

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

"BOOKS THAT OUGHT TO BE WRITTEN": a list of these would be valuable and might prove suggestive to publishers. Librarians having ideas on this subject will please communicate them to us.

BINDING FROM PUBLISHERS' SHEETS: Mr. F. Schleuning, 256 W. 23rd St., New York City, is doing strong binding of the class introduced so successfully by Cedric Chivers. Books bound by him directly from sheets may be ordered in advance from Baker & Taylor Co., 33 E. 17th St., New York. Books so bound by Chivers should be ordered directly from the binder, 1242 Fulton St., Brooklyn, N. Y. Books bound from sheets are not always delivered promptly. Inquire about a possible order when you see book announced. A binder who will do this work for the middle West is much needed.

A. L. A. BOOK LIST: Recent bulletins have not reached A. L. A. members because we were under the impression that the A. L. A. booklist, which is sent free to all members, would reprint the bulletins word for word. The Publishing Board has now decided to give only abstracts. We shall restore our mailing list to its former size. We will reprint Nos. 25, 26 and 27 if there is sufficient demand. Our recent offer to reprint early numbers has met with no response. We are sending packages of Bulletins for distribution to the Library Commissions of Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey and Wisconsin. Libraries in those States should write to their Commissions for needed copies.

LIBRARY DEPARTMENTS IN NEWSPAPERS: The Book-buyer for September contains a department entitled "For Librarians," which would indicate that publishers are beginning to pay special attention to the library trade.

The *Evening Post*, N. Y.; the *Transcript*, Boston, and the *Daily Commercial*, Bangor, Me., have regular library columns in their Saturday editions. The fact that these journals pay more attention to the needs of libraries than papers having regular literary or book supplements is worthy of note.

OUT OF PRINT BOOKS: The list of 20 o. p. books sent with Bulletin 26 to about 100 libraries was returned by 52 libraries with a statement of the number of copies that would probably be taken should any be reprinted. The total number ordered varied from 82 in the case of Bunner's "Zadoc Pine" to 19 for Tchernuishevsky's "Vital Question." The 14 pubs. of these books were at once informed. We have received answers from 9—Dodd-

Mead, Cassell, Scribner, Small-Maynard, Crowell, Lane, Harper, Page and Heinemann. Scribner consented at once to reprint the two Bunner books, Mr. Heineman to reprint "Pierre and Jean." Libraries should take notice. Dodd-Mead promise to reprint La Brête's "My Uncle and My Curé," if it seems wise. Interested libraries should write to them at once. The other firms write that the plates of the books in question have been melted or that for other reasons it would not pay to reprint. Harpers write that they have given much thought to reprinting o. p. books, and that they have reprinted De Mille's "Dodge Club" and "Cord and Creese," but that the sale has been unsatisfactory. They will take the reprinting of "Guy Livingston" into consideration.

POORLY MADE BOOKS: In regard to list of defective and poorly-made books, most publishers write that they cannot understand the criticisms and say that all their books are made with care. Some admit that with large editions there may have been undue haste in binding; others blame the modern "loaded" paper, necessitated by the use of half-tone pictures. Several assert that the use of books is much rougher than formerly. Harpers write that "in the matter of type, ink, press-work, and paper, there is not much fault to be found in view of all the circumstances in the case." Bindings also they believe to be "quite as lasting as formerly" except in the case of illustrated novels where half-tone pictures are pasted in, surfaced paper not holding strongly to ordinary printing paper.

In acknowledging the criticism of Mrs. Burnett's "Dawn of a To-morrow," Scribners note that they are reprinting the book and promise to give special attention to its manufacture. They call attention to their strongly-bound library edition of Hopkinson Smith's "Tides of Barnegat." More recently they inform us that the first lot of this edition (1,000 copies) sold very rapidly. They are considering other like ventures. Librarians should give them hints at once. McClure-Phillips offer to make a special edition of Martin's "Emmy Lou" in strong binding at the same additional cost (10 cents) as the Scribner book. Libraries desiring this should write to the publishers at once.

On the whole these results are encouraging, and the Committee desires to repeat the effort this year. To this end you are requested to report at once on books in demand for reprinting (including those already reported on but not reprinted by publishers) and on poorly-made books, specifying particulars in which these are defective. The very knowledge that we are watching these books and reporting on them from time to time will make their manufacturers more careful.

Address inquiries and suggestions to any of the Committee. Arthur E. Bostwick, Chairman, N. Y. P. L., 209 W. 23; John Cotton Dana, Newark (N. J.) F. P. L.; Bernard C. Steiner, Enoch Pratt F. L., Baltimore, Md.