

SE.

50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

WHOLE NO. 709.

THAT BECOMES OF BOOKS.

Literary Treasures Perish by Fire.
Printed and Bound.

the world has never had so many
books as to-day, and but for the destroy-
agents that keep pace with the prog-

publication of books would soon usurp printed volumes an undue share of the available for their preservation. In rain and the sunshine, the frost and thaw, gaslight and heat, mold and vermin, children and servants prepare books in modern households for the illing of fires sooner or later, or for junkman, the modern undertaker of nature.

It is estimated that not less than 100,000 new books are published every year, running through editions numbering from 1,000 to 25,000 volumes. There now 1,100,000 printed books in the U. S. Museum library, and there are 1,000,000 books in the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris. Our American libraries are wonderfully large for a new country, and it is believed that there are more books in our libraries now than in Europe. Bibliothèques of today do

trust the old stories of the enormous amount and value of the books destroyed by Carthage and by Alexandria. The latter, at least, is a possibility, which has been proved a half century ago, and it is extremely difficult to collect a half million different books in a modern library, and the accounts of old writers of the wonderful extent of ancient libraries are doubted, because of the scarcity of books before the invention of printing. While some bibliophiles estimate that probably not one-tenthousandth part of the books that we have are still extant, they are not disposed to mourn their destruction, for the countless mountains of rubbish were reared which, if the cleansing fire had been complete, would have rendered detective measures necessary for their removal out of space in which to store so many volumes.

The libraries of MSS. collected by the

was throughout the world, and when they were burned in Caesar's Alexandria, B. C. 48, at Alexandria, and again by the Saracens, A. D. 640, and many more were indicted upon man-made laws. The story of the burning of the books is so common that it is scarcely necessary to repeat the story that 700,000 volumes were thus destroyed. Many books on gravely doubtful it. These volumes, to all the manuscripts of the early ages, were written on sheets of parchment, with a wooden roller at each end, so that the reader needed only to unroll a portion at a time. The next great destruction of books was at Carthage, when 40,000 books are said to have been burned.

With heathens burning Christian books, and Christians retelling upon pagan literature, books disappeared in the twilight of civilization. Planned destroyed books because if

They were superstitious, and if they concealed anything opposed to it they were mortal. Twelve thousand books stolen in Hebreu were burned at Cremona in 1569, and at the capture of 1583, Cardinal Meneses made a bonfire of 5,000 copies of the Koran. The great monastic reforms fell under the death of time in the Reformation. The monks, clean shaven, in their candlesticks, decorated with light-tints. Some were sold to doctors and soap sellers for wrapping up powder, and a merchant, for 40 livres, bought two noble libraries containing paper stock enough to last him ten years. Many books from the press, including Caxton's translation of the "Metamorphoses" of Ovid, and probably his "Lyt of the Erlie of Ardenne," were torn to shreds by the behavers.

The great fire in London, in 1666, reared many priceless collections to dust, including an immense stock room of books taken to the ruins of St. Paul's Cathedral.

The shells of the German army in 1940 fired the great Strasbourg Library, containing the records of the famous dispute between Gutenberg, the first printer, and his partners, upon which depended the claim of Gutenberg to the invention of "the art preservative of all time." In that fire also the first printed book, and many other priceless volumes were consumed.

Mohammed II., when he captured Constantinople in the fifteenth century, ordered the books of all the churches as well as the 120,000 manuscripts in the library of Emperor Constantine to be thrown into the sea.

NEW ORLEANS has grand opera every winter, not for only a week or two, but for a season of three to five months. The singers are not of the first rank, though the general average is good, and the performances are satisfactory. The support of the enterprise comes almost entirely from the French residents.

There is no place in the wide world like home. It is the dwelling place of our heart's treasure, and the first of our loves we owe to it and its inmates. To make it pleasant and attractive should be the aim of every man.

NORTON, For All Kinds of **Copper** **Drugs**
KENSLEY DRUG
 Detroit, Mich.

