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Varieties of Paper.

First of all, the paper may be made by hand or by machine. This point need not trouble the collector much, for there is no very great difference between the two, except that only a piece of paper large enough for, at most, two sheets, can be produced at one dip by hand; whereas, in machine made paper, any length desired can be produced, and, probably, some of our readers may have seen the really gigantic rolls of paper, thousands of yards in length, which are used by the great newspapers. Hand made paper is not likely to be made so accurately uniform in thickness as machine-made, because the workman cannot be certain of always taking up the same quantity of pulp from the vat with his strainer; whereas, with the machine, the flow of pulp on the endless gauge strainer can be very easily regulated, to make thick or thin paper as desired, and the whole length of the piece will be exactly alike. The process of paper-making is very interesting, but limited space prevents our giving a description of it.

Now, for the stamp collector, the first broad distinction which he must learn to make is between laid and wove paper. The pulp, as it comes from the vat (looking like dirty, milky water) is received, whether in hand-made or machine-made,

upon wire gauze; and it is the texture of this gauze which determines the texture of the paper.

WOVE PAPER.—If the gauze is woven like cloth, the paper made from it is "wove." This paper has no lines in it, but usually a sort of "grain" may be noticed in it, like the paper you now are reading. If held up to the light, the graining will easily be noticed. The great majority of stamps are printed on wove paper. Our readers will please understand that, when we speak of wove paper having "no lines" we are not referring to any watermark that may be in the paper; for, as a matter of fact, there are many stamps on wove paper which have a watermark of lines of some sort. The watermark in hand made paper used to be produced by brass "bits" of the desired pattern, fastened to the gauze strainer; but now the pattern is engraved (many times repeated) upon a "dandy roll," a cylinder under which the paper passes almost directly it leaves the gauze when it is in the condition of extremely soft, wet blotting-paper. In either case, the pulp is of course thinner where the ornament has pressed, and so the design of the ornament shows through when held up to the light. Thus it will be seen that the texture of the paper has nothing to do with the watermark.

LAI D PAPER.—This paper, whether watermarked or not, shows parallel lines