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EDITORIAL.

WE were the first to announce as long ago
as May last that a set of stamps was in
contemplation surcharged—"NAVY—
OFFICIAL" and now Mr. A. B. Creeke
informs the *London Philatelist* that ½d.,
1d., 1½d., 2d., 2½., and 3d., postage stamps as
well the 3d., Registration Envelope and the ½d.,
Post Card have appeared with the overprint
"ADMIRALTY—OFFICIAL" The gradually grow-
ing list of British Official stamps is thus
assuming alarming dimensions for the general
collector especially in view of the difficulty of
obtaining copies of many of them. Everything,
however, may become an "area of collecting"
for the specialist and we know of one collector
who devotes his energies solely to the *Official*
stamps of Great Britain and the United States.
There is however the prospect of a way of
escape from the multiplicity of official stamps
for the generalist, though whether he will take
advantage of it will possibly be a matter of
considerable discussion in the philatelic press.
Quite lately we have seen some Australian
stamps, which, instead of being overprinted
"O. S." are *perforated* with these initials and
we have heard a rumour that this method will
be adopted by the Board of Education for their
stamps, a practice which may extend to the
other Government Departments using special
stamps. Now will these punctured stamps be
collectible or rather, for anything is collectible,
will they be collected and catalogued. For
those who collect stamps *surcharged* "O. S."
or "I. R. OFFICIAL" etc. logic seems to compel
the collection of stamps *perforated* with these
words. But then on the other hand, as a
matter of fact, there is at the present time, a
decided tendency to ignore the old official
stamps of Western Australia, which are only
distinguished from the ordinary one by a piece
punched out. The topic which thus arises for

discussion involves some very nice points, for
if "initial-perforated" official stamps are not
worth cataloguing them why catalogue the
overprinted stamps and if they are, where,
especially in British Stamps, is the line to be
drawn? Are stamps perforated with initials of
County Councils official?

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No purely fiscal Exhibition has been held
since that of the Leeds Philatelic Society in
1894, though a fiscal section has now and
then been included with postage stamps,
to mention only that of the I.P.U. in
1901. Some of the prominent members of the
fiscal philatelic ranks think it is now high time
that another should be held and the matter has
indeed come before the Fiscal Philatelic Society
in a more or less informal manner. That body,
however, is not yet in a position to bear the
burden of so great an undertaking and so the
proposed Exhibition must stand over for future
consideration. Perhaps this is just as well for,
if the Society's Catalogue of British Colonials
gets published during the next few months we
may legitimately expect a number of new
recruits in the fiscal ranks and the matter of
ways and means for an Exhibition may find a
solution. Yet though there is no prospect in
the immediate future of an exhibition here, yet
we find that our friends across the pond seem to
have held a successful show under the auspices
of the American Fiscal Society. We append a
report taken from *Mitchell's Weekly*.

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SPECIAL EXHIBITION OF REVENUES.

"The special exhibition of Revenue stamps
made by members of the American Fiscal
Society, of New York, at the rooms of the
Section on Philately of the Brooklyn Institute
of Arts and Science, Art Building, Brooklyn,
on Friday evening, February 13, 1903, was
largely attended by philatelists from surround-
ing boroughs, who were present to view one
of the first exhibitions of this character given
in this country.

"Foreign revenues were exhibited by Messrs
Albert E. Lawrence, G. W. Pepper and Dr.
L. W. Homburger, while regular issues of
United States revenues were exhibited by
Clarence H. Eagle and match and medicine
by A. G. Bishop. These magnificent collec-
tions cannot be too highly commented upon.

"Mr. Eagle made a very interesting address
concerning "Revenues and their Collection"
While Mr. Eagle has a large general collection,
his stronghold is United States revenues and
his collection of these probably has no equal in
in this country. He believes in doing every-
thing possible to encourage the boy to become
a collector, saying that very often the young-
ster will delve among old papers in the garret,
bringing out many specimens that older
collectors could not find after seeking for
years.

"The president of the section then thanked
the members of the American Fiscal Society
for the very successful exhibition of fiscals
which they had made and expressed the wish
that their society would make a larger exhibi-
tion at some future date."