

diocese of Augsburg. In February, 1487, he dates the colophon of the "Obsequiale Collectum" from Augsburg, and states that it was the first work printed by him in that city after his return from Venice.

For a period of twenty years he resided in the St. Katherine-street, and in the tax-book he is mentioned first as Erhardt Ratdolt, later as "Meister Erhardt Ratdolt," and occasionally with the adjunct of "Buchdrucker" (printer). In 1507 he removed to the Frawengraben, and there he remained until his death.

According to Zapf, the chronicler of the Augsburg press, the death of Ratdolt took place in 1516, but this is manifestly incorrect, as from references in the *Gerichtsbuch* to payments to him, and from various notices in the tax-books of Augsburg, it appears that he was still living in 1527. In the year 1528 the tax was, however, paid by Erhardt Ratdoltin, *i.e.*, the widow of Ratdolt, and his death must have, therefore, taken place during the course of that year. For a long time antecedent to his death he printed in partnership with his son, Jörg, who, under the name of Georgius Ratdolt, proved a puzzle to Zapf. Butsch tells us that he died a wealthy and a highly respected citizen, and that his widow paid what was at that time the considerable tax of 40 gulden. We have no knowledge of the age he had reached at his death, but as he printed for ten years at Venice, and lived nearly forty years after his return to his native city, he cannot have been less than seventy years old when he died. It is sad that one to whom the art of printing is so greatly indebted should have left so few traces of his career beyond those to be gleaned from the masterpieces of his own press.

During the time he printed at Augsburg he adopted the handsome woodcut device we herewith reproduce in reduced facsimile, this was printed in black and red. Ratdolt was very expert in the use of coloured inks, and the dedication of the copy of his "Euclid" to the then Doge of Venice, which is now in the British Museum, is printed in gold; the first specimen of this use of the precious metal.—GILBERT R. REDGRAVE.

### Book-Plates.



THE taste for elegant and choice books is undoubtedly spreading, and just now there is quite a craze among book-lovers for the collection of those little labels which are placed in books as marks of possession, and are usually known as book-plates. New ones are every day being designed, and much artistic excellence is exhibited in the designs. Most possessors of books like to write their names within the covers, and some, going a little further, have their names printed on a ticket to place inside their books. Here we have the book-plate in its simplest form. Book-plates appear to have taken their rise in Germany, or at all events the earliest examples known to us are connected with that country, and with the great master, Albert Durer. Wilibald Pirckheimer was a great friend of Luther and Melancthon, and he possessed a goodly library filled with the works of the early reformers. In these books, many of

them large folios, he placed his famous book-plates; one of these was a woodcut designed by Durer which contained Pirckheimer's arms and those of his wife with much emblematical surroundings—the other was a copper-plate portrait of Pirckheimer, also by Durer, which must have been a speaking likeness of the burly jurist of Nuremberg. The books which are adorned with these valuable book-plates were bought by the Earl of Arundel, the famous connoisseur and collector, from whom they descended to Henry Howard, afterwards Duke of Norfolk, who presented them to the newly formed Royal Society on the suggestion of John Evelyn the Diarist. Durer made several book-plates for his friends which are described in Thausing's valuable life of the artist. One for Lazarus Spengler was designed in 1515, and in the British Museum there is a drawing of the same date which bears the inscription, "Albert Durer did this for Melchoir Pfinzing's book." The plate for Hieronymus Ebner, of Nuremberg, also designed by Durer, is dated 1516. Before taking leave of German book-plates we must mention a very curious one of John Faber, Bishop of Vienna, who was called by his admirers the "hammer of heretics" on account of the curious statement which it contains. The Bishop in 1540, the year before he died, bequeathed his books to the College of St. Nicholas in Vienna, and he had a book-plate designed for the purpose, with this inscription (in Latin) upon it:—"This book was bought by us, Dr. John Faber, Bishop of Vienna—and since, indeed, that money (which purchased this volume) did not arise from the revenues and properties of our diocese, but from our own most honest labours in other directions; and therefore it is free to us to give or bequeath the book to whomsoever we please; we accordingly present it to our College of St. Nicholas; and we ordain this volume shall remain forever for the use of the students." The collecting of book-plates is so far an evil that their labels are often taken out of books where they are of more interest than when collected with others in a scrap book. But it is useless complaining, for the mania has laid hold of a large number of collectors, and a strong illustration of the way in which the taste has spread is to be found in the fact that during the last few weeks a special society of book-plate collectors has been formed.—*Daily Chronicle*.

DUTCH hand-made paper is chiefly manufactured at Maestricht, Amsterdam, and at Apeldoorn, a mill which produces the fine "verge de Hollande" laid paper and paper for bank notes, loan papers, &c. All sizes are made, but chiefly the superior qualities. This factory employs 150 workmen and produces on an average 2,500 pounds per diem. These papers are well-known throughout the world. The *Nederlandsche Papier Fabrick* at Maestricht is the largest in the country. Its production is taken largely by England and her dependencies. About 700 hands are employed, and all kinds of papers made from the common wrappers to the finest book papers. The output of "fine writings" is used by the Hollanders themselves. The reputation which the Low Countries have obtained for the best kind of papers extends also to those of a cheaper grade.