

from my collection those unused specimens which I so strongly denounce? I expect to decrease my collection by some 200 varieties, which I shall gently consign to the waste paper basket, the place where they belong.

The action on the part of the publishers of certain philatelic journals in agreeing to refuse all advertisements in which counterfeits and reprints are offered is certainly commendable, and is a step in the right direction. Can they not be induced also to include in the category of pictures (they certainly are not stamps,) harmful to philately the remainders which are annually sold to dealers by various governments? I cannot see how a small picture, printed upon a piece of gummed paper, which has never done duty as a postage stamp, and yet is not good for postage in the country by which it was issued, can be termed a postage stamp. Why, then, give them a place in our catalogues and in our collections?

To one who is inclined to look into the future, the undoing of philately will seem to have its beginning in these glaring inconsistencies with which the "science" is at present burdened. Until these are remedied we must not hope to have philately placed upon a substantial, scientific basis.

### Postal Systems.

Did you ever stop to think of the wonderful organization that insures the regular transmission of every little letter, and its final safe delivery to its owner, even at the remotest ends of the world, the crowded foreign city, or the solitudes of the mountain or the forest? You cannot go to a point so isolated as to be beyond the

ministrations of the postoffice; but in some foreign countries you would find very strange messengers and methods employed.

In the United States the system is so admirably organized that the work of the letter-carrier ceases to have any individuality. If you were to cross the ocean, however, and visit some of the countries of Asia, you would see some very queer postmen. In northern India, among the Himalayas, letters are carried by native runners at the end of a cleft stick. Sometimes one of these postmen will travel a hundred miles to convey his precious missive, the letter being delivered in as clean a condition as when it started.

The commonest type of Indian post-runner, or "toppal-wallah," wears a long white coat, very light trousers, and a huge light-blue turban. His letter bag is slung from his shoulder, and he carries a long stick with a sharp iron point, which can be used as a weapon in case of need. The stick is adorned with six little brass bells which serve to give notice of the approach of the post.

If you were in Japan you would see lithe, wiry runners, with very little clothing on their brown bodies, darting here and there among the crowd. Everybody gives way before them, for they are the postmen of the empire. Their mail is carried in small baskets strapped to their sides. They are capable of sustaining a good deal of fatigue, and make wonderful journeys at times.

Among the placid Chinese, hurry is a form of vulgar impatience, consequently very little dispatch is used in carrying the mails in that great empire. They are content to convey all ordinary communications either by slow paddling or poling