

No. 14

## BOOK BUYING. Feb., 1905.

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

W. P. Cutter, Librarian Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass., says, in effect, in *Library Journal*, in a talk on book-buying for small libraries:

The "Universal cyclopædia," alias Johnson's, can now be purchased for \$30 per set of 12 volumes. It was published by subscription at \$60 for the set. The "Century dictionary," published at \$80, can be bought now for about half that price. This edition, of course, has not the latest statistics, but these may be found in the "Statesman's year book," costing \$3.50 for the current no., from the World Almanac, 25c., or from the publications of the Government free.

Do you ever, in your purchases, ask yourself: "Is this a better book than another published a few years ago, now obtainable second-hand at a low figure?"

Buy your standard authors in the good old-fashioned, honest editions of the early part of the last century, before wood-pulp was discovered. They are cheap. Get a set of the British poets in the Gilfillan or Cadell or Little Brown edition. Buy early editions of Scott. Buy the well-edited and printed Bohn editions (second-hand), and ask your bookseller to get you a list of the Tauchnitz, the Camelot, the Riverside Lit. series, the Temple series, &c., and other cheap and good editions.

Of novels, choose first those published by well-known firms; don't buy one because extensively advertised. Read them, or have a friend read, on whose judgment you may rely, before you buy. Don't buy expensive art books when they are published. You can do better in a year or two. The bulletin or monthly book-list of any library that selects its books carefully will often save you the trouble of personal reading if you have not time for it.

If you want help in selection, send to the Library of Congress for a copy of the "A. L. A. catalog," in which are comprised 8,000 volumes carefully selected. There are descriptive notes. When you buy a book which is included, you can purchase printed catalog cards for a trifling sum.

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Address inquiries and suggestions to Arthur E. Bostwick, chairman, 226 West 42nd St., New York.