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#### CURRENT NOTES.

**A**FTER a long life of literary fame and activity, Mrs. Oliphant, the British authoress who died the other day, left a personal estate of only \$4,000 as the result of her labors. Possibly the copyrights of her various works will have some future value for several years to come. All told, it is certainly not much. It reminds one of the narrow and uncertain profits of a bookseller in these days of illegitimate competition and close prices.

A seizure has been made, at London, Ont., of a medical work which the police authorities deemed to transgress the law against obscene literature. If the police authorities

anywhere else want to do their whole duty let them examine the standard and other works offered for sale at some departmental stores on this continent—the trashy paper, the cheap binding, the low but high (considering the value) prices charged for them as books and see where the public are being most gulled. The public ought to know better? Yes, no doubt they should but they don't. The police authorities, who are so ready to guard the popular morals, ought to extend their protection to the victims of advertisement deception. The deceptive advertisement, in books as in other articles offered for sale, will come in for rough handling one of these days.

R. R. Corson, bookseller and stationer, of Markham, Ont., prints on the outside of his ordinary business envelopes, a description of Markham. It is in minion type, closely set, and just leaves room for the address. In the corner is his business card. The envelope looks well, and must help his trade in the town, the people realizing that he is doing his best for Markham, so why shouldn't they do equally well by him?

Dr. R. R. Hopkins, of Grand Valley, writing to the press regarding the sale of United States cheap magazines as compared with English and Canadian, says: "In my little drug and book store, I have tried to get good customers to take The Canadian Magazine, but have always been met with the objection of the price, though they would all prefer it. I agree with you that Canada is not yet in a condition to compete with the United States, hence, it would be a drawing

nearer of British interests to make all British publications as easy of access as possible. Who was it said, 'Let me have charge of the reading material of the public, and I will tell you what kind of a nation I can make?' As a business question, and that is the only standpoint from which a trade journal should regard these things, we would recommend the bookseller to push the 25c. rather than the 10c. magazines. There is no money in the latter for the trade.

The New Brunswick Magazine just started is the third venture, at least, of a similar kind, in that Province. Twenty-five years ago The Maritime Monthly was a thriving periodical. Previous to that, Stewart's Quarterly was in existence. These St. John ventures show the existence of literary activity and national spirit among our brethren down by the sea. It ought to be rewarded.

E. A. Hart, St. Francois Xavier street, Montreal, writes to The Gazette, complaining that the Government has refused, since 1896, to continue the stamp license, which has for so many years been a convenience to the public, at this old news and book stand. The store—either as Pickup's, Fisher's, Takahashi's or Hart's—has been in existence for 40 years, and for a long period the public, instead of climbing the steps into the post office, have been in the habit of buying the stamps round the corner at the old stand, and dropping their letters into the post on a level with the sidewalk. Why should they be deprived of this con-