

## Our Coloured Plate.

THE plate presented with this number of *THE BOOKBINDER* is the third of the series we are permitted to give from Bernard Quaritch's "Facsimilies of Bookbinding." The title of the work will be seen from the plate, and the binding is French of the eighteenth century, about 1710-1715; the binder was probably Du Seuil. In his introduction to the work named, Mr. Quaritch says—"During the first twenty years of the eighteenth century, Augustin du Seuil, who had evidently been brought up in Boyer's house, became famous as a binder. His work is more ornate than that of his teacher, and shows a renewal of some of the fine and delicate methods of Le Gascon's time. He indulged in broad dentelle borders, and preferred olive for the production of his best effects."

### Strengtheners for Bookbindings.

AN improvement in bookbinding, intended for preserving the top, back and edges of cloth and paper bound books, and for preventing such backs from being crushed or wrinkled either in packing or in course of usage, consists of book-back strengtheners. These strengtheners are made in bands or series, and the separate strengtheners are of different widths, so that when cut apart from each other they can be used in different size books. Some are made a half-inch wide, others an inch wide, and others an inch and a-half wide. These widths will adapt them for most sizes of books. They are also made thicker at the top edge, and thinner at the lower edge. By this means they are lighter for a given strength, and are sometimes more readily fastened in the paper and cloth forming the back part of cover.

In cutting out the paper or cloth to form the cover of the book, the part which forms the back is, as usual, cut so as to separate it for a short distance at the top and bottom from the parts which are to be turned over to form the sides. The strengtheners are then applied at the top and bottom of the back, and the piece of cloth or paper which has been separated to the width of the proposed back is folded over upon the strengthener, and the strengthener held in position between the back and the piece which has been folded over in any suitable way.

One of the simplest modes of holding the strengthening pieces in position is to insert their points or ends in slits cut in the turned over edge of the back. This will leave the strengtheners held in position by being supported at the lower portion, by having their points or ends passed through the slits, and at their upper portions by being held between the folded-over paper or cloth. They may, however, be united to the cloth or paper by glue, cement, rivets, or in any other suitable way, although the mode described is deemed preferable on account of its simplicity and economy, and because it dispenses with the necessity for the use of glue, which is objectionable.

These book-back strengtheners are preferably made of vulcanized rubber, but they may be made of metal or of any tough, strong material, such as papier-mâché, cellulose, stiffened cloth, or even from stiff cardboard suitably prepared. They have been patented.—  
*The American Bookmaker.*