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Stationery Binding.

No. IV.—BY WM. C. DUFF, F.A.S.



HERE has been before the trade for a considerable time a wire-sewing machine—if such it can be called. The work which it does cannot be called sewing; each section is stabbed with a certain number of wire staples, the staples pass through and are clinched upon a piece of strong tape; each section is independently fastened, so that it really is not *sewing*. There is no doubt about the strength of the wire and tape, and if there were not such a thing as damp, the appearance of the wire would not change so readily. And besides, what will do for one class of paper is not of much use for another, as far as this work is concerned. Some papers are very brittle, and the constant opening and closing of the books soon begin to tell upon that part where the wire is tightly clinched. Like the wire-stitching machines, they may do for a cheap class of work, but for that which is to lie upon the banker's desk and be in daily use for years, there is nothing like the thread.

There is just now a thread-sewing machine for account books being introduced into the trade, which bids fair to make the wire take a back seat. It is brother to the little machine which has been in the publishing trade so long, known as the Smyth book-sewing machine. This machine, although quite new to the trade, requires little comment; it is enough to say that it will sew account books as well, and with like speed, as the little one does letterpress work. It is not my intention to go into the question of machinery in this series, I may have an opportunity of going fully into it by-and-by, when this sewing machine will be described in detail.

Previous to the book being sewn and while the sections are being pressed the end-papers should be made.

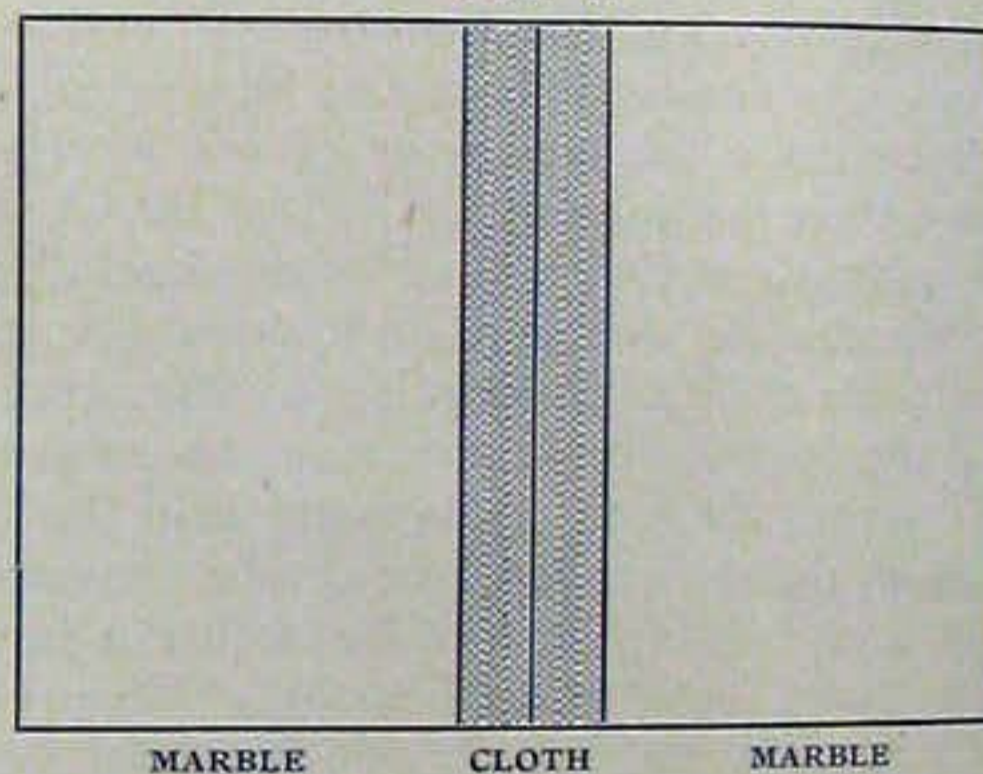
There are many different methods of making "end-papers," but it will be quite unnecessary to detail each one. A good method, which applies particularly to first-class work, is the following:—

Four sheets of paper are required, which should be the same as is to be used in the book. The usual workshop practice is for the ruler to lay off four sheets for the end-papers after he has trimmed his job. These four sheets are now given to the binder, who folds them *once*, according to the shape of the book. He next proceeds to cut two strips, of leather, cloth, or linen, as circumstances demand, which strips are for the joints. These are laid upon a piece of waste paper and glued carefully with thin warm glue. If leather is used, the edges should first be pared with a sharp knife. One strip is now taken and laid straight upon the bench, the glued side uppermost. A sheet of the paper is taken and the folded side carefully placed upon this not quite half-way; another sheet is taken

and laid parallel to the first with about $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch space between. The whole is now turned over and rubbed carefully with the folder, to ensure the cloth adhering at every part. The other is treated in like manner, and thus the four sheets become joined by the cloth into a pair of end-papers.

Marble paper, according to size, is now taken; one of the edges cut even, glued, and laid upon the inside of the end-paper, allowing it to overlap the cloth, so that when finished the cloth joint will be about 2-inches broad with the fold in the centre. Fig. 1 will assist in making this understood.

FIG. I.



While the book is being sewn the boards should be made. This is very important, for all account books should have good boards, hard and strong, such as will not bend or twist when exposed to the atmosphere of the office. They must lie flat to the book. It is really a grave defect when the boards of a book become so "capped" that they form a kind of pivot for the book to turn upon when lying upon the merchant's desk. This is very common and should be carefully guarded against. Another defect, quite as common, is the boards turning outwards, as if they wanted to part company with the book. These important items can only be successfully accomplished by the workman who carefully watches the behaviour of the boards under all circumstances. However, there is a rule to be observed in the making of boards, and I will try and make it clear to the reader.

Cut up a number of "grey" boards the size required, and of such a thickness as will suit the requirements of the book or books in hand. Grey boards are the best for this purpose, and are supplied in all sizes and thicknesses. When the boards have been cut they should be pasted together; and it will be best, if possible, to have a thin one for the inside, which should only be pasted half-way, so as to have half of it open for a purpose which will be described further on. When pasted together, they should be put into the standing press and considerable pressure exerted upon them, being left in the press to dry. It is a good

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."