

334 NOTES ON BOOKS AND WORK.

ment used, the number of copies printed on paper and printed on parchment, are all passed in review. Professor Dziatzko does not agree with all of Schwenke's conclusions, but he spares no praise for his exhaustive work. On the much debated question as to the exact date of commencement and date of finishing the work of printing the 42-line Bible, no definite conclusions are offered. He reproduces, however, from the copy belonging to the Leipziger Buchgewerbemuseum, a date in manuscript on the margin of the verso of leaf 324. The figures are arabic, and Dr. Dziatzko maintains that they read '1453.' Their very feebleness of tracing, he asserts, attests their being the work of a contemporary hand. Anyone of a later age attempting by these means to make the book seem older than it was, would have written 1453 boldly and clearly.

A. C.

The Fourth Conference of the Library Association of Australasia was held at Melbourne on April 2nd-4th, under the presidency of Mr. Edward Langton, who, in his opening address, drew the attention of the meeting to the question of opening the Public Library in Melbourne on Sundays. Mr. Langton pointed out that Victoria was the only State in which the public were deprived of access to their books on the Sabbath. The Trustees, he said, had moved in the matter, but it did not appear to be any use; the politicians of the State overruled them. An excellent programme of papers was prepared dealing with the manage-

ment of libraries, the methods of extending their usefulness and popularity, and kindred subjects. Among those of especial interest was one by Mr. H. C. L. Anderson, librarian of the Public Library of New South Wales, on 'Libraries and the Government Subsidy.' After referring to the different classes of libraries in New South Wales, Mr. Anderson dealt with the failure of what were known as municipal libraries, and upheld that municipal councils were not the best men to conduct such institutions, either in the choice of literature or the best methods of providing accommodation for the books. Mr. Anderson contended that libraries should be educational institutions; continuous schools for young students and mechanics; handmaidens of the technical colleges and universities. The government grant should be administered by capable persons, and the choice of books should be limited to works of reference, classical authors and approved fiction. Other papers advocating the establishment of municipal libraries and municipal councils received a considerable amount of support. Mr. E. La T. Armstrong, the public librarian of Victoria, dealt with 'The Proposed Federal Library of the Commonwealth,' and how to make it as serviceable as possible to the communities of the various States. The best methods of organization, he said, should be adopted, and every provision should be made for expansion. If a sufficiently experienced librarian was not forthcoming in Australia, the government should seek him in England or America.

J. R. B.