

Texas Press Clipping Bureau

DALLAS

From

Citizen

Honey Grove

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*** BETTER READING.

News coming out of the book stores this season of heaviest buying of books is gratifying to all who desire to see good taste cultivated in popular literature. It is said that the best sellers are not questionable novels of the type that formerly led in sales, and that the beautifully bound and printed but rather empty "gift books" which once were popular are not so much wanted now. Holiday buyers instead are calling for thoughtful fiction, for work on travel, and especially for books dealing with history and biology.

Less attention is being given to binding and more to contents, although the value of an artistically produced book is not forgotten.

Several reasons are advanced for this change. One is that increased cost of books have put them in a class of Christmas presents of which the giver need not be ashamed. A few years ago, a bookseller states, when it was possible to buy a book for a dollar, there were those who feared they would be considered niggardly if they spent no more than that on an Xmas present. Therefore they demanded the expensively bound "gift books". But now the novel costs two or three dollars and non-fiction as a rule twice that much, there is no longer such a feeling.

Non-fiction is selling as well as novels. This may be attributed to the broadening of the average American outlook on life and the world. It is notable that in every year since the World War some non-fiction work has been among the "best sellers." At least this accounts in some degree for the demand for books treating of general history and the lives of statesmen.

Whatever may be the causes for the improvement of popular literary taste, it is to be welcomed as evidence of rising public intelligence.—Star Telegram.