

**Badness in Books.**

READING seems upon occasion to be taken as seriously in the West as real estate, wheat and railways. The subjoined leading editorial from a recent issue of the Winnipeg Telegram, shows that once in a while an editor can turn aside from politics to take a genuine interest in things that make for higher development:

"We do not permit offensive pictures to be sold. We make such war as we can upon indecent posters and theatrical displays. Is it not time that something was done to restrict the volume of unwholesome literature with which the country is being flooded?"

"These books are redeemed by no art nor elevated by any moral purpose; they are simply produced for the gain of author and publisher, through an appeal to the lowest instincts of mankind. They directly nourish, develop and sustain vicious proclivities. Their effect upon the already vicious need not be taken into account, but they fall into the hands of young men and women at an impressionable age, when their habits of life are not fixed, and are more than apt to debauch their morals.

"Ignorance is not virtue, it is true, but merely innocence. There are many books which touch upon the darker shadows of human life, which are valuable in the highest degree. They show them as shadows and do not paint hell as paradise. But the books which, either wanton in filth, or by lascivious suggestions convey that vice is enjoyable without its awful penalties are a most dangerous and detestable influence and apt to corrupt innocence into vice instead of fortifying it into a sustained virtue.

"Books are the greatest influence in the world to educate the human mind and direct human conduct. They are greater than all other agencies combined. It is as easy to consort with depraved characters in books as on the streets, and the one association is just as likely to be harmful as the other. If we endeavor to keep our streets clean we should certainly endeavor to keep our bookshelves clean, and the manner and method of doing so should certainly engage the earnest attention."

**Want Permanent Literature**

THAT the permanent, rather than the ephemeral, in literature is favoured by the average citizen of this country is evidenced by the statement that more books of this character can be sold, in a Canadian town of 5,000, than in a city of 35,000, in the United States.

Such well known concerns as Cassell & Co. are featuring "permanents" this year. Copping's "Canada To-day and To-morrow," Talbot's "New Garden of Canada," Alexander's "Truth About Egypt," Ward's "Truth About Spain," Turner's "Barbarous Mexico," Fraser's "Land of Veiled Women," etc., are amongst the best travel books published during 1911.

The fact that the demand for this class of literature is not confined to any particular Province, proves that the true book-lover is not indigenous to any particular locality—a fact that speaks volumes for the average of general culture which characterizes the genus Canadianis.

The same publishers who were the pioneers of cheap literature, sell over 50,000 copies of their reprints of classic and standard literature, such as "The People's Library" (25c—120 titles), "The National Library" (15c—112 titles). This is pretty conclusive evidence of the above comparative statement.

**Record Flights.**—Back from winning his championship, Harold Hilton was tackled on the question whether a golf ball really goes farther through the American than through the British air.

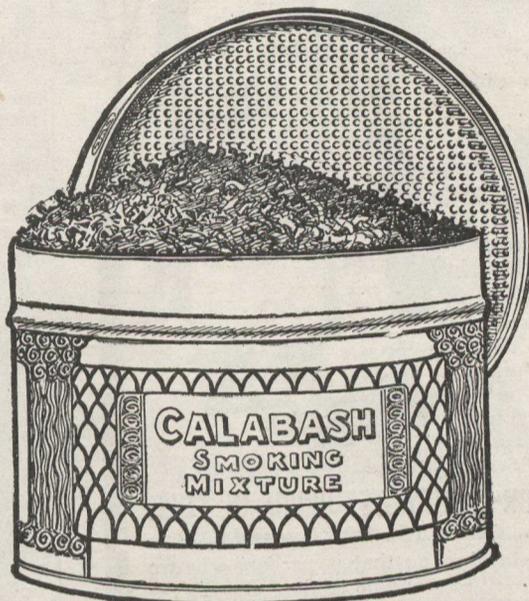
"Well," he replied, "I always find the ball goes farthest in the smoke-room discussions after the game is over."—London Opinion.

# CALABASH

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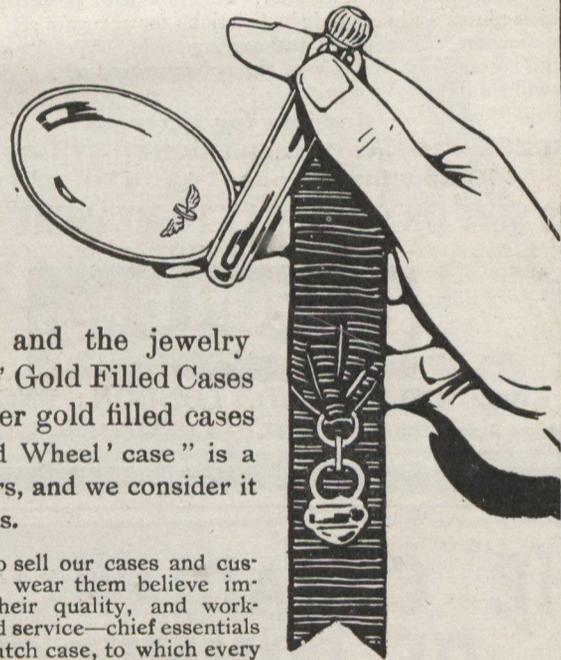
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