

Library Bindings.

THE following "Specifications for Bindings" have been issued in connection with the public library at Peoria, Illinois, and may be commended to the attention of English librarians:—

1. In pulling books apart care should be taken not to injure the backs.
2. Each book must be carefully collated, all single leaves and pictures securely pasted in, and all torn pages should be thoroughly repaired with onion paper.
3. Books from which either title-page, leaves, or pictures are missing must not be bound, except by special instructions.
4. In pasting in leaves or pictures, the paste should not be tipped on with the finger, but with the brush on the pasting-board, and with a piece of waste paper over the leaf or picture the required distance from the edge to be pasted, so that the paste is deposited evenly in a straight line.
5. After the leaves and pictures have been pasted in, the books should be placed in the press for one night.

SEWING.

6. The books are to be sewed on linen tapes $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch wide, and there should be used for 12mo. volumes at least two tapes, and if they are thicker than half an inch, three tapes; for 8vo. and larger volumes four or more tapes.
7. In cutting apart there should be left at least $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches of tape on each side of the book. The first and last sections and the waste papers should be overcast with muslin, and each section be sewed "all along" with the best Marshall thread. The beginning of the thread must be carefully secured, and as each thread is terminated, it must be securely and neatly joined to another, and the ends cut off.
8. The back of the book must not be cut off for whip-stitching, except when the book is worn too much to be sewed in the regular way; and in such case the consent of the librarian must be obtained.
9. Each section should be opened up to the back, in order that all leaves be caught in sewing.
10. Each volume should be provided with two waste papers.

TRIMMING.

11. Not more of the margin of the book should be trimmed off than the rough dirty edge, leaving the book as large as possible. Books with narrow margins should be trimmed on top only, and if the top margin is too narrow, it should not be trimmed at all.
12. In glueing, the glue should not be too thick, but very hot, and must be well rubbed in between the sections.
13. The back should be rounded when the glue is cool, but before it is hard.
14. The boards are to be Davey's tar boards, and for 12mo. or 8vo. volumes which are thinner than one inch, No. 25 should be used; for thicker or larger volumes, No. 20, or heavier.
15. The tapes must be passed through slits in the boards; cut the size of the tape from the inside to the outside, and securely glued down on both sides and well hammered.

16. The book should then be pressed with tins between boards and book.
17. The backs of books should then be washed with thin paste and allowed to stand for a few minutes to permit the glue to soften, then rubbed off carefully and allowed to dry.
18. All books to have loose spring backs.
19. The lining should then be put on the back of books, one on and two off, or on larger volumes two on and two off.

MOROCCO BINDING.

20. Books to have four to five raised bands according to size.
21. Use for backs and corners genuine morocco of the colour ordered ; thin skins to be used for small work to avoid clumsiness, and heavier skins for large books. The leather must be carefully pared round the edges so as to leave no raised joints when pasted down.
22. The sides must be covered with the best "Gustav" marble paper, which must be glued to the boards.
23. All books bound in this style to have silk headbands, comb marble waste papers, and sprinkled edges. The backs to be finished with extra deep gold, with lines on top and on each side of every band, small ornaments in each field, and lettering according to instruction.
24. In gilding, the leather is to be moistened with vinegar, then pencilled with glaire, and when dry rubbed off with a piece of oiled cotton wool.

CLOTH BINDINGS.

25. The whole book to be covered with silk-grained diagonal English cloth fastened with glue. Plain waste papers, calico headbands, open spring back, without raised bands, gilding, or lettering.
26. When thoroughly dry, books must be pressed again.

HALF ROAN BINDINGS.

27. On work and trimmings same as cloth work, except that the back and corners are not to be covered with cloth, but straight-grained roan, carefully pared down on the edges and the sides with marble paper. There is to be no gilding on the back except author, title, and the class number.

Cloth=binders' Specimen Plate.

The very pretty cloth design opposite speaks for itself. It is one of the most pleasing specimens Mr. Matthew Bell has produced. The grouping of the foliage and berries as a foundation for the conventional cross exhibits taste and skill on the part of the artist, who we are pleased to note is a lady. We would draw our cloth-binding readers' attention to the excellence of the blocking.