

pised by the older librarians who only came in contact with a few scholars. Among many other questions we will have to consider what form of catalogue is most suitable to the wants of our libraries. Shall it be a card catalogue in drawers? or in type-written bulletins or printed? If printed, what form will it take, a catalogue by authors, or by titles, or by subjects, or by all three ways? How frequently should it be issued? Should special lists be prepared on important subjects of the day?

Under the heading of books we must consider how and what books should be bought, the method of selection, the withdrawal of worn-out books and whether they should be replaced by other copies or withdrawn permanently from the catalogue, their numbering, labelling, stamping and classification upon the shelves.

We must consider the filling up of libraries, the character of the desks, tables, shelving and of the various contrivances for keeping the shelves tidy. The burning question of more or less free access to the shelves and how far this may be met by the exhibition of all new books and the open use of the principal reference books. What form of charging can be recommended? Is the book system in use in the smaller libraries of the Province the best that can be devised or are there cheaper and more convenient methods?

The question also of magazines and reviews is becoming important. The development of the arts so rapidly and the many economical questions which are being discussed, day by day, render it impossible to keep abreast of them except through the better class of magazines and reviews. What is the best method of bringing them to public notice consistent with safety? Shall we bind our magazines and circulate them in that condition, or is it possible to do so in monthly numbers? What can we suggest as means of popularizing reading and training up of our young people to regular courses of study? These are some of the elementary questions which we have, as a body of librarians, to consider in the light of library progress in other lands during the past quarter of a century.

We must also remember that our number includes all interested in library work. That members of the boards of management will have opportunity of discussing the government of libraries, of the many questions connected with their receipts and expenditure and of their relations to municipal and other governing bodies, and, if no other result ensue, the mere discussion of these matters from an entirely new standpoint will be of incalculable value.

#### GROWTH OF LIBRARIES.

As I said at the commencement, the time is propitious the air is charged with rumors of library progress. The generosity of Mr. Carnegie, which has overflowed the borders of his own land, has made sure another large public library in the city of Ottawa, and has added to the possibilities of the one already active in Windsor. The efforts made by the ladies of Belleville for the conversion of the present small library into a public library, supported by the municipality, has met a reverse but must eventually be successful. The strong plea which the Minister of Education makes in his last annual report for school libraries shows that the educational authorities of this Province are not lagging behind, and must result in awakening the attention of trustees to the value and necessity of books as a means of education.

In East Victoria County, the teachers at a recent convention, impressed with the absolute necessity for providing school

libraries and resolved not to delay longer, have prepared sets of a small historical collection which they are inducing trustees of schools to purchase, as the nucleus of a large library. The books chosen for a commencement are those which bear on English, American and Canadian history. No more hopeful signs of the times can be seen than the determination of the teachers to supplement their work by directing the mind of youth to the books which widen their school training. The question of travelling libraries, which will be brought before you for discussion, has already been made a live subject and the sum placed in the estimates for this by the Government, for the inauguration of the scheme, shows that they are in hearty sympathy with the movement.

#### PROVINCIAL REFERENCE LIBRARY.

I have on numerous occasions presented the claims of a reference library for this Province and have pointed out the necessity for such an institution for the supply of books which ordinary libraries cannot hope to secure—a reference library which should be in close contact with every library throughout the Province, loaning them and individuals, under definite rules, books which they may specially require, supplementing them in this way in the interests of a higher culture, and extending to outlying districts the advantages which are not to be obtained, even now, in the larger cities.

If the members of the association aim at the extension of good literature to every corner of the Province and of awakening its people to a sense of the stimulating influence of good books, it will encourage every form of library extension, whether it be a reference library for the Province at large; the more modest town public library, or the travelling library in the remote parts of the northern land.

#### CALENDARS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS.

**CALENDARS.** What time is it? So long as mortals find it necessary to mark time will a ready sale obtain for Tuck's calendars.

What more useful, more timely or more dainty Christmas or New Year gift than one of these artistic chronometers which, without winding, care or repair, steadily and silently marks the fleeting moments through the livelong year? The "Turn-over" kind, with from four to eight leaves, and "every page a picture," the popular "drop" style; mechanical calendars and an array of indescribably novel effects. New ideas, new color schemes, new everything, and each publication bearing the trade mark of Raphael Tuck & Sons, a guarantee of artistic worth and general excellence the world over.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS.**—When Christmas cheer is no longer understood, when the bright faces and merry laughter of happy children no longer afford us pleasure, when human hearts have ceased to respond to the all potent power of love, when the anthem sung by the Heavenly Host on the Bethlehem plain shall find no echo in man's soul, and "Peace on Earth. Good will to

Men" shall fail to inspire us with a sense of our common brotherhood, then, but not until then, will Christmas cards cease to find favor in the eyes of nations. For upwards of a quarter of a century Raphael Tuck & Sons have stood pre-eminent as the creators of all that is best and most desirable in the world of reproductive art; and nowhere is found more conclusive proof of their well-earned position than in their galaxy of Christmas and New Year cards. Their collection for the season 1901-2 gives but added evidence of their seemingly inexhaustible wealth of resource and unrivalled skill.

In booklets, gift books, toy books and juveniles this season's lines are more delightful than ever. Every year they grow in quantity and quality. The wonder is, where do they go? But go they do, and the cry is still for more.

The novelties for children, including Tuck's dressing dolls, picture sheets (to be cut out), soldiers' groups, scrap-pictures and other attractive playthings similar in character are also perfect examples of what such publications should be.

The entire series of this celebrated line of art goods will be shown to the Canadian trade during the next few weeks by the representatives of Warwick Bros. & Rutter, who for years have been the sole agents for Canada for Raphael Tuck & Sons, Limited.

#### MUSIO PUBLISHERS' COMBINE.

Arrangements were completed in Chicago, May 6, for the formation of a combination of the eight leading publishers of popular music in the United States. A meeting will be held in New York on May 21 for carrying out the plan. The combine will be known as the American Music Publishing Concern, and will have a capital stock of from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000.

It is stated that the object of the association is to prevent the publication of inferior music. Any dealer who handles what has not received the approval of the association management will not be permitted to handle association productions. The price to dealers will be increased, it is understood, but this will not affect the public.

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