As regards the *examinations*, however, I cannot help feeling surprise that they exist at all, seeing that, as yet, so little has been done to help the *average* library assistant in his study of the different branches of library science, upon which examinations are held.

In fact, would not some system of tuition based on the lines of the University Correspondence College be of more direct and far reaching utility?

Then, again, since there is a Library Bureau and also a Library Museum, what is still sadly wanting is an Association Library containing all technical works on library science of all countries with all obtainable publications of various British and Foreign Libraries. Much might come as gifts, and, as the advantage of such a collection would be almost beyond estimate, the necessary funds for its establishment and maintenance could surely be raised.

Yours faithfully,

TYRO.

"THE LIBRARY BUREAU": A PROTEST.

DEAR SIR,—Some months since Mr. Alfred Cotgreave, in a business prospectus of his various library appliances, made the following reference to the Library Bureau :

"The Inventor takes this opportunity of pointing out that the so-called Library Bureau is a private venture of another inventor, backed up by two or three members of the Library Association."

To this and to other references of a somewhat similar kind I gave no attention. I find, however, by reports from my traveller, that these and like insinuations by Mr. Cotgreave are acting a little mischievously to me, and are giving a wrong idea of the status of the Library Bureau to its prejudice. Will you allow me to declare that no librarian, public or private, has any share or business interest whatever, directly or indirectly, in the Library Bureau? I am, however, by permission, able to consult many among the most competent of British librarians, and obtain for general use the experience of those most qualified to render such service. In this way information of a more valuable character is obtainable than can be furnished by one librarian of record however varied.

From time to time I shall use the ordinary methods of honourable business enterprise to make known to the Library world the many ways in which, on business lines, the Library Bureau may be of service.

Yours faithfully,

CEDRIC CHIVERS,

Manager of Library Bureau.

19, Bloomsbury Street, W.C.

CATALOGUE CRITICISM.

DEAR SIR,—I observe a heading in *THE LIBRARY* for March, which has been missing for some time in its pages. "Library Catalogues" ought, surely, always to be in type in "a magazine of library literature and bibliography," and I hope it heralds a return to the old days of catalogue criticism. Well, not quite—hardly to the old criticism.

Mr. Curran has a most helpful paper on "Acceptable Free Library Catalogues" in *THE LIBRARY* for January; in it he gives some examples of the variations which have been effected in catalogue entries; of one he says that he has "never yet heard a justification of the method.