

practice to have a quantity of boards of different sizes made in stock, so that a pair can be selected at any time, for the drier the boards the better will be their condition when put to the book. When they are taken out of the press they should be carefully arranged in pairs, *i.e.*, the two insides together; this allows them to dry in the position they will always occupy.

These things may seem trivial, but, indeed, they are most important; if attention is given to them the boards will turn out all that is desired, and if not, the reverse will be the case. By such apparently trifling matters the good or bad workman is discovered.

In common cheap work it is usual to make use of straw boards, but the best class of board should always be adopted. Of course, where a large quantity of trade or contract work has to be done at cutting prices, the cheapest must be used. But there is a good quality of this board nicely milled, which is not much inferior to the grey board, and where possible I would advise binders to procure this. Sometimes, indeed, it can be used with advantage in the best work. It is much lighter than grey, at the same time giving the required thickness.

[To be continued.]

A Centenarian Bookbinder.

NEVER before in the annals of the trade has it been recorded of one of the craft that he had lived to become a centenarian. Through the kindness of Mr. R. Hislop we are able to give a short account of the aged gentleman who has recently died, and having seen an authentic copy of his certificate of birth we are convinced that there is no mistake about his age.

ARCHIBALD GUILLAN was born on October 18th, 1790, in the parish of Kilconquhar, Fifeshire, Scotland. After receiving his education at Cameron and Radernie, he was apprenticed to the late Mr. Cockburn, of Shore-street, Anstruther. Upon the completion of his apprenticeship he removed to Edinburgh, and in 1815 (the Waterloo year) he was employed in London. In 1816 he returned to his native place and started in business on his own account. During the same year he married Miss Blyth, a grand-niece of the late Lieutenant Waid, founder of the Waid Academy. Six children were born to him of this marriage, but only three survived; and he had the misfortune to lose his

wife about thirty years ago. Mr. Guillan's life has been of a very quiet and uneventful character, but he was held in very great respect by all who knew him, and continued to work at his trade until the year 1884, being then 94 years of age. Since that period he has lived in retirement, and on October 18th last he was entertained at a social banquet held in the Town Hall, Anstruther, when a large circle of friends and admirers gathered round to do him honour. Ex-Provost Anderson, who presided, then presented him, in the name of the subscribers, with a purse of sovereigns in honour of the completion of his centenary.

He died on May 30th, 1891, and his remains were interred in Anstruther Parish Churchyard beside those of his wife. The plate upon his coffin bore the following simple inscription: "Archibald Guillan, Died May 30, 1891, aged 100 years." The photograph, which has been kindly lent by a relative, was taken on his one hundredth birthday.



ARCHIBALD GUILLAN.

A REMARKABLE BOOK.— It is not everyone that can make his own books, but a noted angler and artist of New York has, after eight years of patient labour succeeded in making a book that is the envy of all collectors.

The text is printed with a pen on artificial parchment, and the hundred pages are profusely illustrated with some three hundred drawings in sepia, water colour, and Indian ink, while the capital letters are elaborately illuminated in gold and colours, after the style of ancient missals.

This unique work is entitled "Recollections of an Angler," and comprises the fishing trips and adventures

of the author, W. Holberton, from his boyhood up to the present time. It is superbly bound by Stikeman, in crushed levant, with appropriate tooling; and the owner has the satisfaction of knowing that even the wealthiest collector cannot duplicate it.

MISS H. P. JAMES, Librarian of the Osterhout Free Library, Wilkesbarre, Pa., U.S.A., sends the following to the *Critic*: "I have just read your wail over the dust on the rough tops of uncut books. If you wish to clean them, and also to leave them a little rough, take the finest grade of sand-paper and rub them with it. If a piece is tacked on a bit of wood about an inch square at the end and three or four inches long, the work can be done very rapidly. I have treated uncut books in that way, and find it works admirably."