

the books are required chiefly in order to ascertain whether they correspond with the manuscript after it had passed the ordeal of censorship.

The same regulation for the compulsory delivery of books by authors or publishers is imposed in *England*. The origin of this exaction was first of all a private agreement between Sir Thomas Bodley and the Stationers' Company, in 1610, which was afterwards recognized by the Legislature. By subsequent Copyright Acts, the three copies originally levied were augmented to eleven. Under the Copyright Act, the following are the libraries that were entitled to receive copies of works gratuitously:—The British Museum; Sion College, in London; the Bodleian library, at Oxford; the University Library, at Cambridge; the libraries of Trinity College, in Dublin; King's Inn, in Dublin; the Faculty of Advocates, in Edinburgh; together with those of the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and St. Andrews; making eleven in all.* The Copyright Amendment Act, passed in 1836, abolished the privilege in respect to six of the number, and substituted a money grant from the Treasury, varying in amount—the highest being that granted to Glasgow, of £707; to St. Andrews, £630; to Edinburgh, £575; to the King's Inn Library, Dublin, £433; to Sion College, London, £363; and to the University of Aberdeen, £320; so that much inequality now exists. The total amount received by those libraries is £3,028. The Act was not extended to Oxford and Cambridge University libraries, in consequence of their refusal to accept compensation, and the strong indisposition they evinced to submit to any change in the ancient arrangements.

An idea may be formed of the large number of works thus annually exacted, from the fact that, during the last ten years, there have been published in the United Kingdom 31,395 books; the estimated value of one copy of each of which, taken at publication price, is £13,420. This calculation embraces new works, and new editions and reprints of old books, but it excludes pamphlets and periodical publications. In Germany the total number of separate works, inclusive of pamphlets, published in 1846, was 11,600; in 1847, about 11,400; and in 1848, about 10,500. In France there appeared, in 1842, 6,445 separate works, pamphlets included; and in 1847, 5,530.

An investigation into the date of the foundation of some of the European libraries, and into the causes of their comparative progressive augmentation, is suggestive of many important considerations that may be turned to practical account by those who are labouring to build up the intellectual greatness of our country. The most ancient of the great libraries of printed books is thought to be that at Vienna, which dates from 1440, and is said to have been opened to the public as early as 1575. The Town Library at Ratisbon dates from 1430; St. Mark's Library, at Venice, from 1468; the Town Library of Frankfurt, from 1484; that of Ham-
burgh, from 1529; of Strasburg, from 1531; of Augsburg, from 1537; those of Berne and Geneva, from 1550; that of Basel, from 1564. The Royal Library of Copenhagen was founded about 1550. In 1671 it possessed 10,000 vols.; in 1748, about 65,000; in 1778, 100,000; in 1820, 300,000; and it is now supposed to contain 412,000 vols. The National Library in Paris was founded in 1595, but was not made public until 1737. In 1640 it contained about 17,000 vols.; in 1684, 50,000; in 1775, 150,000; in 1790, 200,000; and it now possesses at least 824,000 vols. The library of the British Museum was established in 1753, and opened to the public in 1757, with about 40,000 vols. In 1800 it contained about 65,000 vols.; in 1823, 125,000; in 1836, nearly 420,000; and it now comprehends 435,000 vols.

The steady growth of the Copenhagen Library has been mainly owing to judicious purchases at favourable opportunities. The rapid increase of the noble National Library at Paris, since 1790, is in a great measure to be ascribed to the Revolution; the suppression of the monasteries and convents, and the confiscation of the property of rebels and emigrants, having placed many fine libraries at the disposal of the ruling powers of the day. The increase of the British Museum, on the other hand, is mainly indebted to donations. Of its 435,000 books, at least 200,000 have been presented or bequeathed.

Many of the chief libraries of Continental cities are sustained by

their respective governments in a spirit of great liberality. The average annual sum allotted to the support of the National Library at Paris is £16,575; to that of the Royal Library, at Brussels, £2,700; to that of Munich, about £2,000; to that of Vienna, £1,900; to that of Berlin, £3,745; to that of Copenhagen, £1,250; to that of Dresden, £500; and to that of the Grand Ducal Library of Darmstadt, £2,000.

The average annual sum expended in the purchase of printed books for the library of the *British Museum*, previous to 1836, was only £1,135. From 1837 to 1845 inclusive, the sums devoted to this purpose averaged £3,433 a-year. In 1846 and 1847, in consequence of urgent representations having been made to the Treasury of the great deficiencies existing in the collection of printed books, a special increase of the Parliamentary grant was made, amounting to £10,000. In 1848, however, this sum was reduced to £8,500; whilst, in 1849, it was still further frittered down to £5,000. The entire amount of this latter year allotted to the sustentation of the library, in all its departments, is £23,261. The aggregate of the sums expended in the purchase of printed books, including maps and musical works, from its foundation in 1753 to Christmas 1847, is £102,447; and that expended in the purchase of manuscripts, £42,940; together, £145,387. The sums expended during the same period, in prints and drawings, amount to £29,318; in antiquities, coins, and medals, to £125,257; and in specimens of natural history, to £43,599.

A comparison between the funds appropriated by the French and British legislatures, for the general formation and maintenance of public depositories of books, places the latter in a still more unfavourable light.

Confining our attention to those libraries alone which constitute independent establishments, and where the exact amount of funds can, therefore, be ascertained, it appears that, since 1823, the French government has voted the sum of £426,571 for four public libraries in Paris, exclusive of another sum of £107,426 for buildings and their maintenance. The accounts of the expenditure of the French Institute show that £16,848 have been appropriated to its Library during the same period, from the public treasury; to that of the University of Paris, £13,011; making a total of £456,430 devoted to the public libraries of Paris; exclusive of those of the Museum of Natural History, the School of the Fine Arts, the Observatory, and the fine public library of the Conservatory of Music (which is said to contain 17,000 vols.). If the proportion of the public grants to these institutions expended on their books be calculated approximately at £65,000, the aggregate total so expended by votes of the French Legislature will be £521,430; or, on the average, £20,055 a-year.

During these same twenty-six years, the sum devoted by the British House of Commons to public libraries in London is, at the utmost, £282,486; or, on an average, £10,864 a-year.

The bird's-eye view we have thus endeavoured to present of the great libraries of Europe would be incomplete, without a hasty glance at those connected with the Universities. Those specially entitled to notice may be ranked in the following order.

Gottingen . . .	*University Library	360,000
Breslau	University Library	250,000
Oxford	Bodleian Library	220,000
Tubingen	University Library	200,000
Munich	University Library	200,000
Heidelberg	University Library	200,000
Cambridge	Public Library	166,724
Bologna	University Library	150,000
Prague	*University Library	130,000
Vienna	University Library	115,000
Leipsic	University Library	112,000
Copenhagen	University Library	110,000
Turin	*University Library	110,000
Louvain	University	105,000
Dublin	Trinity College Library	104,230
Upsal	*University Library	100,000
Erlangen	University Library	100,000
Edinburgh	University Library	90,854
Glasgow	University Library	58,096

The foundation of the University of Turin dates from 1436; that of Cambridge, from 1484; that of Leipsic, from 1544; that

* A recent Canadian statute makes similar provision in regard to the University of Toronto.