

provided to cook the dinners of the workpeople, and certain of the women-folk were always told off to act as cooks. The ovens are of the latest pattern. The workpeople bring their own food and can buy their potatoes cooked. The second floor is devoted to collating, sewing, and papering. This is a much larger floor than the one above and will take in considerably over a hundred workers. We noted three Brehmer's sewing machines at work here, and our guide mentioned that they would sew either on string or tape. There was also a back sewing machine, and knocking down and nipping machines. There were women at work in this room "guarding," and one old lady, who was doing her work with excellent precision, told us that she had been at the work for half a century.

Mr. Bell then initiated us into the mysteries of caoutchouc or india-rubber work. "We use it as extensively as anyone in the trade," he said, "and find it invaluable for large atlases and books of plates." Having explained how the solution of india-rubber was placed on the edges and then affixed to the specially made cloth, the proprietor permitted us to test some of the work done, with a result that satisfied us that the ordinary overcasting could not compare with this system. Several men were engaged upon some large folios that were being placed in leather, and very handsomely finished, but Mr. Bell explained that he made no pretensions in this department, and did not take in ordinary leather work. Upon coming a floor lower, quite a bevy of attractive young ladies were discovered busy at work laying on the gold ready for the blockers. Floating a small piece of gold leaf in the air, Mr. Bell asked us to guess its thickness? We gave it up and then learned that it was the 360 thousandth part of an inch.

We now found ourselves in the basement, and here all was alive with work. Guillotines, clamping machines, and blocking presses of all descriptions were in full swing. A trimming machine was working with a pleasing noiseless action in an out-of-the-way corner. It left the edges practically uncut, the knife cutting with a saw-like movement upon a table that rose and fell. Fourteen presses were all in use upon an extensive variety of work and thirteen hand blocking machines with four of Gough's steam blockers were in full work. The dexterity of the cloth-cutters is extraordinary, and would utterly astonish an outsider. Passing from the basement we espied the fine sixteen-horse power engine that provides the machinery on the whole four floors with the necessary driving power. It was some relief to get into the calmer atmosphere of the counting house, where we were able to have five minutes chat with our good old friend, Mr. McInnes. A refreshing cup of tea greeted our return to the proprietor's sanctum, and here we sat for a while listening interestedly to that ever-busy worker, Mr. Colley, who next to Mr. Bell, is the soul of Temple Works. He was able to inform us upon many matters concerning the state of the trade, expressing his entire satisfaction with the amount of work the house was doing at this almost dead season of the year.

As we rose to leave, Mr. Colley asked us to remember that Temple Works paid full wages and thoroughly believed in the Trades Union.

Bookmaking—Past and Present.



HERE are certain people who are wont to give vent to exaggerated expressions of admiration for all the productions of a past age, not infrequently accompanied by a disposition to belittle the work of the present day when compared with the more remote. This is especially true of the results of the printer's and bookbinder's art. We hear of and read articles extolling the superiority of the make of books which date from the period when the invention of printing had just been made known to the world. From the glowing phrases one would receive the impression that the cutting of letters, the manufacture of paper, the perfection of ink and clearness of printing had been all at once attained at the birth of the new art, and that it had been rather retrograding than advancing since that day. It is perfectly natural and admissible to both feel and express admiration for the fine qualities possessed by the early specimens of art, as it is equally true that he must be a person devoid of appreciation who can without enthusiasm examine the beautiful illuminated manuscripts which, although wrought by hand 500 years ago, preserve their gold and colours to this day with undimmed brightness. But that is no reason for attempting to deny the immeasurable advance in the progress of humanity which was made by the advent of the printing press.

Just as the very art of printing came at a time when the age was ripe for it, which is true of other great discoveries, so other improvements have been added from time to time as the reading world has been educated up to a demand for a greater number of publications, characterized by points of superiority of make over those which have preceded. Not a week passes without there being chronicled a claim of more or less importance for some new and useful device which appertains to the art of bookmaking in one of its numerous branches. Necessity being the mother of invention, as the old saying runs, in these days of a demand for an extensive and cheap production of books the producer is compelled to meet the demand for cheap and artistic work by the use of new and improved machinery. To save labour is to save money, and the prudent man who hopes to meet his competing rivals must avail himself of every means which tends to lessen the cost of production. Our cheap bound books of the day are simple marvels, and one can hardly refrain from expressing surprise that any profit can be obtained after the paper maker, the printer and the binder have performed each his share of the whole work. That there is a profit is unquestionable, but to the inexperienced it would seem as if the elaborately rich covers of some of our gift and holiday books were alone worth the price which is asked for the volume.