTES.

BOOKSELLING IN ENGLAND.

MR. ZANGWILL was amusing and sarcastic at the London booksellers' dinner about the dry goods merchants (drapers), who sell books. As everyone knows, the English bookselling trade suffers quite as much from the department store mania as we do here. From London, such concerns as the Army and Navy stores send books all over the three Kingdoms. In provincial towns, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, etc., departmental stores like Lewis' have large book departments, next to the soap, the underwear or the umbrellas. Most of the books prominently displayed in such places are cheap reprints of standard works, the copyrights of which have run

out. No book-lover would dream of buying the trash. Mr. Zangwill levels all his scorn at the people who sell these cheap editions. Why not at the people who buy? They are the real offenders—against good taste, common sense and the literary instinct. In London, of course, the big store will supply you with the latest new books at a considerable discount. This must be a heavy competition for the regular trade.

THE TARIFF AND STATIONERY.

Even the stationery business will be affected by the peculiarity of the tariff during the month of July. On July 1 the extra preference of 12½ per cent. of the duty goes into force—practically to all countries. On August 1 the preference is confined to British imports. Hence between July 1 and 31 importers of German made school requisites will bring in their goods, which are usually in in the month of June. This makes these goods rather late in the market this year.

MR. ROBERTSON ON COPYRIGHT.

The fearlessness and knowledge of Mr. John Ross Robertson, our only Parliamentary champion of Canadian copyright, has been again exemplified. A condensed report of his speech will be found in another column. His familiarity with the subject and his independent position in the House of Commons render him a valuable spokesman on this subject. He has been able to extort from a vacillating Government certain admissions. These admissions may be mere assumptions, but the Ministers will be held responsible for them. First, they be-

lieve that Lord Herschell's bill tends rather to improve the Canadian position, since it provides for future Canadian legislation on copyright. Secondly, Sir W. Laurier says the Government think the compromise arranged at the time of Mr. Hall Caine's visit to Canada can now be effected. Why can the Government not effect it, then? Goodness knows it has been pending long enough. The Premier is always hopeful and soothing in getting over difficulties, but we fear he is not so energetic in pushing his promises to the stage of performance. Mr. Fisher, the Minister of Agriculture, says we must go slowly in this matter. He has certainly been taking his own medicine. The Copyright Association should keep an eye open during the next three months, and, if no steps are taken to bring the matter to an issue, let them begin once more a vigorous campaign in the press. Let a document be drawn up for popular consumption. Mr. R. T. Lancefield, librarian of the Hamilton Public Library, who has issued a clear statement of the difficulties that the Herschell bill might cause, is well qualified to enlist the sympathy of the public—which Sir W. Laurier says we have not yet secured. Apparently you must get up a clamor (which means votes) before you can make a Government budge. We are much obliged to the Premier for this significant admission.

SECURING THE SCHOOL ORDERS.

Dealers who have no regular plan for securing the orders for supplies of local schools may be interested in knowing how one bright and active man attends to this