

## THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

### Notings.

IN a recent account of "Galignani's Retreat," at Neuilly, near Paris, a charitable institution founded by Messrs. A. & W. Galignani, the well-known publishers, it is stated that the library of the institution consists of 2,000 volumes, the generous gift of the Paris Printers, and Booksellers' Club. All the volumes are uniformly bound and bear the arms of the club. The pensioners may borrow the books and read them in their rooms, but they must be returned at the end of a month.

WE have received from the publishers, Messrs. Mawson, Swan, and Morgan, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, a prospectus of a most interesting book shortly to be published, entitled—*Ye Apothecarie: his Booke of Receipts agaynst alle maner of sicknesses; also howe to bake meates, to make Uskabaughe, to die clothe or woole, and diuers usefull things besydes*. The book is to be produced in lithograph facsimile of the original manuscript, which dates from Elizabeth's reign. The recipes seem to indicate that our English forefathers must have had marvellous powers of digestion, to bear the gruesome "brothes, poulders, and dyett drinckes" of the ancient Apothecary. "Half a peck of earthworms," the "lunges of a fox," the "harte of a toade" are remedies which would shake the nerves of the modern invalid. A portion of the work is devoted to such household matters as "To make cruddes and creame," "To make Uskabaughe," and there is also "A note of Mrs. Barbara, her lessons on ye Virginalle," which include compositions by Mr. Bird, organist to Queen Elizabeth, and by Dr. Bull, the reputed composer of our National Anthem. The book will be supplied to subscribers at 12s. 6d.

DR. PHILIP SCHAFF has sent an interesting account of the Vatican Library to the *New York Independent*. He vindicates the management from the frequent charges of illiberality. The library is open on about 200 days of the year from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; in winter from 8 to 12. The librarian he found always very polite and helpful. The library is said to contain 25,000 Latin, Greek and Oriental manuscripts, and 50,000 printed, though one of the sub-librarians said that the number of printed books exceeded 200,000. The manuscripts are by far the most important part, and make it, in Dr. Schaff's opinion, the most valuable library in the world. The printed catalogues of various sections of the library are enumerated, and it is stated that Pope Leo XIII. has ordered the preparation of a full catalogue. Rome has many other important libraries besides the Vatican, all being administered with great liberality.

IT is scarcely our business to review novels, but we may for once go out of our way to congratulate a young librarian on a successful beginning in this department of literature. We have received a copy of the second edition of Mr. Wm. E. Doubleday's *Heiress of Haddon*. Though in the guise and at the price of the "shilling shocker," Mr. Doubleday's work gives indication of careful historical reading, and, in spite of youthful crudities, is full of promise.

WE have not been overwhelmed with letters about the Bureau, and in spite of a heavy correspondence, we have been able to answer "by return" those we have received. But "the fewer men the greater share of honour," and we shall not be easily disheartened. Curiously enough, our most hearty encouragement comes from over-sea. Mr. Melvil Dewey, with characteristic enthusiasm, offers all kinds of help and

assistance, and, with true American disdain of space, speaks lightly of Mr. Davidson, the secretary of the American Bureau, making "a short trip across to see you about it." We shall certainly make a start and do our best to earn that encouragement which John Bull never fails to generously bestow on an assured success. A little help *in advance* would perhaps be kinder, but then it would not be business!

MISS JAMES in her admirable paper on the People's Palace related several amusing anecdotes of her experiences with readers, and suggested that if all librarians were to send to *The Library* notes of the "good things" they meet with in their daily work our deadly dull pages would be enlivened, and in time a collection of the humours of libraries worth preserving would be gathered.

The idea is a good one, and we should like to see it carried out. Of course every librarian is before all things a serious person and would no doubt "jock wi' deeficulty," but even the most solemn of the craft knows at least one funny story of libraries and their users. Let him send it at once.

MR. PASSMORE EDWARDS, who recently gave £20,000 to the Bethnal Green Free Library, has announced his intention of spending £50,000 during the next five years in forming libraries in villages throughout the country.

## Opening of the Edinburgh Free Public Library.

SPEECH BY LORD ROSEBERY.

My Lord Provost, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am exceedingly grateful to you for this beautiful remembrance which you have handed to me of this most interesting ceremony. The key will remind me of the opening of the library, and the casket in which it is enshrined will be none the less grateful to me because it is formed out of the remains of that house from which sprang the family of my gallant and patriotic young neighbour, Lord Hopetoun. But, my Lord Provost, I confess that a feeling comes over me to-day that I am not the right man in the right place. The right person to open this library is Mr. Carnegie himself, but Mr. Carnegie appears to think that a division of labour is a proper course for all human events to pursue, and that, whereas he is always giving libraries, I am always to open them. Already I have opened one that he has given in Dunfermline, and to-day it is my privilege to open that much larger one that he has given to the capital of the country of his birth. Well, my Lord Provost has told you how glad I was to be able to obey your commands, but had I been free to nominate my successor I should certainly have refused the honour. I should have said to myself that the right man to open a library of this kind, failing Mr. Carnegie, is Professor Masson—Professor Masson so identified with letters, so identified with Edinburgh, so identified with hard work in connection with this library. But, ladies and gentlemen, as I had no guarantee that I should be allowed to name my deputy, I was obliged to perform the ceremony myself. Now, Mr. Carnegie has been thanked, and justly thanked, for many things; but it seems to me that the gratitude of Edinburgh has not yet been put on exactly the right ground; which is, that Mr. Carnegie enabled Edinburgh to make up its mind. On two former occasions Edinburgh had been led forward to make the fatal leap into the system of free libraries, and twice Edinburgh had shrunk back. But on this third occasion Mr. Carnegie came forward and applied an argument so powerful, so weighty, so direct,