

A beautiful little edition of Goldwin Smith's latest book, "Oxford and Her Colleges," is published by McMillan & Co., uniform with which, in vest-pocket size, is "A Trip to England," by the same author.

The Uranium Metal Pen Co., Grand & Toy, sole agents for Canada, produce pens which are declared to be "smoother than gold and more durable than pure steel." They are made in six numbers and are very neatly put up.

On the fly-leaf of an odd volume of Emerson's works accidentally picked up by Prof. Tyndall at an old bookstall—a volume which first made him acquainted with the writings of the New England seer—are inscribed these words, "Purchased by inspiration."

Violet, heliotrope, biscuit and other tints, also "grey calico" paper with canvas surface, are used for summer notes and envelopes. We have seen in Hart & Riddell's, too, very neat embossed monograms in rustic letters for summer use, on rough, mill-finish paper, moss-colored letters.

G. P. Putnam's Sons announce an important work entitled "The Blind as Seen Through Blind Eyes," in which Maurice de la Sizeranne gives, from the experience of Valentine Hany, an account of the every-day life of a blind person, and also particulars as to the most recent changes and improvements in teaching the blind.

No business man has a reasonable excuse for letting his letters or invoices received lie about his desk or store when he can buy a G. & T. Letter Fyle for 40 cents. It is a marvel of cheapness, for it is made of seasoned wood, covered with stout leather paper, has a metal fastener and a capacity of 800 letters.

It is undeniable that the price of writing paper has got down to a very fine point. What with the depression in the States, and consequent slaughter prices, the production in Canada, and the competition of the Old Country, the figures for writing papers are at present too low to be a pleasant contemplation for the manufacturers.

Drop into the Authors' Club in New York, and you will just find a number of quiet, dignified men divided into groups; some in cushioned corners, others around little tables, all but a few in ordinary business clothes, smoking very long pipes, and bluing the air with "baccy." Some occasionally swap stories, but the conversation is largely "shop." Commercial travellers are the only men who can talk more "shop" than your literary fellows.

The Clean and Ready mucilage system is another recent effort to get rid of the often intolerable nuisance of a gum pot and brush. We have seen it at Brown Brothers, in operation. Neat and heavy cut glass bottles have a perpendicular spout into which fits a tube with handle attached. This tube serves the purpose of a fountain gum-brush, acting somewhat like a fountain pen, and apparently, as is claimed, "Clean and Ready."

The Simplicity Cloth Bath, which has been used in the States for two years, has just been introduced here by Grand & Toy. It is not a bath for washing the body, but an invention intended to supply the long-felt want of a process for moistening the leaves of a letter copying book, without the inconvenience of using brush, blotters, sponges, water tubs, and other old-time necessities. By an ingenious use of the principle of capillary attraction, a flat cloth is kept constantly damp. The laying of this cloth upon a page of the copying book dampens it enough to make a copy of a letter. The process is very quick, handy and clean.

A Miramichi correspondent wishes to know who wrote a book on the French Canadians some twenty-five years ago, and if it is in print to-day. We reply that *Les Anciens Canadiens*, by Philippe Aubert DeGaspe, was published in 1863, and is probably the one referred to. It has been translated into English, and the *Dublin Review* said of it: "Illustrative of old Canadian manners, tales of this character render a service which is not to be undervalued." The same author produced *Memoires*, published at Ottawa in 1866, and S. Lesage, writing of it in *La Revue Canadienne*, declares that "this fine and delicate observer was brought up in the front rank of the old Canadian aristocracy."

#### INSURANCE NOTES.

A fireman's tournament in St. John, during August, is one of the events for which the lively firemen of that city are arranging.

R. H. Matson, general manager of the Provident Savings Life Insurance Society, of New York, has been visiting Halifax.

The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States has opened at Sherbrooke a general agency for the Eastern Townships.

Be sure to get an accident policy before you start away on your summer vacation; and do not get it for a month, but rather for a year.

Care eats life as rust eats steel. The man who can lessen care lengthens life. Be insured in a good company and do away with care. —Black and White.

The Portage la Prairie *Liberal* has it that the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company in Manitoba did new business to the amount of \$72,000 during the month of June.

We are told that R. D. Morkill, jr., has been appointed agent of the Union Fire Assurance Society, of London, England, for Sherbrooke and neighborhood.

Mr. D. C. Edwards, whose headquarters are in Montreal, is now acting as general manager for the Eastern Assurance Company, in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

*Fire and Water*, of New York, is going to have an elaborate convention number, which is to be illustrated. They have sent for photos of the mayor, city clerk, members of the fire committee and all the officers of the department in Montreal.

The city council of the town of Magog, Que., has decided to purchase from the Waterous Engine Co., of Brantford, one of their steam fire engines, price \$2,000, the old hand engine being taken back for the sum of \$500. Tenders are being called for the building of eight cisterns for water supply for the town.

The annual meeting of the P. E. I. Agricultural Mutual Fire Insurance Co., took place last week in Charlottetown. The statement submitted was satisfactory, though more losses were paid this year than formerly. The officers and directors were re-elected.

The year 1893 has proved a particularly bad one for the French company, La Commerciale, the outgo being as under:—Losses, 70.44 per cent.; commission, 30.28 per cent.; expenses, 14.87; total, 115.59 per cent. The debit balance, which in the previous year stood at fr. 9406, rose on December 31st last to fr. 153,769.

We find in the July issue of the *Monitor*, published in London, Ont., a partial list of industrial insurance claims paid by the London Life Insurance Company. They range from \$5 up to more than \$400 each, and are nearly four hundred in number, distributed over thirty or forty places in Canada and a few points in the United States.

The energetic managers of a Detroit accident company have issued what they term "the businessman's policy," which gives fixed compensation for a variety of particular injuries which may not disable a man from the entire performance of his duties, together with the usual payments for loss of time occasioned by injuries.

In a brief review of "Harris's Technological Fire Insurance Commentary" the *Policyholder*, of Manchester, England, says: "The meanings of many terms, which would otherwise be unintelligible to many people, are given. For instance, we find that 'blenks' is a West-country term for ashes; 'dry meat' a provincial name for hay; and that a 'stiff' is in Suffolk a blacksmith's anvil, and in Yorkshire a ladder!"

It is stated by the *Indicator* that Mr. J. J. Macartney, lately with the Prudential Insurance Company of Detroit, and at present working at the London Life Insurance Company's branch office in Hamilton, Ont., has been promoted to the responsible position of assistant superintendent of the London Life. He is a hustler, and "Progression in every Particular," and has had much experience in industrial life assurance.

No one ever doubted that the Germania Life Insurance Company was a staunch and well managed institution, says the *Insurance Times*. Its statements are honest, but it seems in the case of its reporting to the department the company was entirely too conservative, as the New York Insurance Department credits the company with \$300,000 surplus more than the company itself claims. The explanation of this is that the officers of the Germania Life appraised their own assets too low.

The Central Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of P. E. Island has held its annual meeting. The report of the manager, Mr. Donald Morrison, showed that 105 policies were issued during the last year, making in all 384. The amount of insurance carried is \$301,350, reserved capital, \$7,538. The company had no losses during the past year. A vote of thanks to the management was carried. The directors, nine in number, re-elected Roderick Munn president, Joseph Wise vice-president, and Donald Morrison managing director.

Instead of holding their regular meeting in Waterloo as usual, the directors of the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance Company held their regular meeting in London on Friday last. The occasion of the change was that the directors desired to inspect the London properties, upon which considerable loans have been placed, and also to make valuations of realty upon which loans have been proposed. The directors present were:—Messrs. I. E. Bowman, M.P., C. M. Taylor, Robt. Melvin, Robt. Baird, Alfred Hoskin, Q.C., B. M. Britton, Q.C., John Marshall, J. Kerr Fiskin, E. P. Clement, and W. J. Kidd. There were also present the manager, Wm. Hendry, and the secretary, W. H. Riddell. The resident director, Mr. John Marshall, entertained the directorate and management, together with some friends, at his residence, "The Beeches."