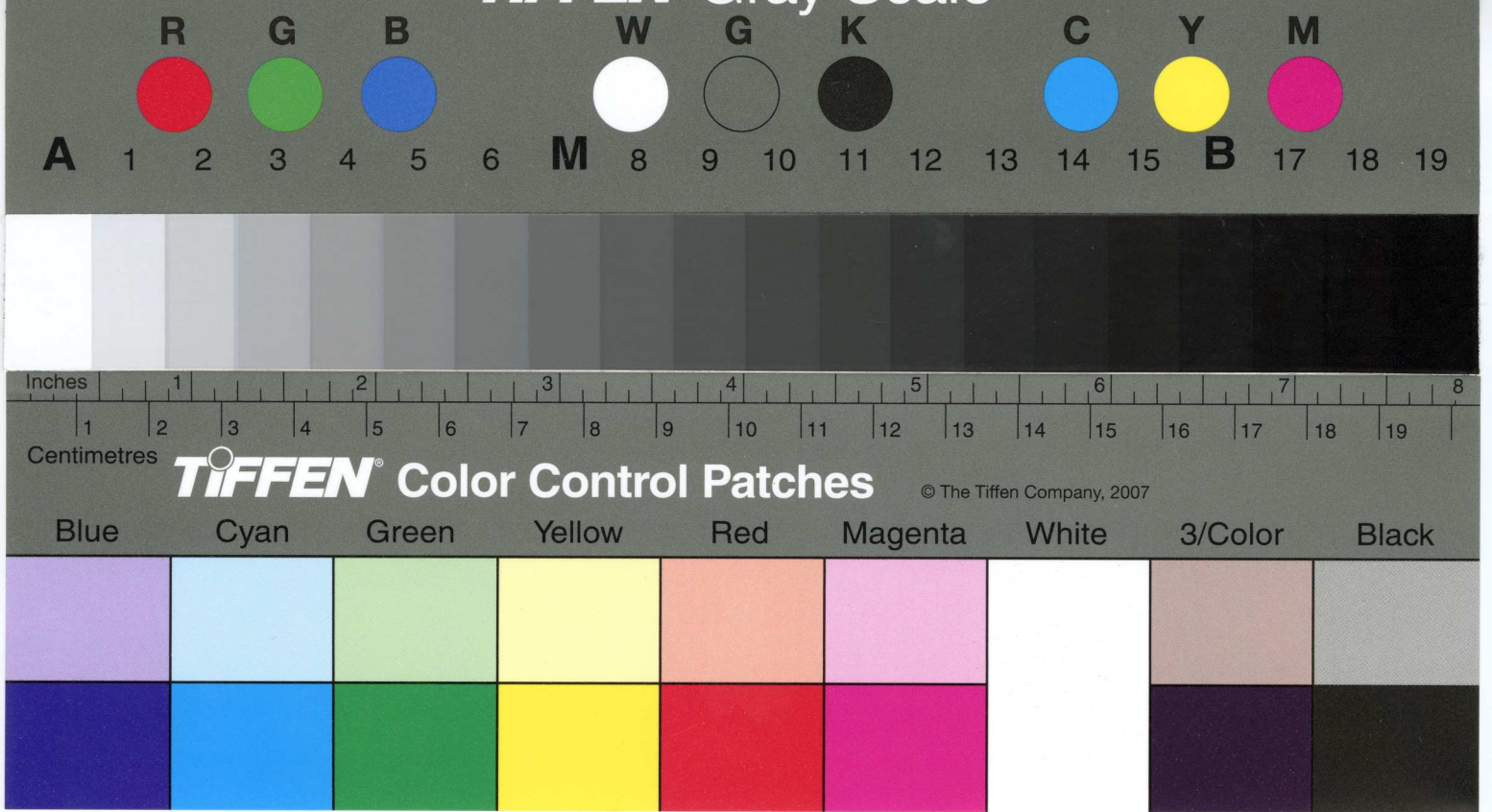




Gentle

Philad^a 2 Dec: 1809

Permit me to mention a circumstance which operates as an inconvenience & detriment to the Shareholders of the Library Company.

By the rules of the institution, if any person shall ^{keep} a book beyond a certain period, he incurs a fine; & I doubt not that this regulation is strictly & impartially enforced: yet, to my certain knowledge, it ^{does} not remedy the evil: for, it is a notorious fact, that books, & new books especially, are often kept far beyond the times allowed by the rules of the company. The consequence is, that it is very difficult to get a new work of any celebrity from the library under a year or more after it had been procured: nor is this all:— after getting a 1st vol. & keeping it the full time; the reader, not unfrequently, may ask again & again for the next vol: without being able to procure it — & so of subsequent vols —

I might suggest, that gross abuses may be practised agt the institution by such improper detentions of books — but this is not necessary on the present occasion: since my object is simply to suggest a mode by which the evil already mentioned may be done away, or,