

THE LIBRARY COLUMN.

*** In future this will be a regular feature of *THE BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER* and will contain the latest information of value to libraries.

LIBRARIAN LANCEFIELD, of Hamilton, has left his post, and his accounts are said to be several thousand dollars short. The library board is insured against loss by the bond of a guarantee company, and his family offer, as far as possible, to make up the balance. There is considerable criticism of the board for their loose supervision. There will be sympathy felt for Mr. Lancefield's wife and family and regret that a good librarian and a man who had hitherto borne a good reputation should have acted in this way.

The Carnegie grant of \$10,000 for a library at Smith's Falls has been supplemented by a generous gift of another \$10,000, payable in 20 annual instalments of \$500 each, by two prominent and public-spirited citizens of Smith's Falls, namely, Messrs. C. B. Frost and F. T. Frost, president and vice-president, respectively, of The Frost & Wood Co. Mr. W. H. Frost, of The Malleable Iron Works, has offered \$2,000, and Mr. H. S. McNeill has offered \$50 towards equipment. This generosity should stimulate others.

Orangeville adopted the free library by-law.

A Carnegie offer of \$15,000 has been made to Sarnia, and Gilbert Parker, M.P., offers to build a new library for Belleville if the city will make it a free institution.

Mr. E. A. Hardy, secretary of the Public Library Board of Lindsay, has been notified that Mr. Carnegie had granted Lindsay the sum of \$10,000 for a library building on condition that a free site and \$1,000 yearly for maintenance are provided by the town.

Librarian Blackwell, of London, in his annual report, suggests the duro-flexide binding, as it has worn well; a new catalogue this year, and new registration of members, now numbering nearly 10,000.

Cutter's expansive classification for library books, which is being introduced in more of the up-to-date libraries, can be seen in operation at McGill College library, Montreal, with its 80,000 vols., and at Westmount public library with its 3,000 vols. The librarian of the latter library,

Miss Saxe, is in sole charge, and has studied under Mr. Cutter at Northampton, Mass. She has had several visits from librarians, who express themselves delighted with the method used, as it does away with all bookkeeping.

PEARSON'S MAGAZINE CHANGES HANDS.

The control of Pearson's Magazine is said to have been transferred from London to J. J. Little, former president of the Board of Education, New York, he having purchased the English shares from C. Arthur Pearson. C. N. Greig, manager of the American edition of the Magazine, when seen at the office of the publication, Nos. 43 and 45 East 19th street, said: "While the negotiations are not entirely concluded, it is intended that the control of Pearson's Magazine shall pass from London to New York. Mr. Pearson wishes to concentrate all of his efforts and capital in his Daily Express and branch newspapers which he has already started in Newcastle and Crewe, with Birmingham and Manchester in immediate contemplation.—J. J. Little will purchase the English shares and practically assume Mr. Pearson's place in the business. The active editorial and business management of Pearson's and such other publications as we may issue will remain in my charge, and there is no change contemplated in the present editorial or business staff—Press.

HALL CAINE'S LAWSUIT.

The lawsuit concerning the serial use of "The Eternal City" has been settled out of court on terms agreed upon by the parties. The Pearsons pay for so much of the story as they used in *The Ladies' Magazine*, and withdraw any imputation they may have made against the novel. Each party, as is usual in such compromises, pays his own costs. The case "Pearson, Limited, vs. Hall Caine" will not, therefore, be quotable as a leading authority for the determination of any moot points of law.

Regret is felt that H. S. Williams, of Hamilton, has had to assign his estate for the benefit of his creditors and is now out of business. The estate has been bought by A. W. Broderick, of London.

A new novel of Scotch life by George Douglas, called "The House with the Green Shutters," is making a stir just now. Its humor is cynical and its view of things primitive compared to the sentimental view in which Maclaren, Crockett and others write. The publisher is John Macqueen, 49 Rupert street, London.

LATEST ENGLISH NOTES.

SIR D. M. WALLACE, who was the Duke of York's assistant private secretary during the Royal tour, has compiled the official record. There will be many illustrations, and Macmillan will be publisher.

Mr. Morley's "Life of Gladstone" will be published next October.

Three new volumes in the English Men of Letters Series will appear during March. They are "George Eliot," by Leslie Stephen; "Wm. Hazlitt," by Augustine Birrel, and "Matthew Arnold."

Mrs. Cotes ("Sara Jeannette Duncan") will go to England to live in April. Her new novel, "Those Delightful Americans," now running serially in *The Ladies' Field*, appears shortly by Methuen, in London, and Appleton, in New York.

George Gissing is preparing an abridged edition of "Forster's Life of Dickens" for Chapman & Hall.

Percy White has written a novel dealing with Christian Science, called "The New Christian," to be published by Hutchinson.

The six best selling novels in England last month were:

- "Kim," by Rudyard Kipling.
- "Sir Richard Calmady," by Lucas Malet.
- "The Velvet Glove," by H. S. Merriman.
- "The Benefactress."
- "Count Hannibal," by Stanley Weyman.
- "Herb of Grace," by Rosa N. Carey.

The "Speeches on Canadian Affairs," by the late Earl of Carnarvon, Colonial Secretary, have at last been published by Murray, at 7s. 6d. net.

Fisher Unwin announces a book by Arnold Parker, the champion "Ping-Ponger," entitled, "Ping-Pong or Table Tennis: the Game and How to Play it."

CALENDAR TRADE INJURED.

Complaint comes from dealers in calendars, especially in some localities in the west, that the beauty of calendars distributed free by business houses has reduced the sale of calendars in stationery and novelty stores.

Something of this nature has occurred previously, but never has it been so marked as this season. For the past 10 years the quality of calendars distributed for advertising purposes by business houses has steadily improved until very many of them surpass in beauty the calendars published for sale. The effect is disastrous for dealers in many instances. Even desk pad calendars have been seized and utilized for advertising.

In the east the sale of calendars has been quite as large as last season, on the average, while some varieties of pad calendars have been sold out, and orders have been returned for lack of stock to fill them.

There promises to be a reaction on the part of many business houses. They say that the expense is too great and the return at best meagre. It is probable that there will be fewer calendars issued for free distribution this year. Many business firms which have previously distributed their calendars free are asking something for them. This will have a tendency to cause those who want calendars to buy of regular dealers and escape the disfigurement of advertising American Stationer.