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THE CITY OF BOSTON**

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Catalogue of the Public Library of the City of Boston by Various

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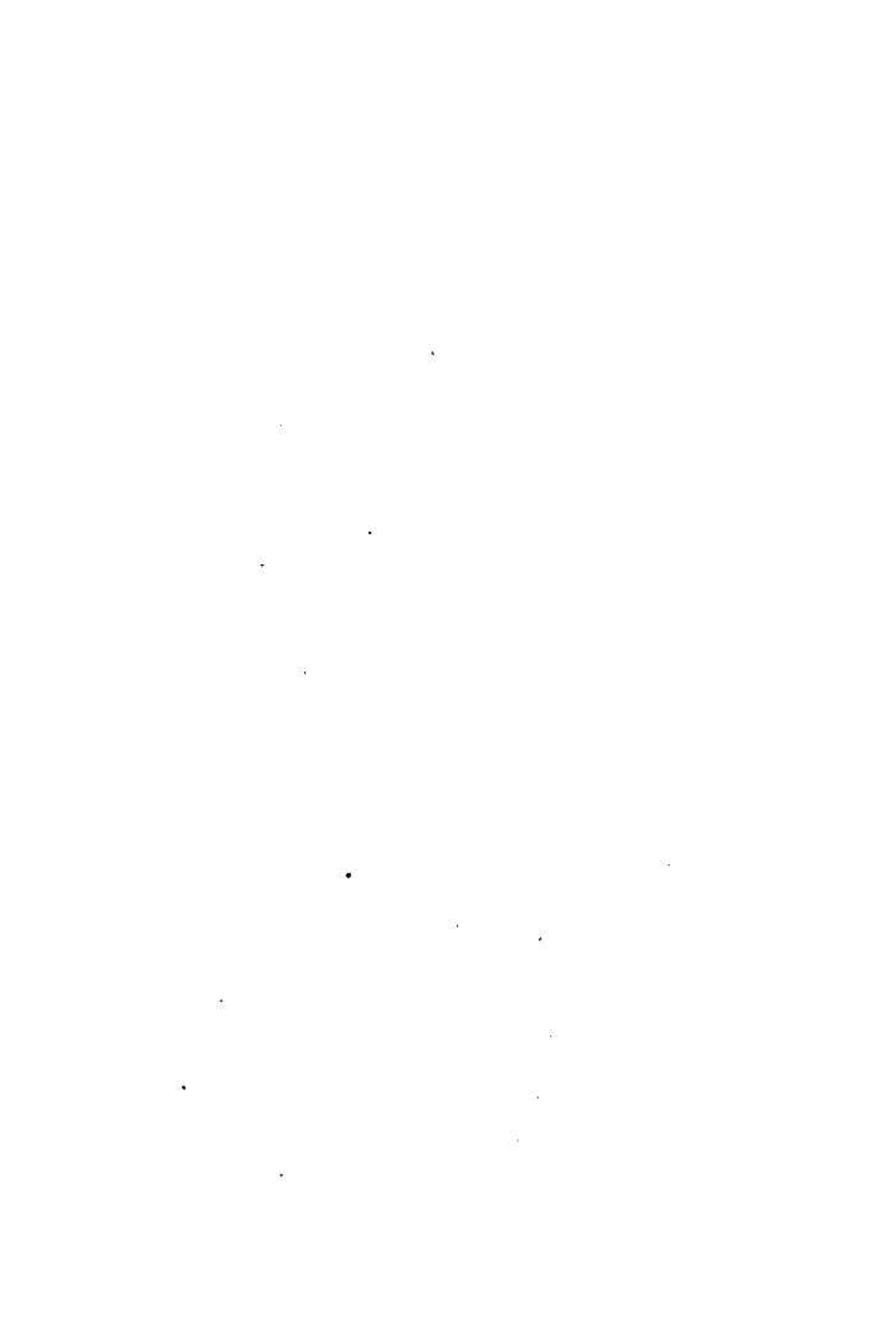
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1854.





NOTICE.

THE following Catalogue lays no claim to bibliographical merit of any sort. It is merely a condensed Index to the contents of the Public Library, giving the title of each book only once, and having no object but to render all the books useful. The collection is still small, and in every department imperfect. It consists almost exclusively of works in the English language, and chiefly of such as will be most widely interesting and instructive. But it is fast increasing, especially in the divisions devoted to the mechanic arts and to practical science; and, in time, we doubt not that it will become, through the munificence of its patrons, not less than from the resources of the city, such a library in all languages and in all departments of human knowledge as the inhabitants of Boston ought to have. And we venture to predict, that they will so use it as to increase the respectability, the prosperity, and the moral and religious worth, of a community that reeds to a remarkable degree for its best distinctions on its free schools and the general education of its people.

Meantime the condition of the Institution justifies its Trustees in asking suggestions on the subject of such books as are most pressingly wanted, since they are anxious to select for early acquisition those that will be read first, oftener, and with the most permanent satisfaction and benefit. Occasionally — perhaps frequently — books that should certainly be in the Library will not be found on the Catalogue. On inquiry, it may be learned that many of them have been ordered, and are not yet received; but it may be hoped that this circumstance will not prevent any person who may happen urgently to need one, from giving notice that it is wanted. Indeed, it is probable that many desirable works have been overlooked, and it is certain

that many have been omitted, from the want of means as yet to purchase all that the Library should possess, with as little delay as possible.

Many deficiencies will, we feel sure, be supplied by gifts of books that will thus be known to be wanting. This, in fact, has been the case already. For not a few persons among us have works on their shelves which are no longer interesting to them, and yet which are important to many others. Contributions, therefore, — some of them of great value, and all welcome, — have frequently been sent to the Public Library. If those who have works that have ceased to be of consequence to them will continue to remember that a book is never so much in the way of its duty as it is when it is in use, they may, with little or no sacrifice to themselves, easily become efficient benefactors to the public, by sending these unused books to the Public Library, where they will be accessible to many who are little likely to get them in any other way. Indeed, as we suppose that nobody ever heard it suggested that a public library anywhere had done any thing but good, so those who contribute to increase and build up such an institution will necessarily be counted among the truest and surest friends of progress in whatever is deemed, by a community like ours, most worthy to be sought.

It will be noticed that duplicates of the same work are rare in the present Catalogue; and, where they occur, one copy has often been presented to the Library. But their number will be largely increased, as experience may indicate what books are oftenest asked for.

The books marked with an asterisk are reserved for reference and use in the Reading Room, and are not open to general circulation; but such of them as relate to the science of medicine may be taken out by persons who professionally study or practise the healing art, and were, in fact, most of them, given expressly for this purpose.

The whole number of volumes in the Library somewhat exceeds twelve thousand.

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