

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

How to spend money to the best advantage in book buying.

The following points selected from previous bulletins of this committee are reprinted here, because they seem important enough to deserve emphasis.

1. Approve no title for purchase without asking yourself whether by buying it you will not deprive your library of an opportunity to purchase some better book that is in as great, or even greater, demand.

2. See that you receive regularly the catalogues of the best dealers in second-hand books and remainders; mark the titles that you think you want, have these checked with your catalogue to find which are not already in your library, and then give these careful consideration.

3. Devote part of your book appropriation to filling sets of periodicals, especially those indexed in Poole.

4. In ordering a book that is published both here and abroad find out, if possible, whether the foreign edition may not be cheaper or better than the American, or both.

5. See that you get the best auction catalogues and utilize them in purchasing by auction more freely than most libraries now do.

6. Aim to abolish rebinding. The ideal is to have the binding strong enough to last as long as the book; but not very much stronger. Go over your lists of purchases and decide which books it is well to have bound with special strength at the outset. This will generally include all books that usually have to be rebound. These books should, if possible, be put in strong binding at once before the publishers' cloth case has been put on them, for any sewing before the final one weakens them slightly. Cedric Chivers, 1242 Fulton street, Brooklyn, N. Y., makes a specialty of this, and your own binder will doubtless do it on request. Even if sheets cannot be secured, it is often better to put on the strong binding immediately after purchase before the book is weakened by use. If libraries that cannot obtain sheets and desire to do so will write to this committee, we will make an effort with the publishers to get them.

THE TIMES (LONDON) BOOK CLUB.

The efforts of publishers in England to restrain the *Times* Book Club from selling second-hand books at bargain prices seem to have been unsuccessful. First the effort to force *The Times* so to define the term "second-hand book" as to prevent the sale as such of books in practically new condition was a failure; and now *The Publishers' Circular* states that it is not meeting with success in its efforts to induce publishers and booksellers to take such action as to compel *The Times* to agree that no reduction in price will be made in the case of a net book until six months after its publication. The most that appears to have been done is the issue of a notice by Macmillan & Co. disclaiming all responsibility for the offer of the *Times* Book Club to sell "The Life of Lord Randolph Churchill," published about five months previously, at a great reduction from the published price. In this notice they say: "In the absence of any agreement as to the time for which a bookseller must have had a copy of a net book in his possession before he can offer it at a reduced price as a 'bona fide remainder' it is difficult to see how a publisher is to prevent a dealer from selling a book at less than it cost him to buy." *The Publishers' Circular* goes on to say: "The Publishers' Association and the Booksellers' Association seem to have become mesmerized by the T. B. C. . . . The 'Thunderer' is preparing to blow the book trade to atoms, and the publishers and booksellers are idly looking on, or else supplying the powder and shot for their own execution."

This being the case it is obviously the proper thing for libraries importing recent books to instruct their importers to purchase them of the *Times* Book Club, if possible, and take advantage of the great reduction that it offers.

As a result of the experience of the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore City, the following editions or translations of standard works published in various forms are procured for the library.

Arabian Nights. Routledge. (This edition is the nearest to the so-called Lady Burton edition which has the most complete text suitable for general circulation.)

Hans Christian Andersen. Stories and Tales.—Wonder stories for children. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Bjornsen. 8 vol. ed. Macmillan.

Brontë, C. Harper. (Popular ed.)

Bulwer (Lord Lytton.) Little, Brown & Co.

Bunyan. Pilgrim's Progress. Burt (Home Lib.)

Carlyle, T. French Revolution. Burt ed. in 1 vol.

Cervantes. Don Quixote. Bell 2 vol. ed.

Cook, Capt. J. Voyages round the world. Coates.

Daudet.
 Dickens.
 Dumas,
 Elliot, G.
 Feuillet.
 Ferrier.
 Grimm.
 Hale, R.
 Harte,
 Hugo, V.
 Irving,
 Johnson.
 Lamb,
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 Scott.
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Daudet. Macmillan.
 Dickens, C. Macmillan.
 Dumas, A. Routledge.
 Eliot, G. Harper Bros.
 Feuillet. Romance of a poor young man. Caldwell & Co.
 Ferrier. Routledge.
 Grimm. Fairy Tales. 2 vol. ed. Bell.
 Hale, E. E. Little, Brown & Co.
 Harte, B. Riverside ed. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
 Hugo, V. Crowell & Co.
 Irving, W. Hudson ed. Putnam.
 Johnson. Rasselas. Clarendon Press Series.
 Lamb, C. & M. Tales from Shakespeare. Household
 ed. Coates.
 Longfellow, and other poets when possible. Cambridge
 ed. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.
 Marryat, *Capt.* Appleton.
 Meredith, G. Shaving of Shagpat and other novels.
 Roberts Bros.
 Scott. Novels, Dryburgh ed. A. & C. Black.
 Sue; E. Wandering Jew. 2 vol. Crowell.
 Sue, E. Mysteries of Paris. 2 vol. Allison.
 Thackeray. Biographical ed. Harper.
 Turgenieff, Ivan. Macmillan.
 Twain, Mark. Harper.
 Address inquiries and suggestions to any of the Com-
 mittee. 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.

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