

## BULLETIN OF THE A. L. A. COMMITTEE ON BOOK PRICES.

Small libraries can buy at auction to great advantage. Of course not recent books; but the older ones of high class. Begin with those in New York and Boston. Write to Anderson Auction Co., No. 5 West 29th St., New York, and C. F. Libbie & Co., 646 Washington St., Boston, Mass., asking them to send you the catalogues issued by them covering the fields in which you are interested, stating that it is your purpose to begin buying books at auction and offering to pay for the catalogues if they cannot send them without charge. When a catalogue is received, check at once such titles as you wish to buy. Examine these titles carefully to identify editions, decide what prices the library can afford to pay, and send in your bids. One can offer from one-third to one-half of the published price for ordinary items and get excellent returns.

Write a letter about as follows:

Dear Sir: Please execute for me at your auction sale on — (date) Catalogue No. — the following bids, Lot 235 Shakespeare, 6 volumes at 40 cents, Lot 433 Hawthorne, 12 volumes at 65 cents. (Signature.)

Lot 235 in this case would cost you \$2.40, as bids and sales are always made on single volumes in each lot. The auctioneer executes such orders without charge. The best time in the year for auction bargains is May.

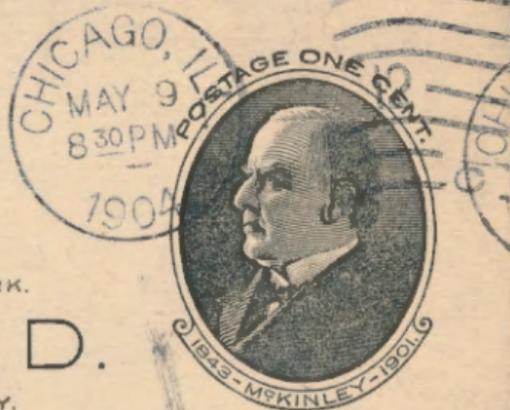
Every library, however small, ought to possess a few of the best book lists to aid in book buying. All the books listed below are indispensable. Every community should have at hand information about all books in print, new and old, on any subject. Often it is wiser to buy the old and tried book than the new, unknown one. These book-lists, especially No. 10, tell about the best books. We designate those most needed, if funds for the purchase of all are not available, with a star.

1. \*Publisher's Weekly, \$3 per year. Lists all American books and many English. 2. \*Publisher's Trade list annual, with combined index, 2v. \$8. All American and many English Publishers' catalogues, with alphabetic index. 3. Annual American Catalogue, triennial cumulation, \$4. American, and some English, books. 4. American Catalogue, 5 yearly cumulation of the Annual, \$15. (For all the above address, 298 Broadway, New York City.)

5. English Catalogue (annual), \$1.50 English books of the year. 6. Same, triennial cumulation, \$7.50. 7. Publisher's Circular, weekly, \$2.75. These three by Sampson, Low, London. 8. Reference Catalogue (English), known as Whitaker's, \$3.50. (Whitaker, London.) Like American Trade list annual above. 9. \*U. S. Catalogue, \$10. All books in print in English, by author, subject and title; a dictionary of all books. 10. Monthly cumulative book index, \$2.00. (Both by Wilson Co., Minneapolis, Minn.) 11. \*Sonnenschein. Reader's Guide, 2v., \$14. (Sonnenschein, London.) Lists the best books, about 80,000 vols. on all subjects by classes with indexes. Very valuable.

A discount of 10 per cent. is given on most of these.

Address inquiries and suggestions to any member of the Committee. Arthur E. Bostwick, *Chairman*, N. Y. Public Library, 226 West 42nd St.; John Cotton Dana, Newark (N. J.) Free Public Library; Bernard C. Steiner, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md.



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# POSTAL CARD.

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