THE HEALTH OF FEMALE ASSISTANTS.

SIR,—With regard to the employment of women in libraries, a comparative statement of the health of men and women librarians would be useful in considering the question. In one library it has been calculated that the women assistants are absent three times as much as the men through illness.*

CHIEF LIBRARIAN.

[* This question is important, and I should be glad to hear from other librarians on the subject. I believe I am right in saying that the experience of the Post Office is not in accord with that of "Chief Librarian."—EDITOR.]

PRICES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY CATALOGUES.

SIR,—An important feature in connection with catalogues of Free Public Libraries is the price at which they can be sold.

There is at least one instance of the catalogue of a lending library, of 25,000 volumes being sold without loss, at sixpence, unassisted by advertisements of boots, soap, etc.

There are, no doubt, many others, but on some good catalogues the price does not appear.

CHIEF LIBRARIAN.

IMPOSTORS.

SIR,—A person giving his name as "James Harrison" called upon me lately to solicit assistance, stating that he had at one time been employed at the Notting Hill Library, the Richmond Library, and by Mr. A. Cotgreave, whom he specially mentioned. He further said that he had just returned from New York, penniless. He was very plausible, and I gave him a trifle. He afterwards visited the Hove Public Library and got something there, representing that he had been to the Brighton Library, but had *not* been able to see me.

On writing to the librarians of the above-mentioned libraries I received replies, informing me that no such person as "James Harrison" was ever in their employ, Mr. Cotgreave adding for himself, "unless *under another name*." I would advise librarians to look after J. H.

F. W. MADDEN.

SIR,—In May, 1882, I wrote a letter to the *Monthly Notes* of the Library Association, warning my brother librarians against an impostor who was then engaged in begging from place to place.

My note was afterwards confirmed by other letters in *Monthly Notes*, 1883, pages 16, 40, and 55.

The same man called upon me recently, represented himself as Mr. ——— Subscription library, and asked for work as a cataloguer. He had "impostor" plainly stamped on his face, and his breath proclaimed his habits. He got short shrift from me. His face was familiar, but it was not until he had gone that I recalled him as the same man whom I had exposed ten years ago, or he would probably, ere this letter appears, be doing a little term in one of H.M. Mansions as a rogue and a vagabond. I hope my brethren will take this warning.

JOHN BALLINGER.