



ROUGH SKETCH OF MODERN LEATHER BINDING (see page 176).

Our Competition.

As the response to our last competition for apprentices only, has been so small, we have decided to allow it to remain open for another month. The competition is for a half-bound morocco book, sewn flexible, and the conditions will be as on former occasions, viz. :—

Competitors must send in their work to the Editor, THE BOOKBINDER, 2, Gresham Press Buildings, Little Bridge Street, E.C., on or before the 20th of June, accompanied by a letter from employers, guaranteeing that the work was done in their shop, and by the persons sending in their names as competitors.

Employers must also state the number of years the apprentices have been with them.

Competitors must pay cost of carriage to and fro.

The Book may be forwarded by one and finished by another; but both names must be given.

Three leading London binders will adjudge upon the work sent in, and a sum of 10s. will be awarded the most creditable specimen. A free copy of THE BOOKBINDER for twelve months will be sent to those who are highly commended.

The names of all competitors, with their addresses, will be published in THE BOOKBINDER in order of merit.

As every effort will be made to return the books sent in as early as possible, competitors might make use of work executed for customers with the sanction of the latter.

A small book, well forwarded and neatly lettered, and finished in the class of work that will most please the judges.

Modern Leather Binding.

IN spite of the allegation that bookbinders to-day are mere copyists of their predecessors in the craft, we frequently espy distinct innovations upon all the accepted forms of book cover decoration. It may, perhaps, be described as an outcome of the present æsthetic fever that rules society, and is, we fear, rather a straining at something pretty and effective rather than a variation of the accepted rules of design and decoration. The illustration on page 170 is a rough sketch of a cover recently seen at a leading leather binder's in London. The cover, of rich brown crushed levant, bearing this design in fine gold outline, was decidedly a pleasing production, and one that would have been in full accord with modern drawing-room adornment. But whether it can be described as true art, or whether modern household decoration can be accepted as true art, is quite another question, and one that we do not care here to discuss.
