

of the miraculous deliverance of Anne Greene, who being executed at Oxford Decemb. 14. 1650, afterwards revived; and by the care of certain Physicians there is now perfectly recovered. . . . Written by a Scholler in Oxford. . . . The second impression." 4to; Oxford, 1651. On pages 13 and 14 there are some verses by Christopher Wren.

Large numbers of tracts and sermons relating to the various city parishes and their charities are to be found in this library. A detailed account of the more important of these may be found in the catalogue of St. Paul's Library, prepared by the Rev. Dr. Simpson and published by Mr. Elliot Stock.

Rather curiously, the last book of donations for the repair of the old cathedral is still extant, with dated promises to subscribe up to 1664, two years before the great fire. Also we find a book of donations for rebuilding St. Paul's, with autograph inscriptions: "I will give one thousand pounds a yeare. whithall. 20 March 1678. Charles R."; followed by: "I will give two hundred pounds a yeare to begin from Midsummerday last past July 17. 1678. James."

Let us hope they paid up. At any rate, with or without the fulfilment of royal promises, St. Paul's was built, and has become every day more beautiful, in spite of its outward grime, and more dear to the inhabitants of the greatest city the world ever knew. Thanks to the present librarian, it has a collection of books largely illustrative of that growth, a collection that no student of the life of the metropolis should miss seeing and studying, and which we hope in future may be made even more representative of all the purest types of society which pass beneath the shadows of the mighty cathedral. St. Paul's is our centre; but especially the centre of Protestantism in its religious and social aspect, not only as a religious creed, but by reason of its being a factor in our social progress; so may it be with its library.

Our very hearty thanks are due to the Rev. W. Sparrow Simpson for his kind assistance in our inquiries, assistance most ungrudgingly given, in spite of ill health.



**MARBLING BOOKBINDERS' CLOTH.**—An improved process for imparting to bookbinders' cloth, and other material, a variegated or marbled appearance has been patented by H. K. Stephens. His method is as follows:—The surface of the material to be marbled is prepared with a solution of colouring matter, by preference those giving very little colour in themselves or lacking intensity, but capable of yielding several colours—that is to say, very decided and distinct coloured bodies, according to the means employed for their production. The material is then laid with the prepared side upward, on any convenient support, adjusted so that water will slowly trickle from the highest to the lowest side. Then water is splashed over the surface to be marbled so as to cause the mordants or reagents to run or trickle more freely in various directions, and so produce more gradations and softness of tint than could be produced by any other means.

## Roman Paper and Ink.



ALTHOUGH the writing materials of the ancient Romans were crude enough, when compared with the elegant stationery of to-day, they wrote charming letters and books whose fame will live for ever. There was no haste in epistolary efforts in those days; writing was a serious business and involved an amount of preparation favourable to thought. The materials used as paper were of three kinds: the rind of a plant or tree called papyrus, parchment made of skins, and wooden tablets covered with wax. Pieces of the thin rind of the papyrus were joined together when damp, pressed, dried in the sun, and rubbed until smooth. Long rolls of sheets pasted together were sold. Some rolls of papyrus sheets nearly fifty yards in length are now preserved in one or two museums in Europe. When a book was finished, a stick was fastened to the last sheet and all the sheets were rolled together in a way similar to that in which we roll our maps. The name of the book was written in red ink on a piece of papyrus which was attached to the roll. The second kind of paper or parchment was made from the skins of sheep and goats. The hair was taken off and the skin made smooth by the use of pumice. A remarkable fact in connection with writing on parchment was that the ancients often used the same piece twice or even three times. They did this by rubbing or washing the writing off. The third kind of writing material was a waxen tablet, used for almost any purpose, but chiefly in writing letters and making notes and by schoolboys for writing exercises or working out problems. The tablets were made of wood, generally beech, fir, or citron wood, covered on one side with wax. In order to prevent the wax of one piece from rubbing against that of the other when they fastened two pieces together with wire, they left a rim around the wood. The wire fastening the backs of the tablets served as a hinge. When a writer had finished his letter he placed the tablets together, bound them with a strong string, tied this into a knot, placed wax upon the knot, and stamped it with his signet ring. The ink used by the Romans was of various kinds. When they used paper made from papyrus they wrote with ink composed of lamp-black and gum. With parchment they used a mixture of gum and oak galls. Sometimes they made an ink by boiling the dregs of wine. It is said that occasionally they used as ink the black fluid emitted by the cuttlefish. Ovid tells us that people occasionally wrote with fresh milk, and that the characters could be seen only when coal dust was sprinkled upon the paper. Single and double inkstands, the latter for ink of two kinds, some round in shape, others hexagonal, with covers, were found at Pompeii. Pens were made from a reed of nearly the same shape as our old-time quill pen. It was split like our pens, and named "cloven-footed." Certain Asiatic people use this reed even now. With the waxen tablets, a sharp iron instrument called a stylus was in use. One end was sharpened for scratching on the wax; and the other end was flat and was used as an eraser.