

Stamped-Leather Binding.

THE opposite plate is a photo-litho of a stamped-leather binding by Nicholas Spieriuck, a binder who died at Cambridge A.D. 1546. Spieriuck belonged to a Netherlandish family of bookbinders, and he brought with him to Cambridge several panel stamps with which he had adorned his book-covers prior to arrival in this country. The book shown is in the possession of Mr. Gordon Duff.

Our Competition.

WE are enforced to hold over the particulars and awards in connection with our second competition. The principal reason is that only a very few volumes had been sent in sufficiently in time for the judges to give their awards. This was undoubtedly due to the fact that we are now in the busiest season of the year, while the immense amount of sickness existing has rendered it almost impossible for many houses to cope with the orders in hand. However, we shall next month give the judges' awards upon such volumes as have been sent in, and also announce the conditions of our third competition.

Concerning our first competition, we have received two letters which we feel will be most fairly dealt with by publication.

January 7, 1890.

To the Editor of THE BOOKBINDER.

DEAR SIR,—I was surprised to find in THE BOOKBINDER of December 31, under the head "Our Competition," a book, No. 6 in your list, stated as having been forwarded by J. Baker, and finished by H. Pym, and bound in the binding department of "Mudie's Select Library"; at least, that is what I understand by the name of our firm being put under the heading of "Employer."

I entirely *disavow* all knowledge of this. J. Baker is employed as a cloth hand in our firm; the finisher, H. Pym, we know nothing of. The book was neither forwarded nor finished here.

Had I been asked to allow of a book being bound for the competition I should most likely have consented.

I was not asked; so entirely *disavow* this one.

I shall be glad if you will mention this in your next BOOKBINDER, as the affair is no credit to us.

Yours truly,

THOS. SCOTT

(Manager of Bookbinding Department).

P.S.—Will you let me point out to you that in your original notice of the competition, in THE BOOKBINDER of October, 1889, you say you will publish the names of competitors, with *their addresses*. Instead of that, you publish the names of their "employers." Yet you state that employers shall not compete.—T. S.

To the Editor of THE BOOKBINDER.

January 17, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—It has come to my knowledge that a letter has been sent you in reference to the part taken by me in your binding competition.

I therefore beg to state that the conditions as printed in THE BOOKBINDER have been faithfully adhered to. Mr. Thorley (foreman) saw the book in its various stages, and subsequently showed it to Mr. Scott (manager). If it has caused any disappointment I am not responsible for it; and with the result of competition am quite contented to leave it with the judges appointed.

I am, Sir, faithfully yours,

JOSEPH BAKER.

