

It is stated that, in accordance with ancient custom, raffling for Bibles took place at St. Ives on Tuesday, June 7th, when twelve children cast dice for the six Bibles awarded, under the direction of the vicar. The custom dates from 1675, and is in accordance with the will of Dr. Wilde, who left £50 to provide a fund for the purpose. It was expended in the purchase of what is still called "Bible Orchard," with the rent of which the books are bought, and a sum paid to the vicar for preaching a special sermon. The rent on a piece of land worth £50 in the year 1675 must be something considerable by this time, and while that has been going up the price of Bibles has materially declined. Just fancy teaching children to gamble for six Bibles, while the vicar quietly pockets a neat little sum for superintending the operation.

VERY recently a magnificent piece of embroidery was executed with a view to it being presented to a very exalted person, and after it was done, it was determined to have it made up into a book cover, when it was sent to a binder for that purpose. Then came the difficulty of finding a book to suit and fit the cover, which was of a somewhat awkward size, and scarcely any margin was left for the turn-in. After a lot of trouble, however, a Bible was procured which answered the purpose; the work was duly presented, and the press bestowed its praise on the work of the ladies. But would it not be better for schools of needlework to teach their pupils to make covers for books, rather than to imitate the peculiar method of the man who made barrels to fit bungs?

THE choice and artistic "Caxton Head Catalogue" of manuscripts, rare old books and bookbindings, just issued by Mr. and Mrs. Tregaskis, with an ex-libris of the publishers, and title designed by Walter Crane, is full of good things and should be appreciated for its own sake. Amongst the works catalogued are some fine stamped and armorial bindings, several of which are from the library of the late E. H. Lawrence, F.S.A., and some fine specimens of embroidery and enamels.

AN Autograph Society is shortly to be formed for the encouragement of autograph and manuscript collecting.

MESSRS. BERRY & ROBERTS have taken over the business of the late Mrs. C. Howe, book head-band manufacturer, and have engaged the services of her daughter so that the work may be continued in precisely the same manner, but within their own premises.

"POPULAR ELECTRIC LIGHTING," by Captain E. Ironside Bax, the general manager of the Westminster Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, is a clearly written little book, explaining in a simple and interesting manner such points concerning the subject of electric lighting, heating, and motive power as may be useful for intending users of electric energy. To those who have not studied the subject it will be a useful manual, and it may be a matter of surprise to find to what domestic uses electricity may be applied, the illustrations given materially helping to show the nature of the devices employed. The cover design has been produced under the direction of Mr. R. A. Bowker, Middle-row, London, E.C.



Early German and Italian Printing.

"MONUMENTA GERMANIA ET ITALIE TYPOGRAPHICA," or Records of German and Italian Printing, is a new work, published under the direction of the Imperial Printing Office by Otto Harrassowitz, Leipzig. This publication, which will be compiled by K. Burger, keeper of the Book Trades' Museum, Leipzig, is intended to illustrate the development of the art of typography in Germany and Italy from the period of its invention to the end of the fifteenth century, in a succession of carefully chosen printing specimens.

Until Holtrop, as recently as 1868, gave in his "Monuments Typographiques des Pays-Bas au XVth siècle" an almost complete list of the type in use in the Netherlands, and Thierry-Poux, in the "Premier Monuments de l'Imprimerie en France au XVth siècle," reproduced a large number of printed works representing the productions of all the towns in France in which the art of printing was practised in the fifteenth century, the student was previously obliged to examine old, and often very imperfect, books to obtain the information on the like productions of Germany and Italy. The absence of such a work has often been deplored, and more especially has it been mentioned by B. Von Naumann in "Serapeum," by Hartwig in the "Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen," and others.

The work in question is proposed to be issued in twelve numbers, each of twenty-five pages, dated and numbered. Of the printers of Italy, the Germans who introduced the art into Italy will be carefully considered in dealing with the craft in that country. The methods in use at the present time render it possible to reproduce copies of prints with the greatest fidelity to details, as for instance in the "Druckschriften," published under the direction of the Imperial Printing Office. So as to obtain the best effect, the plates will be printed on a special paper prepared for the purpose. With such a number of prints it will be feasible to arrange and index the various plates, so that the work will be an indispensable aid to lovers of old prints, and to librarians and collectors. On the other hand, all the followers of Gutenberg, typefounders and printers, and all connected with the book trade, will find the book full of splendid examples, and invaluable for suggestions for new designs. Besides arranging the plates in chronological order, there will also be an index to assist in the further search of the reader. The last of the series will contain a short historical account of the development of the art of printing in Germany and Italy, with special attention to the type in use.

The work is to be issued at the price of twenty marks per number, in get-up and style of the prospectus, and will be complete in about three years.