

library, the average being 240 each Sunday, against 202 in the previous year. 145,166 volumes were used in the news-rooms and boys' rooms at the branches. The number of adult readers of magazines and newspapers at the branches on Sundays has been 224,176, and the total number of visits paid to all departments of the libraries and reading rooms on Sundays 369,745, or an average of 7,400 each Sunday. With regard to the number of volumes at the service of the public, the committee report that the stock of books on the shelves of the libraries is now 257,459, of which there are 104,692 in the reference library and 152,767 in the branches.

RUNCORN.—During the year ended June 30th, 1895, 22,582 volumes were issued, an increase of 1,378 over the previous year's issues; 546 volumes were added, bringing up the total stock to 7,859. A music library has been formed, and short lectures on books and authors were delivered during the winter. Mr. Jones, the librarian, gives an excellent account of the Belfast meeting of the Association. The amount received from the library rate was only £193 14s.

WORKSOP.—The Worksop Urban District Council have unanimously decided to adopt the Public Libraries Act. The Mechanics' Institute have generously offered the whole of the books, about 2,000 volumes, in their library to the Council, and it is believed that the necessary funds for the erection of a suitable building will be raised by public subscription. The rate will produce about £186 per annum.

YORK.—In aid of the Public Library Book Purchasing Fund an interesting lecture was given in the Central Hall of the Fine Art Institution, York, on January 6th, 1896, by Professor Butcher, M.A., LL.D., Professor of Greek at the Edinburgh University, who, under the title of "An Ancient Humourist," dealt with the life and works of Lucian. The chair was taken by the Lord Mayor of York, and the company present included many of the leading citizens and members of the City Council.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Bibliographica: Papers on Books, their History and Art. Vol. II., parts 5-8. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co. 8vo., pp. viii., 504. Price 30s.

One of the chief reasons for the success which *Bibliographica* has achieved, is that it is not confined to any one branch of bibliography, but recognises the interest of all classes of book-lovers without distinction. The present volume does not fall behind its predecessor in this respect, dealing with a variety of subjects and this at the hands of the best authorities. Thus we have papers on "English Illuminated Manuscripts" and "Venetian Ducali," the former by Sir E. Maunde Thompson and the latter by Mr. J. W. Bradley. "Florentine Book Illustrations of the Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Centuries," are treated by Dr. Paul Kristeller; "The Illustrated Books of Sebastian Brant," by Mr. G. R. Redgrave; and "Chinese Illustrated Books," by Professor Douglas. All these deal with the artistic side of book production, and Mr. A. W. Pollard has found a kindred subject in the "Transference of Woodcuts

in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries"; while the outward decoration of books, is dealt with by Mr. Cyril Davenport in his papers on "Little Gidding Bindings" and the "Decoration of Book Edges."

The claims of the early English printers are not overlooked, "English Provincial Presses" forming the subject of three valuable and interesting papers, by Mr. W. H. Allnutt, and "The Long Shop in the Poultry," by Mr. H. R. Plomer, dealing with the work of one of the London presses during the sixteenth century.

On individual books the most important paper in the volume is Mr. Russell Martineau's "Notes on the Latin Bible of forty-two lines, 1455."

Besides these we find book-plates forming the subject of a paper by Mr. W. J. Hardy; "American Book Clubs," dealt with by Mr. E. D. North; and a review of the Bibliographical Society's work by Mr. F. Madan.

Each and all of these papers demand a longer notice than it is possible to give it here, and we must content ourselves with pointing out to the reader those which will best repay his attention.

In his paper on "English Illuminated Manuscripts," Sir E. Maunde Thompson carries on into the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries his review of the work of the early English illuminators, begun in the previous volume, showing clearly how the conventional decoration in vogue during the fourteenth century slowly gave way before the development of landscape painting in miniature, a process in some measure due to the less exclusively theological character of the literature of the fifteenth century. Speaking of the decoration of the miniatures, he points out how, as time went on, the English illuminators broke away from the French and Flemish models and developed a style peculiarly their own. This paper is illustrated with a series of very beautiful reproductions, amongst them being a coloured facsimile of the Annunciation from a Book of Hours of the early fifteenth century.

From the decoration of manuscripts to that of printed books is an easy transition and in his series of papers on "Florentine Book Illustrations," Dr. Kristeller draws attention to some of the finest work to be found in the whole history of wood engraving. Looking at the examples he has reproduced, one is struck with the contrast between the wretched work in vogue in Northern Europe in the fifteenth century and the beautiful productions of the Florentine artists during the same period. Each of these examples is a picture in itself, and their effect was heightened by the careful way in which they were placed in the books they illustrated. This was of course largely the work of the publisher or printer, though as Dr. Kristeller is careful to point out, it is impossible to make any classification of the cuts, under the printers who used them.

How the woodcuts of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries passed from hand to hand and travelled up and down Europe, is well told by Mr. A. W. Pollard in his paper on the "Transference of Woodcuts." As he very aptly puts it, in cut-hunting as in fox-hunting, the hue and cry are almost as exciting as the "kill," in other words there is pleasure to be gained from following up the history of a block, though its pedigree, when traced, may be not very important. English books especially are full of surprises, and Mr. Pollard justly observes that anyone attempting a history of English wood-engraving during the century and a half that followed Caxton's settlement at Westminster, would need to be quite as well up in the history of the French press. It was not a mere question of buying or borrowing, but oftentimes a set of blocks was cut from the illustrations of a previous edition. Mr. Pollard does not quote it, but there is no better example of this than the *Hundred Histories of Troy*, a book printed by the Charing Cross printer, Robert Wyer,

without date, but about 1540. This is profusely illustrated, and most of the blocks are copies of those in the French edition.

Mr. Allnutt's papers on the "English Provincial Presses," are a highly valuable contribution to the bibliography of English printing. In the first of the series he takes us successively to Oxford, St. Albans, York, Cambridge, Tavistock, Abingdon, Bristol, Ipswich, Worcester and Canterbury before the year 1556. In his second, he deals with the presses of the Dutch refugees at Norwich, the private press of Archbishop Parker at Lambeth, the Puritan press of Wandsworth and Hempstead, the Jesuit press of Green Street and Stonor, and the fugitive presses that produced the famous Martin Marprelate tracts; while the third paper is devoted to a record of Sir Henry Savile's press at Eton College, for which a special fount of Greek types was cast; of that of Robert Barker, the King's printer, at Newcastle, York and Bristol, with notices of other provincial presses at work during the Revolution. These notes of Mr. Allnutt's are supplemented with a list of all the books printed at the various presses, so far as our present knowledge goes, and where copies of them are to be found. Mr. Allnutt is somewhat dogmatic in his opinions and does not always give his readers a chance of verifying his statements; but the work he has done is so good that his method of doing it may pass unchallenged.

In conclusion, a word must be said on Mr. Russell Martineau's paper on the "Forty-two line Bible." Every student of incunabula will owe Mr. Martineau thanks for his careful work. By comparing the various known copies of the Bible in question both in England and abroad, he has been led to conclude that several of the sheets were twice printed, for some reason not easy to discover, and that these have been distributed broadcast throughout the various copies. The tabulated list of the various readings will be of the greatest use to bibliographers in verifying editions.

Altogether, the contents of this second volume of *Bibliographica* are well up to the standard attained in the previous year's issue, and the excellence with which it is produced, the clear printing, good paper, and beautiful illustrations, reflect the greatest credit on the publishers.

Facsimiles of Royal, Historical, Literary, and other Autographs in the Department of Manuscripts, British Museum.
First Series, Nos. 1-30. *Printed by Order of the Trustees.*
1895. Royal folio. Price 6s., or single plates, 3d.

The publication of these thirty facsimiles of autograph letters and documents forms the first instalment of a scheme which, when fully carried out, will enable any museum or public library to reproduce one of the most interesting exhibitions in the galleries of the British Museum at the cost of a few shillings. We may, and do, share, to some extent, the regrets of the critic in the *Times* that, since the art of the photographic reproducer has been called in, one step further should not have been taken, so as to accomplish the impossible and enable both sides of a folded letter to be seen at once. But of each document, all which is on view at the Museum is here reproduced, and though we should have preferred to have had the whole of each letter, it is no small thing that the original exhibition should thus be multiplied a thousand times. On the surpassing interest of the exhibition, we have little to add to our remarks, when we noticed the last issue of the *Departmental Guide* to the exhibited manuscripts, which is re-issued with these facsimiles for the modest additional sum of threepence. The documents are not merely interesting as specimens of the handwriting of interesting per-