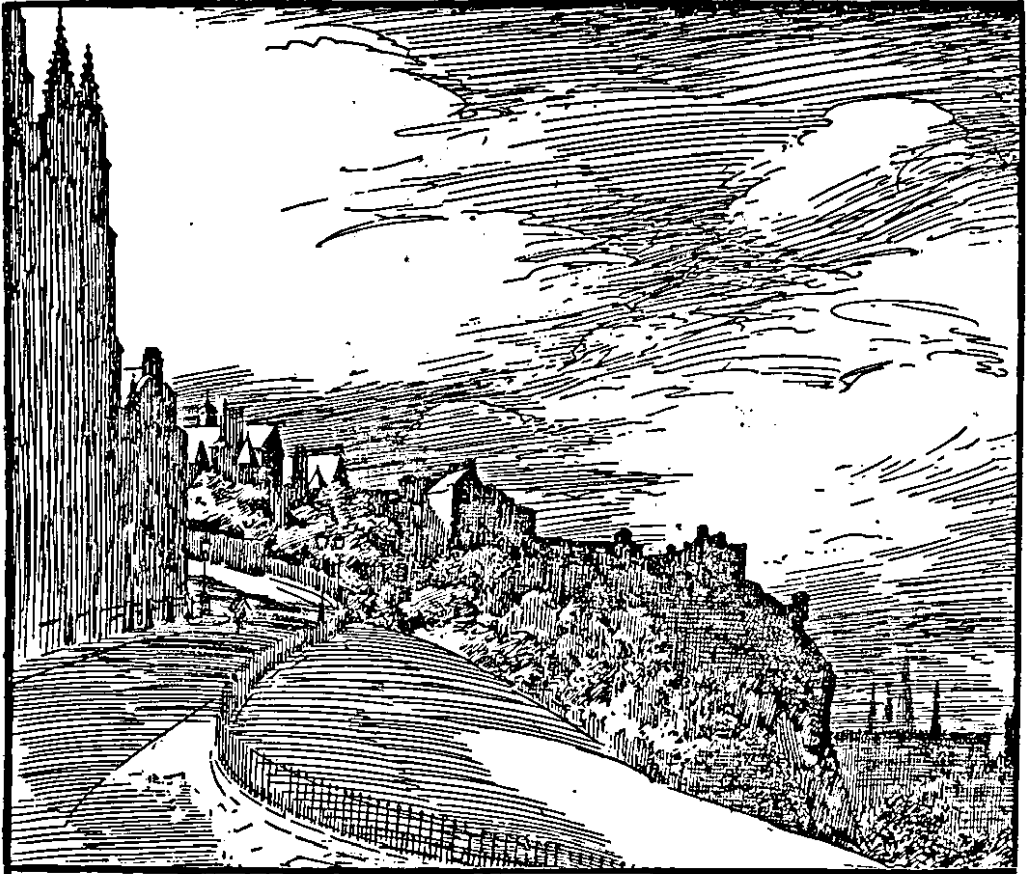


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THE CASTLE ROCK EDINBURGH

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
CONFERENCE
OF THE
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

HELD AT

EDINBURGH
26th—30th September
1927

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MCMXXVIII

FOREWORD

THE FIFTIETH YEAR.

AT the Conference held in Edinburgh last September we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the Library Association.

I think it is admitted that the Conference was purposeful, that it achieved much good work, and that there was a general feeling of optimism among its members as regards the future ; but it has been suggested that the feature of the fiftieth anniversary was overlooked or crowded out.

It is true that the official programme gave but a scanty allowance for retrospective discussion of work attempted and done during those fifty years, but the carefully prepared paper of the Honorary Secretary (the late Mr. Pacy), and the gathering of so many representatives of Library work all over the world, including such veterans as Mr. Madan, Mr. Ballinger and Mr. Bowker, were living testimony to the work of the Association.

After all what is the old ideal of the fiftieth year—the Jubilee ?

“ Ye shall hallow the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto the inhabitants thereof : it shall be a Jubilee unto you.”

We may not be able to adopt the whole of the ancient canon of regulation, involving, as it did, complete cessation of work during the year of Jubilee, but much can be done—in the development of a real national service, giving its benefits alike to the crowded centres of population, the little hamlet and the lonely cottage ; in the close co-operation and friendship of those associated in the care and distribution of books, whether in university, town or county ; in the cordial alliance of nations through the medium of united effort ; in developing the best in human nature by the strengthening of character and the opening of opportunity for study and research. In these respects I think that the Edinburgh Conference did make its mark—the Jubilee mark—in no small degree.

In commending this Report of the Conference to members and friends of the Association, I wish to say how highly I have appreciated the privilege of presiding over the Association in this memorable year, and I desire to thank one and all for the support and encouragement, which has made my work as President both easy and pleasant.

ELGIN.

August 19th, 1928.

PREFACE

THE Library Association's Jubilee Conference at Edinburgh will probably be regarded as inaugurating a new period in the Association's history, a period in which it was more broadly based and more representative, and could therefore display more energy and power as the organ of the whole profession.

This was the note which was struck by the President in his fine address ; and this surely was also the lesson taught by the presence of the distinguished foreign librarians. The messages from the King, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor and the President of the Board of Education raised the Association's dignity, deserved as they were, and helped at the beginning towards the success of the Conference.

The place itself counted for much. In 1774, when Scott was an infant, Johnson wrote, "Edinburgh, a city too well known to admit description"; and after all that has been written about it since there is no need to write more about the romantic city or its intellectual glories. It need only be said that no other scene could have compared with it; London is too vast and lacks unity, and the great industrial towns nearly all lack the historic dignity of Edinburgh, while the old English University towns have not so great a variety of libraries. The Association rightly varies its place of Conference from year to year, appearing now in University towns, where the academic type is almost in sole possession, and now in industrial towns or blameless watering-places where the academic is unknown, occasionally in spots which have little to show, and in which it can play a missionary part. But for an international gathering like this our island has no town so rich in varied libraries and in charm as the northern Athens.

Of the eight hundred and twenty who "gaed o'er the Border," over a hundred were from overseas, and included some of the most distinguished names in the profession. Besides the solid American phalanx, which included the present and the two immediate past presidents of the A.L.A., they represented most of the chief countries of Europe and the British Empire. Much disappointment was expressed that Dr. Dewey was unwell and unable to be of the party. He had' promised to give an address, characteristically forward-looking in scope ; and most of us had hoped to assure ourselves that he was a man and not a system.

For these the Carnegie Trust, to which (and especially to its Chairman, now our President, to the convener of its Library Committee, Mr. Thomas Gorrie, and to its secretary, Colonel Mitchell) the Association owes much at every point, organized a tour to precede the Conference, from London to Edinburgh. Mr. C. R. Sanderson, as representing the L.A. Council, assisted to guide the visitors, who were shown Oxford, Stratford-on-Avon, Birmingham, Manchester and York, thus seeing not only some beautiful places but a cleverly varied assortment of English libraries. This tour, which we gather to have been a great success, was in return for that given last year in America, and should be imitated at future international gatherings.

For the social success of the Conference we owe a great deal to Lord Elgin. Eloquent and inspiring in his addresses, businesslike and firm in the Chair, he was always abounding in contagious good humour. Never before, it is safe to say, has a President, in the middle of his speech at the Association's dinner, burst into song; but to hear the descendant of the Bruce give Burns's version of his ancestor's war song was a stirring experience, especially for Scottish members. We regretted the absence of Lady Elgin, kept away by a bereavement; her place was graciously taken by the President's sister, Lady Veronica Bruce. And let it be said here, while we are mentioning the ladies, that the presence of Mrs. Carnegie was deeply appreciated. The Lord Provost and city authorities, the Faculty of Advocates, the Society of Writers to the Signet, and the University, played their part hospitably. We were entertained in the Parliament Hall (to which, we believe, access was not easily obtained), where Scott and Stevenson walked, under the statue of Duncan Forbes of Culloden and the Flodden banner, in the elegant Signet Library under the same roof, in the fine University Library, where we were received by the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Sir Alfred Ewing, and admired the celebrated collection of Drummond of Hawthornden's books, and in the City's Usher Hall; and twice we heard the skirling of the pipes, a sound which was probably new, except in literature, to most of our visitors from overseas.

Of course there were criticisms of some of the arrangements, and of the programme of papers. The first and perhaps the most obvious is that, contrary to the ordinary practice, there was no paper on, or visit to, the

City Library and its branches. This omission was the more noticeable in that the Edinburgh City Libraries have been reorganized and vastly strengthened under the present Librarian, and have recent developments to show ; but it was easily understood at the time by those present that Mr. Savage was too hard-worked with the management of the Conference, and also too visibly unwell, to undertake this extra duty. He might have delegated it, but perhaps he thought that insufficiently respectful to the Conference ; or he may have wished to give precedence to the famous learned libraries of the city. Mr. Savage's motives will not be misunderstood, but we could wish to have heard something of his work in Edinburgh.

A very curious criticism is that directed against the simultaneous sectional sessions. Without this system there can be no adequately representative selection of papers read, and if one would like to be at two which coincide, it is only another example of the eternal impossibility of being in two places at once which vexes public men. It is to be hoped that all future Conferences will be arranged on this plan, so as to give pabulum to as many types of librarian as possible.

The programme has also, we believe, been accused of being too academic, but it is difficult to see how this can be justly said of one which contained no paper by a University librarian, and no bibliographical paper at all ! It is to be hoped that the existence of ASLIB and its excellent conferences will not lead the L.A. to disinterest itself in the special problems of scientific libraries. Another omission, which might be put right another year, is that of Young People's and School Libraries. No one year's programme can be encyclopædic, but every big class of interest should be represented, if possible. We were glad to have the paper on the Small Library, for small libraries, after all, are the large majority, and their problems are very acute.

It has also been noted with disapproval that the Association spent no time in recounting its achievements in the past fifty years. We believe that its thoughts are much more set on the fifty years that are to come, and we do not in the least regret the omission, which in any case the Council is now setting itself to remedy by collecting material for a history of the Association.

For all the arrangements we wish to thank, personally and for the Association at large, not only those already mentioned, but Mr. Savage and Mr. Alfred Ogilvie, the Local Honorary Secretaries, Mr. John Minto,

the Local Hon. Treasurer, and their helper, Mr. Charles Minto, who must all have laboured enormously to produce so good a result.

Were we asked what did the Conference achieve we would find the answer in three points :—

(1) The Association gave definite approval to the Public Libraries Report, with its far-reaching proposals for a national service. The approval was of course general, and details were not discussed ; this will be done at the monthly meetings of the London and Home Counties Branch in the course of the present session. We are indebted to Sir Frederic Kenyon for introducing and expounding the conclusions of the Report with such skill.

(2) There was formed at last, after preliminary work at Prague and at Washington, a permanent organization, the International Library and Bibliographical Committee, under the first chairmanship of Dr. Collijn, of Stockholm, to arrange international conferences (or, more strictly, an international character for a selected national conference) every three or four years.

(3) And also we formed personal friendships with many leaders of the profession in other lands, who had only been distinguished names to us. This was perhaps even more valuable than the accounts of the American library system which were given as papers.

But above all, the membership was larger, more distinguished, and more representative than in previous years, which it is to be hoped is not merely a jubilee rocket ; and the Association appeared in the public eye as not unworthy of the scene and of its calling.

A. E.

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- I. *Frontispiece* : Edinburgh Castle, from the Mound, shewing the Assembly Hall of the Conference. From a drawing by George A. Fothergill.
- II. *Tailpiece* : The device of Andrew Myllar, Edinburgh's first printer. From the British Museum copy of the edition of the *Expositio Sequentiarum Sarum*, printed for him at Rouen, 1505. xxxii

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LIST OF THOSE PRESENT

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The Rt. Hon. THE EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, with (in place of THE COUNTESS OF ELGIN, unavoidably absent) THE LADY VERONICA BRUCE.

VISITORS FROM OVERSEAS

AUSTRALIA.

Armstrong, E. la T., ex-Librarian, P.L. of Victoria. (Representing Public Library, Museums and National Gallery of Victoria.)

Leeson, Miss Ida, B.A., Principal Accessions Officer, New South Wales P.L.; and Miss Florence Birch. (Representing the P.L. of N.S.W.)

BELGIUM.

Kalken, Professor Dr. Frans van, Librarian, Université Libre de Bruxelles, 14 Rue des Sols, Brussels; and Mme Kalken. (Representing University of Brussels.)

CANADA.

Locke, Dr. George H., Toronto P.L., ex-President A.L.A. (Designated by the Canadian Government, the A.L.A. and Toronto P.L.)

CHINA.

Wood, Miss Mary E., founder of the Boone Library School, Central China University, Wuchang, China; and Miss Marian De C. Ward. Paris address: American Express Co., 11 Rue Scribe.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

Tobolka, Dr. Zdeněk Václav, Director of the Library of the Czecho-Slovak Parliament; and son.

DENMARK.

Drachmann, Dr. A. G., University Library, Copenhagen.

Thyregod, Oskar, Industriforeningens Bibliotek, Copenhagen; and Fra Thyregod. (Designated by the Danish Special Libraries Association and the Danish Library Association.)

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Lemaitre, Henri, Rédacteur en chef de la Revue des Bibliothèques; Bibliothécaire honoraire à la Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris.

Lescure, Pierre de, Administrateur-délégué, Office Central de Librairie et de Bibliographie, Paris.

Parsons, Miss Mary, Resident Director, Paris School of Librarians.

Vos van Steenwijk, Dr. J. E. de, Head of the Section for Exact and Natural Sciences, International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, Paris.

Wilson, Miss Florence, Dotation Carnegie, 133 Boulevard St. Germain, Paris.

GERMANY.

Fritz, Professor Dr. Gottlieb, Director, Municipal Central Library, Berlin; President of the Association of German Librarians. (Designated by the Association.)

Glauning, Professor Dr., Director of the University Library, Leipzig. (Designated by the German Government.)

Krüß, Dr. Hugo, Director General, Prussian State Libraries (Designated by the German Government); and Frau Krüss.

Neukircher, Fräulein Susanne, Librarian, Städtische Volksbücherei, Frankfurt-on-the-Main.

Uhlendahl, Dr. Heinrich, Director, Deutsche Bücherei des Börsenvereins der Deutschen Buchhändler, Leipzig.

HOLLAND.

Clercq, Fruken E. de, Chief Librarian, Openbare Leeszaal, Utrecht. (Designated by Centrale Vereeniging voor Openbare Leeszaalen en Bibliotheken.)

Hulshof, Dr. A., Librarian, University Library, Utrecht (Designated by the Netherlands Government and by the Royal Dutch Library Committee); and *Fruken Margaret Hulshof*.

Snouck Hurgronje, Fruken N., Librarian, Openbare Leeszaal, Dordrecht.

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Ghosh, N. N., B.Sc., Bansberia Public Library, Bengal. (Designated by Hooghly District Library Association.)

ITALY.

De Gregori, Dr. Luigi, Director, Biblioteca Casanatense, Rome. (Designated by the Minister for Public Instruction, Italy.)

Fago, Dr. Vincenzo, Director of the International Exchange Service and National Secretary of the Italian Library Association. (Designated by the Minister for Public Instruction, Italy.)

Fago, Vittorio Sigfrido, Rome.

Hodgson, James G., Librarian, International Institute of Agriculture, Villa Umberto, Rome.

JAPAN.

Hamada, Dr. Kosaku, Professor, Kyoto Imperial University.

Sawayagi, Dr. Masataro, President, Imperial Education Association.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Bartlett, Miss Alice.

NEW ZEALAND.

Cunningham, A. D., Deputy Chief Librarian and Director of the Auckland Public Library and Art Gallery. (Designated by the Auckland City Council.)

NORWAY.

Munthe, Dr. William, Librarian of the Royal University Library, Oslo. (Designated by the Royal Government of Norway, the Norwegian Libraries Association and the Royal University Library, Oslo.)

SWEDEN.

Collijn, Dr. Isak, Librarian, Royal Library, Stockholm (Designated by the Swedish Government and the Royal Library.); and *Fru Collijn*.

SWITZERLAND.

Escher, Dr. H., Director, Central Library, Zurich.

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Badcock, Mrs. Mabel A., General Assistant, Russell Sage Foundation Library, New York.

Barrow, Miss A. Mabel, Brownsville Branch, Brooklyn P.L.

Barrow, Miss Trotman C., Leonard Branch, Brooklyn P.L.

Belden, Dr. Charles F. D., Director, Boston P.L.; ex-President A.L.A. (Designated by the Boston P.L.)

Bertram, James, Secretary, Carnegie Corporation, New York.

Binkley, Miss Margaret, Washington County Free Library, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Bostwick, Dr. Arthur E., Librarian and Secretary, St. Louis P.L., and Director, St. Louis Library School, St. Louis; ex-President A.L.A.

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 Ferguson, Milton J., Librarian, California State Library, Sacramento; *and Mrs. and Miss Ferguson.*
 Gates, Miss Christina, Assistant, Ferguson Library, Stamford, Conn.
 Goddard, William D., Librarian, Woburn P.L., Mass.
 Goldstein, Miss Fanny, West End Branch Library, Boston, Mass.
 Green, Miss Hilda W., Librarian, Bushwick Branch, Brooklyn P.L.; *and friend.*
 Haugh, Miss Mary Teresa, Children's Librarian, New York P.L.
 Hill, Dr. Frank P., Director, Brooklyn P.L., New York; ex-President A.L.A. (Designated to represent A.L.A., and Brooklyn P.L.)
 Holland, Miss Mary E., Assistant, City Library, Manchester, N.H.
 Hopkins, Miss Julia A., Supervisor of Staff Instruction, Brooklyn P.L.
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 Horton, Miss Mabel T., Cataloguer, Brooklyn P.L.
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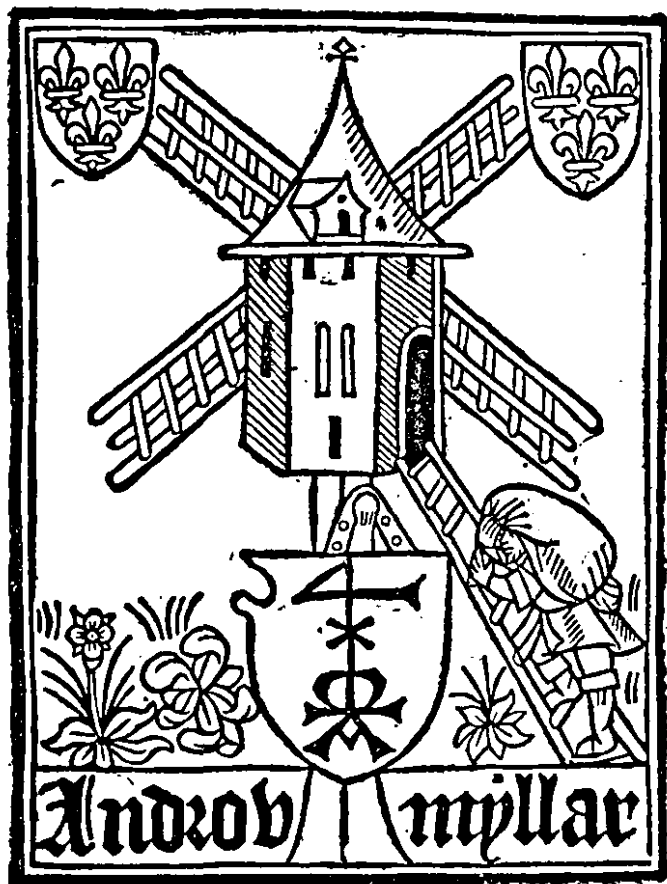
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 Sanderson, the Rev. John (B.A.), Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, Dunfermline.
 Sanderson, Kenneth (W.S.), Edinburgh.
 Sanford, W. G., Librarian, East Suffolk County L.
 Savage, Ernest A., Librarian, Edinburgh P.L., *Joint Local Honorary Secretary*.
 Savage, Mrs.
 Sayers, W. C. Berwick, Librarian, Croydon P.L.
 Scott, Miss Dora B., Peterhead P.L.
 Sellers, J. W. C., London.
 Senior, C. H., Parkgate Carnegie P.L., Yorkshire.
 Seward, Frank, Mechanics' Institution, Nottingham.
 Sharp, Robert Farquharson, Keeper of Printed Books, British Museum.
 Shaw, George T. (M.A.), City Librarian, Liverpool.
 Shaw, John H., Librarian, Bury P.L. and Art Gallery.
 Shearer, Colonel Andrew (V.D.), Town Clerk, Dunfermline.
 Shearer, W. Ross, Librarian, Rutherglen P.L.
 Shearer, Mrs.
 Shepherd, J., Librarian, Birkenhead P.L.
 Shepherd, Councillor Robert William, Deputy-Chairman, Manchester City L.
 Shepherd, Mrs.
 Sieveking, A. Forbes (F.S.A., F.R.Hist.Soc.), formerly Librarian, Imperial War Museum, London.
 Simpson, Councillor Fred B., Committee, Leeds P.L.
 Simpson, Henry, Librarian, Kilmarnock P.L. and Museum.
 Singleton, Albert, Librarian, Chorley P.L.
 Singleton, John W., Librarian, Accrington P.L.
 Skinner, Robert T. (M.A., F.R.S.E.), Donaldson's Hospital, Edinburgh.
 Skuce, Ernest E., City Librarian, Oxford.
 Sleight, Robert, Librarian, Doncaster P.L.
 Sleight, Mrs.
 Slinger, George (A.I.S.A.), Librarian, Farnworth P.L.
 Smettem, W. H., Chesterfield P.L.
 Smith, Alexander (J.P.), Edinburgh.
 Smith, Councillor A. E. (A.M.Inst.T.), Vice-Chairman, Hackney P.L.
 Smith, Dr. George, Committee, Aberdeenshire County L.
 Smith, J. Anderson (M.D.), Chairman, Willesden P.L.
 Smith, James, Librarian, Inverness-shire County L.
 Smith, W. H., Librarian, Dewsbury P.L.
 Smith, Councillor William Henry, Vice-Chairman, Leicester P.L.
 Southall, Miss Margaret, Librarian, Dudley P.L.
 Sparke, Archibald (F.R.S.L.), Librarian, Bolton P.L.
 Sparke, Mrs.
 Spencer, Walter, Librarian, Bingley P.L.
 Stark, D. A. (M.A.), Convener of Books Committee, Falkirk P.L.
 Stark, David (F.I.C.), Librarian, Stirlingshire County L.
 Starr, James, Wigan.
 Stephen, George A., City Librarian, Norwich.
 Stewart, G. A., Librarian, Royal Society of Edinburgh.
 Stewart, H. R., Keavil, by Dunfermline.
 Stewart, John (B.Sc.), Chairman, Falkirk P.L.
 Stewart, John (O.B.E., J.P., S.S.C.), Executive Officer, Education Authority, Edinburgh.
 Stewart, Lieut.-Col. William M. (C.M.G., D.S.O.), Librarian, Somersetshire County L.
 Stirling, James, Public Library, Bo'neas.
 Stock, Councillor Peter, Chairman, Bury P.L.
 Stott, Clifford, Librarian, Rochdale P.L.
 Strachan, Miss Annie G., Arbroath P.L.
 Strother, George William (representing the Association of Assistant Librarians), Reference Librarian, Leeds P.L.
 Tait, G. W. (S.S.C.), Vice-Chairman, Education Authority for Edinburgh.

Tapley-Soper, H. (F.S.A., F.R.Hist.Soc.), Librarian, University of the South-West of
 England and City L., Exeter.
 Taylor, Councillor J. P. (B.A., J.P.), Chairman, Bolton P.L.
 Taylor, L. Acland, City Librarian, Bristol.
 Taylor, Miss M. Rosamund, Heaton, Bolton.
 Taylor, P. W. H., Librarian, Barnsley P.L.
 Thacker, Francis J., Assistant, Birmingham City L.
 Theobald, Alderman Charles, Chairman, Doncaster P.L.
 Theobald, Mrs.
 Thin, J. Hay, Edinburgh.
 Thompson, T. W.
 Thomson, Miss D., Langside District L., Glasgow.
 Thomson, David Cleghorn, British Broadcasting Corporation.
 Thomson, Professor G. H. (D.Sc., Ph.D.), Edinburgh Training Centre.
 Thomson, J. S. M. (B.A.), Y.M.C.A., Edinburgh.
 Thomson, William, Depute-Librarian, Edinburgh City L.
 Thorn, Councillor C. C., Chairman, West Ham County Borough P.L.
 Thorn, Mrs.
 Thorne, William Benson, Bromley P.L., London.
 Thorne, Mrs.
 Thorne, Miss.
 Threlfall, William, Librarian, Stretford P.L.
 Tirol, Dr. Marcel (O.A.), La Maison Française, Edinburgh.
 Tod, Miss Mary, Beveridge Library, Kirkcaldy.
 Topping, Frank W., Librarian, Loughborough P.L.
 Turner, Councillor Alec (J.P.), Vice-Chairman, Coventry City L.
 Turner, Frederick A. (F.R.Hist.Soc., F.S.A.Scot.), Librarian, Brentford P.L. and Museum.
 Twort, H. A., Librarian, West Sussex County L.
 Twort, Mrs.
 Vale, George F., President, Association of Assistant Librarians.
 Vinen, Arthur, Librarian, Nicholson Institute, Leek.
 Vinen, Mrs.
 Wadley, William, Librarian, Kensington P.L.
 Walker, Councillor E., Edinburgh.
 Walker, James E., Librarian, Fulham P.L.
 Walker, Miss Mary, Cleator Moor P.L., Cumberland.
 Walsh, Miss Roisin (B.A.), Librarian, Dublin County L.
 Walton, William, Librarian, Derby P.L.
 Warner, John, Borough Librarian, Newport P.L.
 Warner, Mrs.
 Warrack, John, Edinburgh.
 Waterhouse, Councillor J. (B.A.), Chairman, Southport P.L.
 Watt, James (W.S., LL.D.), Edinburgh.
 Watt, Miss Ellen L., Librarian, Linlithgowshire County L.
 Watt, Capt. W. R., Librarian, Ayrshire County L.
 Waugh, William Graham, Librarian, Stirling P.L.
 Webster, A. S., Librarian, Dundee, P.L.
 Wharton, Leonard C. (M.A.), Assistant Keeper, British Museum, London.
 Whitelock, Harry, Librarian, Lewisham P.L.
 Whiting, Councillor F. W., Portsmouth P.L.
 Whitwell, C., Librarian, West Ham P.L.
 Wilkinson, H., Librarian, Rawtenstall P.L.
 Williams, Miss H. J., Librarian, Glamorganshire County L.
 Williams, Owen, Librarian, Denbighshire County L.
 Williamson, Miss N., Librarian, Gainsborough P.L.
 Willmer, John C., Chief Librarian, Day's Library, London.
 Wilman, Councillor John T., Committee, Batley P.L.
 Wilson, B., Librarian, Staffordshire County L.
 Wilson, Daniel, Edinburgh P.L.
 Wilson, Gavin L., Education Officer, County L., Fife.
 Wilson, G. L., Newport, Monmouth.
 Wilson, Henry (M.C.), Librarian, East Sussex County L.

Wilson, William, Librarian, Wallasey P.L.
 Wilson, Mrs. William.
 Wood, George H., Librarian, Wakefield P.L.
 Wood, R. B., Deputy Librarian, Westminster P.L.
 Wood, Mrs. V. S.
 Woodfield, Henry J. B., Librarian, Yorkshire (East Riding) County L.
 Woolston, Walter P. (J.P.), Woolston Book Co., Ltd., Nottingham.
 Wootton, Councillor Robert F., Chairman, Hornsey P.L.
 Wootton, Mrs. R. F. Committee, Hornsey P.L.
 Wormell, W. J. (J.P.), Chairman, Coventry P.L.
 Wright, Capt. Richard (M.C.), Librarian, Middlesex County L.
 Wright, Mrs.
 Wright, Reginald W. M., Director, Victoria P.L. and Art Gallery, Bath.
 Wrigley, Alderman A. (B.A.), Chairman, Wallasey P.L. Committee.
 Wroe, James Arthur, Librarian, Brighouse P.L., Museum and Art Gallery
 Yorston, Robert H., Librarian, Greenock P.L.
 Young, Councillor Andrew (J.P., F.E.I.S.), Edinburgh.
 Young, David S., Librarian, Minet P.L., Camberwell.
 Young, Mrs. F. E. M., Librarian, Erith P.L.
 Young, Miss.
 Zanetti, Celest, Newcastle-upon-Tyne P.L.
 Zimmern, Councillor Mrs. Janet B., Committee, Manchester City L.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE
OF THE
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

1927



Fiftieth Anniversary Conference of the Library Association

PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR

THE fiftieth anniversary meeting of the Library Association commenced its sittings in the United Free Church Assembly Buildings, Edinburgh, on Monday, September 26th, 1927.

The Library Association and the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees were joint hosts to a party of overseas guests during the week preceding the Conference. It was felt that it would enhance the interest of those who were unfamiliar with British conditions if they were given the opportunity of seeing not only a number of our larger cities, but also something of our Universities and various types of rural districts. Motor-coaches were therefore employed, and the best hoped for in the matter of weather. The actual number of visitors participating in the journey varied, at different stages, from eighty-five to ninety. Four large coaches were used, and all baggage was conveyed in advance of the party to their hotel rooms. Many time-saving devices of organization were employed, and the tour passed off without any untoward incident. The details of the tour should be put on record :—

September 20th.—Bloomsbury Square, London, to Oxford, calling at Jordans (William Penn's tomb). Visits to Bodleian Library, Magdalen College, Queen's College, Christ Church, the river, etc. Thanks are due to Dr. A. E. Cowley and Professor A. C. Clark for guidance and hospitality.

September 21st.—Oxford to Birmingham, via Stratford and Bournville. At Stratford, with the help of Alderman Flower and Mr. H. B. Walter, the librarian, the guests saw all the important historic buildings ; the party was photographed here. At Bournville they were entertained by Mr. Barrow Cadbury, and saw the famous cocoa works. At Birmingham, after a dinner party, at which Principal Grant Robertson and the Town Clerk were present, they enjoyed a splendid reception by the Lord Mayor. Mr. Powell and Mr. Cashmore gave invaluable help.

September 22nd.—Birmingham to Manchester via Buxton in wet weather, but through interesting scenery. From Buxton Mr. Jast and Dr. Guppy took charge, and the party visited the Chetham Hospital and John Rylands Library, but the party were cleverly prevented from seeing the temporary buildings in which the City Reference Library is housed. After dinner which was honoured by the presence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress ; a civic reception followed.

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September 23rd.—Manchester via Oldham and Leeds to York, where the opening of the new Carnegie Library was witnessed, and the Minster visited. Hence by train to Glasgow, where the party passed under the ægis of the Corporation and the personal guidance of Mr. Pitt.

September 24th.—After visiting the Mitchell Library and certain branch libraries, there was a coach drive to the Trossachs and afterwards to Stirling, where the guests entrained for Edinburgh, and were merged in the general Conference party.

It is difficult for the Trustees and the Association adequately to thank all the persons who helped at various stages to make the programme so easy and delightful. The organization of the tour was the work of Col. Mitchell, the Trust's Secretary, and the party were accompanied by him, by Mr. Thomas Gorrie, Chairman of the Trust's Library Committee, with two other Trustees, and, on behalf of the Association, by Mr. J. H. Quinn, Mr. C. R. Sanderson and (from Manchester) by Dr. Henry Guppy. Most of all, perhaps, they owe thanks to the guests themselves, who conformed with patience and some amusement to the rather martinet-like "orders" which alone could ensure the punctual handling, and consequently the comfort, of so large and miscellaneous a company of most ages and many nationalities. Their speeches during the tour and their subsequent letters and published articles are a more than sufficient reward to those who made the plans.

MONDAY

On Monday morning Dr. HENRY GUPPY (Librarian, the John Rylands Library, Manchester), the retiring president, officially opened the exhibition (including that of the American Library Association) of books, bookbinding and library appliances, in the Rainy Hall and the Common Room. He said that the exhibition had come to be regarded as an essential part of the organization of the Conference, and that the Conference would be incomplete without it. It rendered a very great service to members by enabling them not only to take a survey of what was being done in the publishing world, but also to see the books and to turn over their pages for themselves. Even a most cursory glance might enable them to make up their minds as to the desirability of adding a work to the shelves of their library. It was also a distinct advantage to have the opportunity of seeing what ingenuity had devised to facilitate the work of the library. This year there were several special features. First of all, with the generous aid of the American Library Association, they had been able to put on view part of the exhibition of American Library work, which had been held at Philadelphia, and which some of them had had the pleasure of seeing in its entirety. It would enable members to form some idea of what their kinsmen overseas were doing. He was only sorry that they had not arranged a similar exhibition of the progress that had been made in this country in library service during the fifty years of the Association's history. But it was something to be able to see what Glasgow, with its Mitchell Library and its library service, was doing. It was an exhibition which was full of information, and he hoped that the members of the Conference would seize every opportunity of visiting it. Exhibitors had been at great trouble and expense, and they should make them feel that it had been really worth their while. Other novel features were the exhibition of posters and photographs of British library work and the large exhibition of Scottish books.

Mr. JOHN MINTO (Librarian, Signet Library, Edinburgh), proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Guppy.

Mr. THOMAS GORRIE (Chairman, Libraries Committee, Carnegie United Kingdom Trust) presided, in the afternoon, at the Municipal and County Libraries Joint Session. In welcoming the delegates, he said :—

LADIES and Gentlemen, Librarians of the United Kingdom and friends from overseas. By "seas" I include not only the broad Atlantic, but all the other seas and oceans that separate us in the physical sense, but in no other sense, from those, among the many who have honoured us by coming here from near and distant lands, who further honour us by their presence at this Joint Session of Municipal and County Libraries. To our friends from overseas I take leave to offer, on behalf of

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the librarians of the United Kingdom here assembled, the most cordial welcome, and to express the hope that their presence here, which will certainly be of benefit to us, will be helpful to them also, and that it will do much to promote that better understanding and organized co-operation among the librarians of the world which we all desire, and which has within it the power mightily to advance the cause of peace and goodwill among the nations.

We meet here to-day under circumstances that are in every way propitious. Firstly, we meet in the capital of a country where, to quote from the report of a Parliamentary Committee appointed in 1849, "a respect for education and learning is hereditary in the people, where even in distant rural districts libraries have been formed." Secondly, our conference is held in the year of publication of the Report of the Public Libraries Committee, which, although it is specifically concerned with the libraries of England and Wales, contains much that is of interest to the librarians of the world, and the peoples whom they serve. Thirdly, this being our jubilee year, our conference is international. Only those who had the privilege, as I had, of taking part in the jubilee celebrations of the American Library Association can realize the value of such an experience, but happily you will all have the opportunity here in Edinburgh of making the discovery for yourselves. Lastly, for the first time in the history of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, the County Libraries of Britain and Ireland are largely represented at the conference.

All who have studied the problem know well that such difficulties as attend the administration of the small town library can only be solved by co-operation with other libraries, and that progress in library development can only be attained by unity and co-operation in the widest sense, regional, national, imperial and international.

Let me say a final word to my friends here, in whose congenial company I have travelled last week from London to Edinburgh by devious ways, with many pauses and much pleasant converse by the way and by the wayside. Progress, as commonly understood, has been ironically described as "going downhill on wheels." Our progress though on wheels has also been on wings. It has been forwards and upwards, *en avant et en haut, vorwärts und aufwärts* (I regret that my knowledge of the languages of Czecho-Slovakia,

Italy, Holland and Scandinavia is insufficient to permit of my continuing in this strain). It has not only been physical progress, but progress towards a goal of closer understanding, more abiding friendship and ever-deepening affection. May the conference on which we are entering carry us all a stage further along that road.

The general subject of this session is co-operation between town and county librarians. Certain particular aspects of that subject are to be dealt with, first by Mr. Edgar Osborne, Librarian of Derbyshire, and second by Mr. John D. Cowley, Librarian of Lancashire. These papers will form the basis of a discussion to be opened by Mr. D. G. Henrik Jones, Librarian of Buckinghamshire.

Mr. OSBORNE then read his paper, which was followed by that of Mr. Cowley.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY LIBRARIES: A COMPARISON, WITH SOME SUGGESTIONS

By EDGAR OSBORNE, *County Librarian, Derbyshire.*

IT would be unwise to say that education authorities have yet fully faced the situation created by the Public Libraries Act of 1919, but it can definitely be said that they are making big strides in the right direction. County education committees as a whole realize that their main problem is the thinking out and building up of a book service which will meet the needs of citizens in an industrial democracy. Although the progress being made by county libraries is much more rapid than is generally realized, the service is still handicapped by an insufficient supply of books, and in many counties the larger industrial areas are not served. It would, therefore, be useless to attempt comparison between the size and influence of the municipal and county library services at this early stage. The leading idea, then, behind this paper is that the library world to-day is something very different from that of the past, but so recent has been the change that

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we have hardly begun to adjust ourselves in any conscious fashion. It is not additional technical instruction in public library administration which we need so much as a more enlightened outlook on library matters ; an outlook which welcomes and understands the close relationship which should exist between the municipal and county library systems and all educational agencies.

When county councils became library authorities under the Public Libraries Act of 1919, the opinions of librarians regarding the future of county libraries were many and varied. They had, of course, watched the number of experimental schemes which started before that date. All librarians were interested ; some were amused at the magnitude of the undertaking ; others were pessimistic. Even after the 1919 Act there were still some who held that county councils would withdraw their support when the grants from the Carnegie Trust ceased. Library assistants who left the safe and settled fold of the municipal library for unknown tracts in rural areas were considered very rash adventurers ; and possibly there are those who still think it a perilous undertaking.

Needless to say such fears are quite groundless, and county libraries can take their stand with municipal library systems without any sense of inferiority. This can be more clearly understood if one takes a glance at the latest figures from county libraries. More than one authority has issued over half a million books during the year, and some will have a circulating stock of over 100,000 before the end of this year. In a number of counties the provision for book purchase has been considerably increased for the present financial year. We know, for instance, that four of the distinctly agricultural counties are this year raising a halfpenny rate which is sufficient to meet present needs.

It is generally known that the initial cost of the county library service was largely borne by the Carnegie Trust, which has disbursed over £400,000 for this purpose. The generosity of the Trust and the unfailing enthusiasm of its Secretary gave the first big push towards success, helped by the eagerness with which rural areas embraced the scheme.

Other important factors not to be overlooked, which have contributed largely towards the success of county libraries, are the existing libraries in municipal areas. The municipal library has now been leading an active

existence for more than fifty years, and has become what Robert Louis Stevenson used to call "quite a little man." From this well-organized municipal library service, county libraries gained chiefly by the amount of valuable administrative knowledge which could easily be taken from the older service and applied to the new. Fortunately no fatal schism is likely to arise between the municipal and county services. Recent developments prove this, although it must be admitted that up to the present there has been little mutual service between the two systems, due no doubt to the fear of that alarming "bogy of absorption." The general requirement to-day is a much closer understanding between municipal and county libraries. Each service can help the other. In quite a number of counties the municipal library authorities are handicapped through lack of funds for an adequate book supply. It is in such counties that the municipal libraries would benefit by co-operation, preferably by a monetary payment from town to county, or by some other arrangement agreed upon by the two services. It is not my purpose to go into the all-important question of co-operation. This is being fully dealt with in the next paper. I do wish, however, to make it clear that any mutual help given from one service to the other is a matter of "free negotiation between autonomous representative bodies, each of which is, or should be, quite capable of protecting its constituents' interests." This is clearly stated in the Carnegie Trust Report on County Libraries for 1926.

There is, of course, one great difference of which we are all aware between the municipal library service and the county service. I refer to the system under which the county librarian is subordinate to the Director of Education. Most municipal librarians regard this as an unsatisfactory arrangement. Some consider that the county library service would be helped forward if county libraries were made a separate authority under the county council. In support of this argument for a separate county library authority, it is usually pointed out that the dignity and responsibility of the county librarian may not appear to be so great as that of the municipal librarian. Administrative conditions of this kind should not be weighed too closely; particularly when it has already been proved that the alliance between the education service and the library service has resulted in much solid achievement. Without the organization of the county education

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committees the progress of libraries in rural areas would have been dead slow for years. Under county control, the existing organization of the education offices was ready to hand when the library came into being, and this has been largely responsible for the rapid consolidation of the service. The recent Departmental Committee's Report on Public Libraries indicates that there is no present fear of either service being placed under the control of the Board of Education. Owing to the close relation between the work of libraries and organized education in schools and universities, the Report suggests that all public libraries should work in fullest co-operation with education authorities. This will, no doubt, do away with the prevailing idea that there is a clear line of demarcation between the library service and the education service.

Whether the county library service has anything to teach the municipal service regarding co-operation with educational agencies is a point which might form an interesting discussion. Most county librarians have found it an important part of their work to meet the needs of adolescent and adult classes. In some counties small libraries are established at all evening schools and adult classes are supplied with books, including multiple copies of the more expensive volumes wherever they are needed. The policy of county librarians in this matter is quite elastic, and an increasing number of county libraries are now stocking thirty or more copies of the more expensive text-books. It is stated in the Departmental Committee's Report that the service rendered by municipal libraries to adult education lies chiefly in special arrangements made for the benefit of individual borrowers, and that the county libraries are more willing to undertake the loan of collections of special books for organized classes. This is due to two main causes. Education committees are directly interested in organized education, and quite naturally use the county library service to meet the demands of students for special books. Money spent on books for adult and adolescent classes can be obtained by the library as a grant from the education committee. In this way expensive and special books are secured, and a comprehensive students' library is built up.

The majority of county libraries are also aiming to possess specialized collections for students, available either by personal application or by post. It is safe to say that a postal service of special books is now one of the main

features of all county libraries. One interesting result of this postal service is the way in which county libraries are co-operating with each other. No one has bothered to make a problem of county co-operation. Librarians have simply developed the wise habit of sending to neighbouring or distant counties for special books required by their students. In time it will be wise to make constructive proposals to neighbouring counties with regard to special collections, in order to prevent overlapping of books on specialized subjects. This scheme of regional co-ordination should not present any great difficulty. It would seem to be quite an easy matter to extend this co-operation between the counties and the municipal libraries. County libraries might be willing to supply sets of books to municipal areas to meet the need of organized classes and reading circles. In return, municipal libraries could supply books to county students attending municipal lecture courses, or help with the postal supply of special books to county students.

Where students are concerned the main purpose of the library is to supply the right book at the right moment, and most librarians realize that the library cannot do much beyond this. Some librarians think they should be allowed to take a leading part in the promotion of educational development. This is a matter rather outside their scope. By providing the necessary books, librarians will be doing much to assist adult education ; but for public libraries to provide single copies of the right book even at the right moment for a group of students is worse than useless. Where the provision of books for students in county areas is concerned it is necessary, owing to the distance of the classes from the county library headquarters, to send the books direct to the class for use during the term. In municipal libraries the general practice is for students to go to the library for the necessary books. There is no doubt that the student would gain by going to the library, as he would see there other books on his particular subject of study, and, incidentally, he would obtain some idea of the scope and usefulness of the local library. On the other hand, many members of adult classes have little time to spare, and would therefore only read the books recommended by the lecturer if they were available in the lecture room. Some librarians may be inclined to think that to supply large sets of books direct to classes within the area of a municipal library would be so much waste of time and expense ; but experience has proved that small

groups of students prefer to exchange books with each other, and to discuss them with the lecturer. There is no reason to think that this arrangement would necessarily keep those students away from the public libraries. Moreover, librarians would be in direct touch with the more enlightened side of public opinion, and in this way libraries would receive fuller recognition of the service they render than is generally the case at present.

While on the subject of the direct method in dealing with students, it may be of interest to note the progress that is being made in some of the larger industrial counties, which are making experiments in the supply of books for adolescent students at evening continuation and junior technical schools. Those interested in continuation schools and fully qualified to speak on the matter are emphatic in their opinion that every continuation school should have a library of its own. One of the principal aims of the continuation school teacher is to lay the foundation in each of his pupils of the habit of reading books for recreation and self-improvement. Some evening school teachers have attempted to do this in the past by encouraging their scholars to use the public library, and it is acknowledged that in a few cases their endeavours have met with certain success. In the Board of Education pamphlet No. 43, Mr. J. Dover Wilson, writing about the continuation school library, states that the difficulty of sending scholars to the public library is "as obvious as the countervailing advantages of having under the school roof a collection of books specially selected for this purpose, and controlled by a teacher who is able to make a study of each student's tastes, and to advise him accordingly. Boys and girls will not use the public library until they have learnt the value and interest of books. Thus, while the teacher should always keep the public library in mind, and induce his pupils to take advantage of it, the need of a half-way house in the form of a continuation school library is imperative." The county libraries' reply to that is to supply libraries to these schools; the municipal library, engrossed at the present moment with creating children's rooms does not in most cases go direct to evening schools with books.

County education committees are naturally interested in children's reading, and although undue emphasis should not be placed on the circulation of juvenile literature at the present stage of development, the time is approaching when the policy of establishing properly equipped children's

libraries in populous industrial areas should receive consideration. It will be necessary to make a very careful study of this vital branch of library work. Very few municipal libraries can claim to have really efficient schemes of library work with children. Undoubtedly much progress is being made, but the ideal children's library will only be brought about by much greater expenditure, and by closer co-operation with education authorities. It is vital work—an expert's job. It requires a trained librarian, who is also a trained teacher (which is quite feasible), who shall receive a salary at least equal to that paid to teachers. It is within the bounds of possibility that the salaries of children's librarians could be paid in part by a grant from the education committees, who generally regard education as something much wider than just an instructional process. Nothing in library work at the present time demands more serious study than the problem of library work with children and adolescents. The Education Act of 1918 foreshadowed the establishment of part-time and continuation schools for the entire adolescent population of the country. It also implies the setting up of a type of instruction which should widen the intellectual horizon of young people who cease full-time education at the age of fourteen. By co-operation between library authorities and those who are organizing and conducting evening continuation schools, it should be possible to arrive at an arrangement whereby these evening school scholars attend a properly organized library at regular intervals. In a paper of this kind it is impossible to go into full details. Needless to say, before the problem can be solved it must be rightly envisaged, and ideas on the subject will need modification in the light of subsequent experience.

I have already mentioned that the county library movement owes its rapid success, in part at least, to the municipal library, which provided it with well-tried methods of administration easily applicable to both systems. The two services, however, diverge considerably in the matter of book selection and distribution. Where the average municipal library needs six copies of a popular book, the county library needs thirty or more. As to the lending of books, all books in a county library are available for home reading, while in a municipal library a large proportion is reserved for reference purposes only. This is clearly shown in municipal library reports. One is therefore inclined to think that the cost of these municipal

reference libraries, outside our largest cities, is out of all proportion to their use. Owing to the geographical situation of most county library headquarters in relation to their areas, the formation of a large reference library is quite unnecessary. The only part of a county library that approaches a reference library is the large reserve stock of up-to-date text-books that it is necessary to have available for issue on demand. The cost of storage for this reserve stock by no means approaches the upkeep of a municipal reference library. In view of the suggestion made for an organized national library service (in the Departmental Committee's Report), the time has come when the provision of large reference libraries can seriously be questioned. If there is to be a national pool of books, particularly of those in little demand, it is clear that reference libraries can serve their public adequately with a stock of books within reasonable limits. A municipal library, limited in size, would mean additional funds available for work in other directions, particularly work with children, and a clean, modern, live home-reading service.

It seems hardly necessary to state that the county library service is as yet too recent a development to have established definite financial precedents. The more progressive counties are levying a library rate sufficient to meet their present needs. They are, however, in the minority. Lack of funds is due, in some counties, to failure on the part of the authorities to realize the possibilities of the library service. In other cases the cause can be attributed to the rigid policy of economy that some county councils are pursuing.

Municipal librarians are naturally inclined to compare the rates levied by county libraries with the twopenny rate which is found necessary in most municipal areas. If a twopenny general rate were levied in most county library areas at the present time, it would be more than could properly be spent in one year at the present stage of development. In any case it would be an idle proceeding to make comparison between the rating of the two services. The generally accepted principle of the county library rate is the ordinary book service to all areas, plus a differential rate for special services on any area which applies for extra facilities. The more the principle of the differential rate is applied to county areas the more difficult it will become to make comparison between the two

services. It may not be fully realized to what figure a twopenny rate for library purposes would amount in county areas. The twopenny rate in areas with a population for library purposes ranging between 400,000 and 900,000 would bring to the smallest of these areas approximately £18,000, and to the largest £50,000. It can clearly be seen from these figures that although the county library movement has, on the whole, made big advances, the time has not yet come when yearly sums of such magnitude are necessary. It is questionable whether it will ever be necessary to think of a twopenny rate, if the principle of the differential rate is adhered to.

Looking back over the past eight years, it can be claimed that the work of county libraries has played a definite part in the development of adult education by the liberal provision of books for university extension and other adult courses. This attempt to provide an adequate supply of books for all types of adult education should be the aim of all public libraries. Not only will both services gain in vigour and in range, but a new outlook on the purpose of public libraries will come into existence. For libraries to exist merely to assist education in a formal sense would be wrong. It would be taking too narrow a view of the function of public library service. When education is under discussion in connection with public libraries, it should be taken to mean education in its widest sense. "Education is something more than mere instruction."

It is perhaps too soon to visualize what the future of the public library will be in the national scheme of education. Some indications of possible developments are given in the Departmental Committee's Report. Undoubtedly the establishment of library centres in thousands of villages and small towns is assisting the growth of a more vigorous community spirit. Experiments and developments being made in various parts of the country suggest that in the more populous areas, and indeed in many smaller places, there will eventually be built properly equipped libraries which will form the centre of the intellectual interests of the people.

EXPERIMENTS IN CO-OPERATION

By J. D. COWLEY, M.A., *Lancashire County Librarian.*

THE feeling of disappointment which one must inevitably experience in reading the Report of the Departmental Committee on Public Libraries, which has quenched even the mildest hopes of revolutionary recommendations of an explosive nature, may be somewhat modified by an exploration of the excellent appendices of the Report. Here the crumbs of information which may be picked up like manna in an otherwise barren desert do provide plenty of food for thought or at least for consideration. The interested librarian may learn not only what number of volumes his colleagues have in stock, but also their annual issues, their incomes, their expenditure on books and binding, newspapers, periodicals and salaries. Unfortunately he is unable to satisfy his curiosity as to the staffs employed by other library committees or the salaries paid to individuals. But if he seeks for suggestions towards the improvement of the institution under his own control it must be confessed that, while the appendices may provide comparative figures affording a basis on which to plan an advance in one direction or another, there is little in the body of the Report that may open his eyes to possible lines of development.

In Chapter V of the Report the outlines of a plan for an organized national service are suggested, but we find here no detailed practical scheme which could be applied to any particular area. Co-operation is mentioned frequently, yet every time this word appears the question might be asked, which was so often put by a certain tutor to his pupils, when they used in argument a word of which they thought the meaning was obvious: "Well, but wait a minute," he would say, "what exactly do you mean by that word?" What do we mean then by the word co-operation? Obviously we do not mean the amalgamation of all the libraries in a given area into one administrative system; nor do we mean that all these libraries should undertake each other's duties by subscribing and lending amongst themselves books which they all ought to possess, like the islanders who made a living by taking in each other's washing. We do, of course, include in the term

that link of mutual assistance in many small details which should exist between all librarians.

We might mean by one form of co-operation the re-adjustment of library areas to agree with geographical rather than administrative boundaries. Every county can show examples of these anomalies ; my own county of Lancashire in particular has a plentiful crop of them. Many of the places served by county authorities are really suburbs of county boroughs or other communities possessing autonomous library powers. It seems reasonable to suppose that arrangements might be made between the county authority and the municipal authority for the supply of books to these suburbs by the municipal library service, by means of financial arrangements on much the same lines as those usually in force between such authorities for the purpose of secondary education. Where such an arrangement is made it is unthinkable that it should usually provide for anything less than the establishment of a branch or delivery station, enabling the suburban population to enjoy privileges reasonably equivalent to those enjoyed by the municipal ratepayers. The suggestion that the needs of a suburban population could be met by a subscription from the county council to the municipal library authority, to enable county residents to register as borrowers and use the urban library, is a way out of the difficulty only in exceptional cases, where the area to be served is too small and too near the borough boundary to need a branch library. Although we know that country readers will sometimes walk several miles to borrow from a small village library, the town-dweller is not so energetic ; in fact, the Librarian of Middlesex in his recent *Five Years' Review* expressed the opinion that people would not go more than about half a mile for books, even in a county so well supplied with omnibuses and tramcars as Middlesex. His opinion was illustrated in Lancashire by the fact that one urban district council was only too glad to relinquish library powers and take advantage of the county library service, because so few residents took advantage of the privilege of using the neighbouring borough library, which they were enabled to do on account of the subscription paid by the district council to the borough library committee. This form of co-operation, therefore, can hardly be expected to lead to good results. The same could not be said of a scheme for the establishment by a municipal library authority of branches in a county area, if the difficulties in the way

of such a scheme could be overcome. These difficulties cannot be lightly disregarded. The only possible financial arrangement would be one by which the county authority paid the interest and repayment charges on the building, the salaries of the staff, and all other maintenance charges, and subscribed for the supply of books at so much per thousand volumes. Thus the county council would be relieved of the responsibility for the control of the branch, but would still pay for the whole cost of its upkeep. But is it possible to estimate the value of books, partly worn, partly rebound, and, I am afraid, partly dirty, in financial terms? Can you lump together the Encyclopædia Britannica and the works of Charles Garvice, the Dictionary of National Biography and Ethel M. Dell, and pay a flat rate for their use? And what guarantee can be provided that the best, and not the worst of the stock, in the borough library will be provided for the use of the extra-mural branch? There is a certain metropolitan library in which the practice was to send down periodical loan collections from the central library to each branch; the loan collections used to consist, and possibly still consist, of books of little interest to anyone, and a large proportion of the collections often consisted of bound volumes of popular magazines. County residents would expect better treatment than that, and would probably insist on getting it. Now the only advantage to the county authority to be gained by handing over a suburban area to a municipal authority is relief from the cost of transport, which for a branch equipped with 5,000 volumes exchanging 1,000 volumes during the year works out at about two pounds ten shillings per annum. It hardly seems worth while to save this sum by sacrificing the certainty of the high quality of the stock, which might be ensured if the branch were served entirely from the county library. The county library has this advantage over the borough library, that, having no central lending department, there is no temptation to maintain a better stock at headquarters than at the branches or to differentiate between one branch and another.

A further difficulty is caused by the very awkward distribution of the population in many of the areas under the control of the county council, especially in an industrial county, where the tendency in the past has been to build "ribbon" villages along the main roads. The road itself is lined with houses, giving the appearance of a fair density of population, but in

reality the country on either side of the road is very open. These villages often stretch for miles between one town and another, and the provision of a library service for them is a serious problem. They cannot support a branch library of even moderate size, since the number of possible readers resident within a reasonable distance from any point in the district is so small. The only possible solution is to establish a number of small delivery stations at suitable points, if accommodation can be found for them. The strain of maintaining a number of small centres, of exchanging their books, corresponding with the librarians, who would in these cases be voluntary workers and probably unskilled, is, however, a very different matter from the maintenance of one or two properly equipped branches, and constitutes a burden which borough librarians would perhaps be reluctant to undertake. The idealist may perhaps feel inclined to brush aside these difficulties of finance and the distribution of population as more imaginative than real. The same can hardly be said of the very grave objection that local prejudice would be an obstacle in the way of contracting for the service of a county area by a municipal authority. The Librarian of Accrington, at the Matlock Joint Conference in 1927, pointed out that one serious impediment to co-operative effort lay in the unwillingness of most of the small authorities to combine with their neighbours, and it is certainly true that most county boroughs are regarded by the surrounding parishes and urban districts with much the same feelings as those with which Jonah must have regarded the whale. You may, of course, find it convenient to use the borough tramways, and the borough gas and electricity are no doubt as good as any which could be produced locally, but it does not seem to occur to a reader that a book is the same book, whether it is stamped with the arms of the City of Manchester or those of the Lancashire County Council.

It does not appear then that the time is ripe for any very general adjustment of boundaries; but something may be done by nibbling at small areas as opportunity offers, possibly by the establishment of joint centres serving population-groups lying partly within the boundaries of a borough and partly outside. One such centre has been set up at Ribbleton in Lancashire, at which half the stock is supplied by the County Council and half by the Borough of Preston, and although the centre has only been working about twelve months it appears already to have justified its existence. Anyone

resident within a reasonable distance from the centre is eligible to become a member, whether resident in the County area or not, and readers' tickets are available also at the Preston Borough Library. This centre could not have been established without the co-operation of the Borough of Preston, since the only accommodation which could be found is situated on the Borough boundary, and circumstances would have rendered it impossible to exclude Borough residents. The provision of a joint book stock disposed of any financial difficulty, and the arrangement is an entirely harmonious one; the gravest difficulty encountered was the variation in charging systems, cataloguing rules and the registration of borrowers between the co-operating libraries, and this was found to be much more serious than was at first supposed. The difficulty was overcome by mutual adjustment, but it would enormously simplify the interchange of books among libraries generally if charging, cataloguing and registration systems could be standardized throughout the country.

Probably the Ribblesdale scheme can be extended to many other districts where the circumstances are similar; an arrangement on the same lines is to be made between the Devon County Library and the Exeter City Library for the service of a village lying on the outskirts of the city, and the same principle might gradually be extended towards the grouping of existing libraries into regional systems. The Departmental Committee quite evidently had before them the ideal of a national service based on regional systems, but they hardly seem to have realized the serious nature of the difficulties involved. To all the objections referred to already, which arise if the territory of one authority is handed over to another, is added the natural reluctance of every authority against any sacrifice of its autonomy and the genuine fear of the beginnings of "absorption"; but the difficulties are all such as could be overcome by mutual goodwill. To take an example from East Lancashire, there are as you go north from Burnley four urban libraries within a distance of six miles; first there is the northern branch of the Burnley system, next the Brierfield centre of the County Library, further on the Borough of Nelson Public Library, and lastly the Colne Public Library. Each institution is operated by a different authority and the four are presumably quite unrelated one with another. It would be an interesting experiment to link the four libraries together for the supply of books, by

means of an arrangement entitling each library to requisition books from either of the others. There need be no sacrifice of local autonomy in such an arrangement, and it could probably be carried out by mutual agreement without any need of complicated money payments ; considerable duplication of expensive books might be avoided, and some valuable special collections might become available to a wider public. The libraries at Nelson and Colne should be on approximately equal terms, since their non-fiction lending stocks, according to the Departmental Committee's Report, are about the same size, namely, Nelson 9,047 volumes, and Colne 7,267 volumes ; Burnley has a much larger non-fiction stock and an important music collection ; Brierfield, a much smaller centre of population than either of the other three and apparently the weakest link in the chain, has only a small stock of books, partly owing to lack of accommodation, but it has the advantage of being backed by all the resources of the County Library, resources which could in case of need render it equal in strength to either Burnley, Nelson or Colne. The partnership would be by no means an unequal one and the four authorities would sacrifice none of their independence. The interchange of books would be greatly facilitated if a uniform charging system were instituted ; it would also be necessary to institute a union author catalogue at each of the libraries. Requisitions would pass freely between the four libraries, and for local interchange it is possible that use might be made of the tramway services connecting Burnley with Nelson and Nelson with Colne. In addition to the total local stock, to all of which every borrower would have access, it would probably be possible for the County Library to guarantee the supply of any volume not obtainable locally.

The adoption of some such scheme of co-operation as this, not necessarily in the region described but in some area presenting similar features, would undoubtedly do much to facilitate the complete regionalization aimed at by the Departmental Committee. The first scheme would be regarded as merely experimental, but if it proved successful, similar groups could be formed, and these could be gradually enlarged and contiguous groups linked together so as to cover a whole geographical area with a completely homogeneous system. Some such system is already coming into operation in Wiltshire by co-operation between the County Library

and the libraries of Calne and Salisbury, and it would be unjust not to mention the ambitious scheme drawn up for Cumberland by the Librarian of Workington. This was the first detailed scheme for the organization of a complete county into four administrative districts, based on the four municipal libraries at Carlisle, Penrith, Whitehaven and Workington. The four districts were to be divided into smaller areas, each dependent on a suitable existing library or on a branch to be established in the largest-centre of population. The branch libraries would be fully equipped with lending departments, reference departments and reading rooms, and would also act as supply depots for all the villages in their immediate neighbourhood. A uniform rate would be levied throughout the county and the book stock of all the libraries would be pooled. The scheme was an admirable one and might work well if the existing library authorities could be got to agree to co-operate in it, but a very serious drawback to it was the very high rate proposed (3*d.* in the £) for the whole county. Experience has shown that the smaller urban districts cannot at present afford even half this rate for library purposes and the rural districts certainly will not pay more than 1*d.* in the £ for a service which does not provide more than small collections of books housed in makeshift accommodation under the care of a voluntary librarian. It looks as if Mr. Purves's scheme would tax the rural areas to provide for the upkeep of the municipal libraries; when he wrote (in the year 1920) the principal of differential rating had hardly come to be considered practicable for library purposes.¹

On the whole it seems likely that progress towards complete regionalization, the ideal suggested by the Librarian of Glasgow at the 1926 Conference on County Libraries and in the Report of the Departmental Committee, will best be made through the extension of such minor schemes as that suggested for the Burnley area rather than through the adoption of cut and dried schemes like the one propounded for Cumberland. The main advantage of a regional and national system is the free interchange of

¹ The Borough of St. Helens has recently established a small branch at Sutton Manor, the estimated annual cost of which is £157. The County Library draws from the adjoining parish of Bold an income of only £33, a sum obviously insufficient to support a branch library. If the county rate were raised to the same level as that for St. Helens the income from it would barely support a branch library, and the population of the parish is so scattered that two branches are essential. In order to make proper provision for the parish, it therefore seems necessary to levy a higher rate than that levied in the Borough.

books, a practice which is likely to benefit the smaller libraries much less in the present than in the future, when their reference work is more highly developed. The United States have for long led the way in inter-library lending, and their efforts in this direction are fully described in the Reports of the Delegates to the A.L.A. Conference at Atlantic City in 1926. Inter-library lending on a large scale, however, cannot become effective until union catalogues of regional resources are established (not a very difficult proposition if Library of Congress printed cards are used) and unless the larger libraries are prepared to lend generously to the smaller libraries. The general feeling of the municipal librarians present at the Matlock Conference this year seemed to be that the urban libraries had not sufficient stocks to be able to lend books to other authorities, but if regional organization is to be regarded in its true light, not as leading to wholesale borrowing by the poorer authorities from the county or borough libraries, but as a means of supplying to *any* library the rare or out-of-print books which it could not otherwise obtain, there can be no question but that every library can afford to lend from time to time. Even in the United States, where the practice is common, the proportion of loans to total issues is a ridiculously small one (in Boston about 1 in 1,250 issues), and the proportion could hardly be higher in this country. If these services can be provided free in America they can surely be provided without cost in this country; when the cost of lending even one book a week is so small it seems unnecessary for borough or county libraries to turn themselves into subscription libraries, lending books at 2*d.*, 3*d.*, or 4*d.* a volume.

In a fully organized national system it would still be necessary for the poorer libraries to be assisted to a large extent by the richer. County and borough authorities will be able to meet on equal terms, but the same cannot be said of the urban districts. These smaller libraries, struggling to maintain expensive buildings on the produce of a high rate, will continue to borrow in bulk from stronger libraries, and here the financial complication is unavoidable. An important point requiring immediate settlement is the amount to be charged for such loans. The usual charge appears to be £5 per 100 volumes; in Lancashire it has been fixed provisionally at £6 per 100 volumes; while the Librarian of Cheshire has suggested £10 per 100 volumes. But whatever charge is fixed arrangements for loans in bulk

should include some form of service from the smaller library if the link between the smaller and the larger is to be termed co-operation. The larger library should have the right to borrow books not otherwise obtainable, and should guarantee in return the supply of reference books from its own stock. The link will be an even closer one if other services can be included in the agreement, if for instance the contributing library authority receives an extra supply of books and admits residents outside its area to the use of the library, or if the county authority is permitted to use the local library as a depot from which to supply the neighbouring villages. A *quid pro quo* in the shape of the use of buildings and experienced staffs would probably be valued by a county authority more highly than any money payment.

Whatever schemes of co-operation are put forward during the next few years it must be borne in mind that they must be experiments and nothing more, and as experiments too much must not be expected of them. The best results will be attained where two or three authorities cautiously feel their way towards an agreement based on reciprocity of service rather than service on one side and payment on the other, and then work together with goodwill in the endeavour to make the agreement successful in operation. It is only a few years since county libraries were themselves experimental, but if the experiment has come to anything its achievement has been that it has brought about practically a universal library service in this country. It remains to bring the machinery already established to the highest possible level of efficiency.

Mr. D. G. HENRIK JONES (County Librarian, Buckinghamshire) said that he could not open the discussion on the subject of co-operation without first most sincerely and heartily congratulating Messrs. Osborne and Cowley on their thoughtful and refreshingly outspoken papers. Between them they had conducted so wide a survey of the problem that, for discussion, it was impossible to do more than select one or two points and examine them briefly. Despite Mr. Osborne's intention not to go into the all-important question of co-operation, in any comparison of municipal and county libraries it was a question that could not be avoided. It cropped up in connection with the specific relations between town and county libraries and also in connection with co-operation between libraries and other educational agencies. On that latter form of co-operation, he thought that the county library had something to teach the municipal service. Whatever else might be said, close connection with the local education committee was a

great advantage when the needs of the student were being considered. It might result in the library receiving, as a matter of routine, early supplies of syllabuses of all courses of lectures organized by the local education authority and other bodies with which it might be in contact. A regular supply of lists of books recommended by the tutors of the various classes was a great help to the librarian, who could thereby anticipate the likely demand.

Close co-operation between the county libraries and education committees was both a great benefit to the student and the means whereby a comprehensive students' library could be built up, containing not only one copy, but, if the book was authoritative or in great demand, a dozen or two dozen copies of each book; and also the county librarian was thus assured that the more serious books in his library would be in continuous use. On this point, county librarians had made progress in a fairly fresh direction.

Mr. Osborne had had some interesting and provoking things to say about children's libraries and reference libraries. He (Mr. Jones), however, had no great love for the children's library as it existed in many towns. He would rather see every elementary and secondary school equipped with its own school library. And as for the awful gap between the ages of fourteen and twenty, when the young people wanted neither the children's nor the grown-up's library, perhaps, as Mr. Osborne pointed out, the gradual establishment of part-time and continuation schools would help to solve the problem.

He had enjoyed and profited by Mr. Cowley's paper, but he was afraid that he had little to contribute by way of discussion; for one reason, his own county of Buckinghamshire did not present many problems of co-operation. One small borough, with a population of twenty thousand, and four villages had been the only existing areas in the county when the 1919 Act was adopted, and co-operation had been established among these places, on the familiar basis, by which the county authority made a charge of £5 per hundred books lent to the smaller authorities. One very useful service to be given to the county by the small borough libraries in return for such an extra supply of books was to act as depots for the supply of books to neighbouring villages.

A point connected with this form of co-operation, which required early settlement, was the amount charged for the loan of books, about which there was considerable variation. It was difficult to assess, in terms of hard cash, the services rendered by the county staff; and the business of supplying existing authorities with books should in practice be easier than that of supplying the ordinary county centres. The chief item was wear and tear, and this was adequately covered by a charge of one shilling per book per year.

He added, in conclusion, an account of another type of co-operation which had been established between the counties of Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire. In the case of a large parish lying on the border between the two counties, a mutual arrangement had been made whereby one county was responsible for the supply of books for adults and the other for books for children, while one local committee was responsible for all the administration.

He hoped that all experiments in co-operation would be happy ones, so that the ideal of benefiting the community, irrespective of parochial boundaries, might be attained.

Mr. W. B. COUPLAND (Burnley) said that, while he realized the difficulties of co-operation between neighbouring library authorities, he thought that they

should not rest content until the difficulties were overcome. Co-operation without any monetary basis or arrangement was one of the greatest of those difficulties. He thought, however, that there was one possible avenue of co-operation: in the areas suggested by Mr. Cowley, where there was little distance between towns, it seemed possible that a joint committee representing the various authorities might be set up, to consider the question of the unnecessary duplication of specially rare or expensive books.

Mr. JAMES CHRISTISON (Burgh Librarian, Montrose, and County Librarian, Forfarshire and Kincardineshire) gave details of an experiment in co-operation in his county. They had, he said, in the county of Forfar, four small burgh libraries—at Forfar, Brechin, Arbroath and Montrose. For the past twelve months there had been in operation a scheme whereby these burgh libraries borrowed from the county library one hundred volumes every two months for the sum of £7. 10s. for the year. Moreover—what was equally valuable—these libraries had agreed to exchange books with each other. Not only that, but during the past twelve months, they had had the privilege, although no regular arrangement had been made, of drawing, for the county library, books from the Dundee Public Library. Montrose Burgh Library had also lent books—other than fiction—to rural stations in Kincardineshire. That also was working well, and the demand for serious literature was most satisfactory. From that experiment he believed that a much extended and more highly developed scheme might be elaborated.

Mr. H. W. ACOMB (Shropshire) gave his recollections of how co-operation was started in Cornwall. He said that, after consideration, all the nine boroughs, except one, had agreed to accept the scheme of co-operation; and it was one of the very few areas in which practically all the boroughs had been drawn in. The rudiments of a regional library were actually in existence.

Councillor ROGERSON (Chairman, Lancashire County Library) said he was satisfied with the methods of the Lancashire Librarian and with those that Mr. Christison had outlined. He felt sure that, if library committees would give their librarians a free hand to follow the lines discussed among librarians themselves, good results would follow.

Mr. F. HELLIWELL (Preston) spoke of the suburban populations, which lay immediately outside large industrial towns, and which, although they were outside the borough boundaries, claimed to belong to the municipality. Shortage of houses had compelled many to live further afield than they had formerly done. He thought that there was much to be said for the extension of the borough boundaries in such cases, so that large collections of books could be placed at the disposal of such people. In Preston, since the Public Libraries Act of 1919, they had been compelled, in order to safeguard their rate-payers, to turn the library into a subscription library, and to allow those living in the county area to use it on payment of a small subscription. That arrangement had been a great success.

Mr. G. R. BOLTON (Watford) thought that, unless some scheme were prepared, things would go on in their unsatisfactory state indefinitely. He suggested that the time was ripe for a round-table conference between county and municipal librarians.

Miss A. S. COOKE (Kent) said that this was a subject which they had very much before them in Kent, because they had twenty-eight borough libraries in the county. A number of meetings had been held to discuss the question of co-operation, but so far they had only succeeded in inducing one library to co-operate. Their

failure was due chiefly to local jealousy, and until they could get the broader outlook that they were there to serve the whole community and not only one section, they would not get very far in the movement towards co-operation. County discussions would help, she thought, especially since the Departmental Committee's Report had made it clear that no taking-over of property was suggested.

Councillor HURST (Newcastle) said it was a conference of library committees that was needed. It had to be realized that librarians were but the servants of the municipality and that the committees were their masters. If librarians could get library committees to agree to their proposals, they would have no opposition from the rate-payers, who, as everybody knew, were an apathetic body.

MR. W. C. BERWICK SAYERS (Croydon) regretted the tone of the last speaker. The librarians were the technical advisers of the committees, and it was for them to consider what methods to recommend.

Mr. F. C. MORGAN (Hereford) said that, in Hereford, municipal library grants were made for the supply of agricultural books, which were lent freely to any resident in the county on application to the librarian or through the county library.

Councillor RATCLIFFE (Halifax Libraries Committee) confessed that it was almost impossible to hope for co-operation between the counties and the county boroughs, because, if any advances were made by the county borough, there was suspicion that it was intending to extend its boundaries. Another difficulty was presented by differences of rating in the boroughs and in the counties. In his opinion, the question of co-operation should lie chiefly between library authorities and local education authorities. In Halifax, such co-operation had been practised for twenty years, and in every school in the borough a school library had been established and maintained. In that way, they had built up a reading population and their libraries were, at that time, being more extensively used than ever before.

Mr. F. W. TOPPING (Loughborough) said that the difficulty was entirely one of money.

Mr. COWLEY then replied, and Mr. W. C. BERWICK SAYERS (Croydon) moved a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers and to the Chairman, which the Chairman briefly acknowledged.

RECEPTIONS.

An "At Home" was given in the afternoon by Sir George Macdonald, K.C.B., LL.D., F.B.A. (Chairman of the Local Reception Committee) and Lady Macdonald, to the Council of the Association and the visitors from overseas. The gathering took place in the Albyn Rooms, Queen Street. There were about one hundred and eighty guests present. A programme of music was given and tea was served.

The official reception took place on Monday evening, in the Usher Hall, when the members of the Conference were welcomed by the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Edinburgh. The guests were received by Lord Provost Alexander Stevenson, who was accompanied by the members of the Corporation wearing their civic robes. At the conclusion of the reception several speeches were made.

The LORD PROVOST said that, on behalf of the Corporation, he had the greatest pleasure in giving them an official welcome to the City. The Conference, he

understood, coincided with their fiftieth anniversary, and as they had not met in Edinburgh since 1880, he could assure them that the Corporation were delighted to have the opportunity of welcoming them. He believed there were representatives present from the Continent, the United States of America, and the British Dominions, and he was particularly glad to welcome the delegates from other countries. He need not, in that company, enlarge upon the usefulness of libraries and their educative influence and value. It was sufficient for him to say that they all realized the great benefits which the general public derived from such institutions. It was interesting to remember that, although it was not until the year 1850 that power was given to local authorities to establish free libraries, there had been public libraries—public in the sense of being instituted for the purposes of research in all branches of knowledge—for very many years, and this was particularly the case in Scotland. They in Edinburgh were particularly fortunate in having several famous libraries in their midst, such as the Advocates' Library, which, through the munificence of Sir Alexander Grant had now become the National Library of Scotland—(applause)—the University Library, the Signet Library, and also the Free Library established by the Corporation through the generosity of Mr. Andrew Carnegie. It was appropriate, therefore, that, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Library Association, Edinburgh should have the opportunity of giving official recognition to the delegates, and on behalf of the Corporation he cordially congratulated the Association on the attainment of its Jubilee, and wished it increasing prosperity and success. (Applause.)

THE EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE (President-elect), in reply, said his first duty was to accord to the Lord Provost, on behalf of the Association, their very cordial thanks for the welcome which he had given them. This duty, he felt, should really have been in the hands of the President, Dr. Guppy, but he felt it a particular honour that he should have been asked to speak on behalf of the Association. The Lord Provost had referred to the fact that it was many years since they as a Library Association visited Edinburgh. Indeed, the Library Association had not visited Edinburgh during his lifetime. (Laughter.) As librarians, they were interested in all social problems and social advancement, and in any movement which would help to build good citizens. That was really the mainstay, the back-bone, of the library movement, and it was particularly encouraging to them, at the very outset of their fiftieth anniversary, to receive from the Head of the City a civic welcome, which implied that they were associated in an effort to improve the social conditions of our time. (Applause). On behalf of the members of the Association he offered the Lord Provost their thanks and best wishes. They had amongst them a large number of delegates from abroad, among whom was Mr. Roden, the President of the American Library Association, who would speak on behalf of those who had come from overseas.

Mr. CARL B. RODEN (President, American Library Association), expressed the gratitude of them all for the opportunity of participating in that distinguished assembly. He said that they were there to bring the felicitations of the world of librarianship to organized British Librarianship. Nine nations of Europe, the United States of America, the Dominion of Canada and the Commonwealth of Australia, were represented in the company by members of similar associations in those lands. They came to the feast as friends of the household to offer congratulations and to share in the deliberations. They had, during the past week, been permitted to catch flying

glimpses of a few of the vistas of England's past, and against that background of the ages, a mere half-century seemed but a fleeting moment. Yet the brief span of fifty years embraced the whole of what is called the library movement, both in England and in America, and it had witnessed the rise and development of that potent influence for popular education, known as the public library. It was interesting to observe how similar had been the development of this institution in England and in America. Beginning in Britain with the famous Committee Reports of 1849-50, and in America with the establishment of the Boston Public Library in 1851, the movement had gone forward, sometimes impeded by insuperable local difficulties, at other times progressing rapidly under competent leadership and with adequate resources. In both countries, the great foundations of Andrew Carnegie had lent their wise and generous aid, in both the practice of librarianship had been reduced to a system by the adoption of methods elaborated in both countries. And above all, the great periodic conferences begun in 1876 in America and in 1877 in Great Britain, had breathed the breath of life into their activities. In both countries—as subsequently in many others—the great advantage of association, discussion, comparison and co-operation were recognized, and led to the perfection of a body of professional doctrine and practice, which would surely crystallize into an enduring fabric. It was, therefore, not only the completion of half a century in the life of an organization that they were there to celebrate, but the fiftieth year of the life and progress of an educational force that was growing younger and more powerful as the years went by. It was not the passage of time they were asked to celebrate, but the progress of an ideal towards consummation. In each country the spirit of enterprise and progress was abroad. In Britain the splendid scheme of county library development was going forward at a rapid pace, and was giving new impetus to similar movements for the service of the enormous rural populations in America. The admirable system of popular lectures to which English public libraries were so largely committed and the fine conception of reference libraries for students inspired them, in America, in their experiments with what they called adult education. In America they had progressed inevitably to the creation of a strong central administration under the direction of which the co-ordination of their expanding activities was rapidly progressing. Similar developments in England would doubtless not be long delayed. In the meantime these conferences had led to a larger conception of an international communion of librarians, and would perhaps lead ultimately to an international fellowship. It was to be hoped that they would have the opportunity of continuing the consideration of the international aspects of librarianship which had begun so auspiciously in America a year previously. Their interests interlocked and intertwined, the achievements of one became the common property of all in the common bond of understanding and enthusiasm which inspired librarianship the world over to consolidate its forces and all its vast opportunities into one great democracy. And, toward this end, the Jubilee Conference of 1927 was destined to make a large and vital contribution.

Mr. Roden concluded by expressing the gratitude of the overseas delegates for the opportunity of being present at the Conference, their congratulations to the Association on the completion of its first fifty years, and finally their best wishes for its future success.

A musical programme was then given by the City pipers, and refreshments were served.

TUESDAY

On the delegates assembling on Tuesday morning, Dr. GUPPY said that it was his duty and privilege, as the last act of the retiring President, to invite Lord Elgin to take the presidential chair. That year marked an important epoch not only in the history of the Library Association, but also in the history of the public library service of this country, by reason of the publication of the report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the President of the Board of Education in 1924. During the past twenty-five years there had been a tremendous growth of interest in the public library movement, and it was only bare justice to say that it had been due to the support and stimulus given to the establishment of libraries by Mr. Andrew Carnegie and subsequently by the Trustees of the fund created by him, of whom Lord Elgin was the present chairman. (Applause.) If the Carnegie Trustees had done nothing more than establish the rural and county library scheme they would have earned the everlasting gratitude of the people of this country. It was impossible to overestimate the far-reaching possibilities of that scheme, which was calculated to transform the life of the countryside. By its development during the next few years, every country-dweller, man, woman and child, would be enabled to enjoy the same privileges of access to the refining influence of books as were provided for town dwellers. So that the hope expressed by Mr. John Bright, nearly seventy years ago, on the occasion of the opening of the first public library, "that the farmer and agricultural labourer would have a library service," would have become an accomplished fact. (Applause.) When they realized how much they owed to Mr. Andrew Carnegie and the Carnegie Trustees, it was not difficult to see how appropriate it was for the Council of the Association to invite Lord Elgin to accept the office of President during the jubilee year. (Applause.) By his ready consent, Lord Elgin had both added distinction to the office and had made it possible for the Association to honour the memory of Mr. Carnegie and to mark their appreciation of the enlightened administration of the Trust by the present Trustees. "Lord Elgin," he added, "I have no presidential chain or other insignia of office with which to invest you, but I can offer you the loyal support not only of the members of your Council, but of every member of the Association. The year upon which we enter is fraught with great possibilities, and we confidently believe that, under your wise direction, the work of the Association will go on from success to success." (Applause.)

LORD ELGIN, in taking the chair, returned thanks for the kindly welcome. The usual procedure, he said, would have been for him to give his presidential address then, but he was under orders to begin his address at 7.45 p.m. sharp. (Laughter.) He would at that stage say nothing more than a mere word of thanks for the honour they had done him in electing him to the Presidency of the Association. He had felt that his first duty as the representative of the Council and the Association, in that jubilee year, was to send from the Conference to His Majesty the King a message of their loyal duty. A message had been sent, and he was glad to be able to say that already he had in his hands a very gracious message from His Majesty in return. He asked the delegates to stand while he read the following :—

ROYAL MESSAGE.

The Earl of Elgin, President, Library Association Conference, United Free Church Assembly Hall, Edinburgh. I am commanded to express the sincere thanks of the King to the representatives and delegates of the Library Association assembled in conference at Edinburgh for their message of loyal greeting. His Majesty congratulates the Association upon the celebration of its jubilee, and wishes all success to its important and national work in providing means of self-education and promoting a love of reading among all sections of the community.

STAMFORDHAM.

Lord Elgin said that he thought he would be interpreting the wishes of the Conference aright, if he sent a message in return saying how much they appreciated His Majesty's interest in their doings and how much they thanked him for his good wishes. (Applause.)

Lord Elgin then read the following other greetings :—

From THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

DEAR LORD ELGIN,—I am interested to hear of the Conference over which you are to preside this month in Edinburgh. There can surely be no question of the advantage to the world of an increase in the activities of the Library Association. A library is in itself a mode of centralizing knowledge, and a gathering of librarians with co-ordination of libraries is carrying the principle yet further to the public advantage.

I shall be greatly interested to hear of the result of your deliberations. With all my heart I wish your work " God speed."—I am, yours very truly,

RANDALL CANTUAR.

From THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF BALFOUR, K.G. (Chancellor of the University of Cambridge).

I beg to offer my hearty congratulations to the Library Association of the United Kingdom on their fiftieth anniversary.

In the fifty years of their existence the movement, which they have done so much to foster, has prospered exceedingly. It has spread to all parts of the country ; it has been marked by increased co-operation between different centres ; and the whole standard of library administration has been raised. The Association may therefore look on the past with pride and forward to the future with hope. I note with special pleasure the international character which you have given to your jubilee celebrations.—Yours faithfully,

BALFOUR.

From VISCOUNT CAVE (Chancellor of the University of Oxford).

I am much interested to hear that the Library Association is this year celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its birth.

The contributions made by our public librarians during the last fifty years to the sum of human knowledge and achievement and to the cause of education is incalculable, and I have no doubt that the Association has rendered them much help in their work.

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With all good wishes for the success of the Conference.—I remain, yours faithfully,

CAVE.

From THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The Library Association has in the fifty years of its existence witnessed not only the development, almost from its inception, of the national system of education, but also a corresponding growth and diffusion of opportunities for leisure among all classes. We have still no doubt some way to travel before we can hope, through the medium of that national system, to instil in the minds of the whole people a desire to utilize their leisure and enrich their lives by the intelligent reading of good books, but by the co-operation of librarians and teachers no less than by the developments taking place in the facilities for education both for the adult and the adolescent, we are every day bringing home the benefits of fruitful and systematic reading to a wider circle. In this work the Library Association has taken, and I hope is destined increasingly to take, a leading part, and they can, I am sure, take encouragement from the signs of progress in every part of the country, and look forward to a future full of opportunity.

EUSTACE PERCY.

From THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The American Library Association, representing the associated interests of the U.S. and Canada, in Conference at Toronto, Canada, June 20th to 27th, 1927, appreciative of the friendly sympathy extended to it on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, and of the welcome participation in its celebration, of the numerous delegates from Great Britain and Ireland, now in turn sends greetings to the Library Association (of the United Kingdom), and congratulations upon its achievement of a half-century of useful service to the profession of librarianship and the cause of education.

In its own retrospect of an identical period, it has been gratified to observe how steadily the principles and the aims of the two Associations have tended to approximate; and how reciprocal in their application have been the ideas and examples furnished by each to the other. It has deep satisfaction also in the success that has attended their joint efforts at co-operation in method, among which a conspicuous instance has been the agreement upon uniformity in rules for cataloguing, of basic importance to co-operation generally.

It eagerly desires a continuance and extension of such efforts, which it believes will have a universal influence upon library administration; and it will welcome every proposal to that end; every advance also towards the unities which should characterize two groups of a profession serving similar civilizations, whose ideas are identical, and whose separation is only geographical and political.

It will watch with keen interest the further development of libraries in Great Britain, the further perfection of its library system, the further standardization of its library service, and every improvement in the status of its professional service.

And its good wishes will heartily attend the organized influence of the Library Association in its relation to all those elements of progress.

CARL B. RODEN, *President.*

CARL H. MILAM, *Secretary.*

From THE ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The Ontario Library Association extends to the British Library Association its hearty congratulations on the completion of fifty years of work. Through the visits of representative British librarians, and in other ways, Canadians have been enabled to maintain some acquaintance with the steady development of library work in the British Isles and to profit as well by the experience of British librarians. It is the hope of the Ontario Library Association that the cordial relations which have existed in the past may, in the future, be extended and broadened, and that each group may stimulate and encourage the other in this common work.

On behalf of the Ontario Library Association,

FRED LANDON, *President, 1926-27.*

From THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF DENMARK.

Danmarks Biblioteksforening, remembering the great help given in starting the work for public libraries in Denmark, presents to the Library Association best greetings and congratulations upon the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

We are aware to how great an extent the libraries in the United Kingdom have received support from the Library Association to further the library cause. We remember the time when Edward Edwards published his statistical view of public libraries, and the first public library was opened in Manchester, with the assistance of the best authors of that time.

We admire all great aiders of the library movement in the British Isles, right back to the days when Richard de Bury caused his "Philobiblon" to be copied and spread over the whole of Europe, a work which more than any gave rise to bibliophilism.

It is our most sincere wish that the Library Association when inaugurating libraries may always have ardour like de Bury, learning like Edward Edwards, and friends like Bulwer, Dickens and Thackeray.

Danmarks Biblioteksforening,

J. HOIRUP, *Chairman.*

From THE SWEDISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

The Society of Swedish Librarians and the general Swedish Library Association present their heartiest congratulations to the British Library Association on behalf of its fiftieth anniversary. The British Library Association is the oldest federation of its kind in Europe, and as such has exercised an important influence even beyond the boundaries of England. The practical nature of the British people is seen in the country's library and bibliographical work, and especially may be noted the production of library catalogues, both in earlier and modern times, which are perfect models of such work. In the book-loving country of William Morris, the names of many world-famed librarians and bibliographers, who have belonged to this Association, stand out most prominently to the honour of English library work. The Society of Swedish Librarians and the Swedish Library Association beg to add to their congratulations their best wishes for a successful and fruitful work in the future.

*On behalf of the SOCIETY OF SWEDISH LIBRARIANS,
and the GENERAL SWEDISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.*

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From THE CZECHOSLOVAK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The Czechoslovak Library Association, Prague, sends cordial greetings to the Meeting as well as our very good wishes for the future of the Association and for the advancement of the work which it is so ably furthering.

From THE NORWEGIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The Norwegian Library Association presents heartiest greetings and congratulations to the British Library Association, wishing progress and prosperity worthy of old traditions.

JENS JENSSEN, *President.*

From THE POLISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Polish Library Association sends cordial greetings to fiftieth anniversary of British Library Association. Sincerely regrets inability to attend Edinburgh Conference. Greets meeting, wishing best results in promoting international relations and co-operation in library work.

From THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

The following cable was sent to Dr. Locke :—

Please give to Earl of Elgin on behalf of Canadian Government, our warm good wishes on occasion of his assumption of office of President of the British Library Association to-day.

SKELTON.

From THE STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION OF DENMARK.

The State Library Commission of Denmark present their compliments to the British Library Association with heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

Greetings were received *from* THE BIBLIOTHÈQUE ROYALE DE BELGIQUE, BRUSSELS, *and from* THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

From THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

May I, in the name of the Workers' Educational Association, tender our warmest congratulations to the Library Association of the United Kingdom on attaining its Jubilee Anniversary.

Of the many progressive changes for the common good that have taken place during the past fifty years, none is more significant than the extension of opportunities for reading, study and mental development afforded by our public libraries. And that work, which has gone forward unobtrusively and almost unperceived, has evolved a great democratic institution, through which all citizens, irrespective of age, class or material circumstances, are afforded the means not only of informing themselves on current thought and opinion, but also of holding communion with the great minds of men and women of past generations.

The field in which the work of your Association has been carried on provides a meeting ground for real international co-operation in the spread of knowledge, the

provision of pleasant and fruitful recreation, and the enlightenment of public opinion with regard to the history, traditions, and culture, not only of our own nation but of the world in general.

The Association is entitled to the sincere appreciation of all who seek educational advancement, and in this respect none is more indebted than those whom the W.E.A. exists to serve.

You have our heartiest good wishes for the continued success of your efforts.

Yours faithfully,

A. PUGH.

From THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

The Public Libraries Committee of the City of Birmingham desire to offer their hearty congratulations to the Library Association on the occasion of the celebration of the Jubilee of the Association.

Founded as the outcome of a Conference held in London in 1877, the importance of the Association was recognized by the grant of a Royal Charter in 1898.

During the fifty years of its existence, the Association has accomplished much for the libraries of the country, often under circumstances of great difficulty.

The Committee recognize that it has played an important part in the great improvement which has taken place in public libraries, particularly during recent years, and has rendered valuable assistance to the progress of the library movement in general.

It is the earnest hope of the Committee that the Association may grow in dignity and usefulness as the organ of those who, through libraries, serve learning and scholarship.

From DR. BERTLING, Berlin.

Friendly greetings and best wishes to all my English and American friends.

DR. BERTLING.

From DR. OTTO GLAUNING, Leipzig.

SEHR GEHRTER HERR,—Endlich kann ich mich der Verpflichtung entledigen, die seit dem Empfang Ihrer freundlichen Einladung zur Teilnähme an der Jubelfeier Ihres Vereins auf mir ruht. Ich bitte Sie meinen verbindlichsten Dank für diese ehrenvolle Aufforderung entgegennehmen und ihn an die Herren Mitglieder Ihrer Vereinigung weitergeben zu wollen. Nachdem ich nur allzulange im Unklaren darüber war, ob ich nach Edinburgh würde kommen können, hat es sich dieser Tage entschieden, dass ich zu meinem lebhaftesten Bedauern auf eine Teilnähme an Ihrer Versammlung zu verzichten habe. Wenn ich nun auch von Ihrer Feier fern bleiben muss, möchte ich doch nicht verfehlen, Ihnen und Ihrem Verein, für einen recht glücklichen und harmonischen Verlauf Ihres Festes, die wärmsten Wünsche auszusprechen.

Mit dem Ausdruck vorzüglicher Hochachtung habe ich die Ehre zu sein Ihr sehr ergebener,

PROF. DR. GLAUNING, *Direktor der Universtäts-Bibliothek, Leipzig.*

From M. EUGÈNE MOREL, Paris.

RÉGIE DU DÉPÔT LÉGAL (DÉPÔT D'ÉDITEURS), BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE, 58 RUE DE RICHELIEU.

CHER MONSIEUR,—J'ai vivement regretté de ne pouvoir assister à la Conférence d'Edinburgh, où j'aurais retrouvé avec tant de plaisir les amitiés ébauchées dans notre voyage d'Amérique. Jusqu' à ces derniers temps j'avais espéré quelque entente me permettant d'accepter votre invitation et je m'excuse de ne pas vous avoir répondu plus tôt. Mon ami Henri Lemaître représentera l'Association française à votre réunion, et je serai du moins tenu au courant de vos travaux.

Ce n'est pas sans émotion que j'aurais revu Edinburgh où j'ai passé six semaines il ya plus de vingt ans. C'est là, en effet, entré par curiosité à la Carnegie Library, que j'ai pris conscience du rôle moderne des bibliothèques, et les études et documents rapportés de Glasgow et d'Edinburgh ont été l'origine de la propagande que j'ai faite depuis en France pour la création de bibliothèques libres. Je ne trouverais plus, sans doute, ceux qui me firent alors un si bienveillant accueil, mais je verrais leur œuvre complétée et renouvelée.

Je vous prie de transmettre mes sympathies et mes regrets à tous ceux de la réunion d'Atlantic City qui auront pu vous rejoindre en Ecosse, et pour me consoler un peu de n'être pas des vôtres s'il vous est possible de m'obtenir les résultats de la Conférence ainsi que les reports nouveaux des free public libraries, je vous en serai fort reconnaissant. Ceux que j'avais rapportés et qui me furent adressés pour l'exposition du Congrès des bibliothèques à Paris, il y a cinq ans, ont été largement utilisés pour notre propagande.

Croyez, Monsieur et cher collègue, avec mes remerciements réitérés, à l'expression de ma sympathie dévouée.—Votre,

EUGÈNE MOREL.

During the next quarter of an hour, the foreign delegates filed past the President, who shook hands with them amid cordial applause from the rest of the gathering. Among them were delegates from Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, India, Italy, the League of Nations, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, and the United States.

Dr. W. K. DICKSON (Librarian, National Library of Scotland) then read his paper.

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

By W. K. DICKSON, LL.D., *Librarian of the National Library.*

ALMOST two years ago, in October 1925, there took place in Edinburgh an event of importance in the history of British libraries—the transfer to the State of the ancient and famous Library of the Faculty of Advocates, with a view to its reconstitution as the National

Library of Scotland. It has been thought appropriate that a record of this transaction should appear in the proceedings of this Conference, and I have been asked to give some account of the events which led up to the transfer and the manner in which it was carried out.

An outline of the history of the Advocates' Library appeared in the September number of the LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD, and the briefest summary will here suffice.

The Library was founded by the Faculty of Advocates, that is to say by the Scottish Bar, in 1682, in the reign of King Charles II, under the auspices of Sir George Mackenzie, then Dean of the Faculty—"that noble wit of Scotland," as Dryden called him, the "bloody Mackenzie" of covenanting tradition. It received generous support from the Faculty, and in 1692 the first printed catalogue was issued. It was primarily a Law Library, but from the beginning the claims of general literature were not neglected, and in 1698 the purchase of the MSS. of Sir James Balfour of Denmilne laid the foundation of the existing collection of manuscripts. In 1709 the Copyright Act of Queen Anne conferred upon the Library the right to claim a copy of every book entered at Stationers' Hall—a privilege continued by all subsequent Copyright Acts. This determined the future of the Library, and made it the great collection which we know. The right man to deal with the new conditions was not lacking. Thomas Ruddiman, famous as a Latinist and as a Jacobite, entered the Library as an assistant in 1700. He was appointed Keeper in 1730. He left an unforgotten name as an excellent librarian. He has been called the second founder of the Library; much of its existing organization is due to him; and he planned and completed the second printed catalogue, issued in 1742. It contains some 25,000 entries. When David Hume succeeded Ruddiman as Keeper in 1752, he found a library of some 30,000 volumes, in a high state of order and efficiency.

The Faculty from the beginning followed the policy of giving free access to the Library to all real workers in literature and science, and by the middle of the eighteenth century it had become for all practical purposes the National Library of Scotland, and had attained a place as one of the important libraries of Europe.

The following century was one of quiet prosperity. The annual output of the press was moderate in amount, the copyright accessions could be

counted by hundreds and not by thousands ; and the resources of the Faculty were sufficient to meet the cost of housing and administration, according to the comparatively unexact standards of those days. In mid-Victorian times, however, the advent of the popular press enormously increased the number of accessions. The latest printed catalogue, which includes accessions to the end of 1871, contains about 260,000 entries. The annual additions steadily continued to increase. In 1872 the total printed accessions, including parts of periodicals, amounted to approximately 13,977. In 1924, the last complete year of the old regime, they were 54,202.

Obviously an anomalous situation was developing. The Faculty was bearing for the benefit of the public the responsibility of a great library of which an increasing proportion consisted of books entirely alien to the professional and personal requirements of its members, and while the Library continued to expand with increasing rapidity, no corresponding increase took place in the Faculty's resources. From 1853 onwards many proposals were made, both within and without the Faculty, with the purpose of putting matters on a more satisfactory footing. These generally pointed either to the institution of a Government grant to the Faculty, in consideration of their granting the use of the Library to the public, or to the establishment of a national library of reference for Scotland, with a reading-room similar to that of the British Museum, in which the books and manuscripts belonging to the Advocates' Library should be made available for consultation. The most important of these movements was that originated at a public meeting held in Edinburgh in 1864. A large and representative committee was formed, which drafted certain proposals, involving the acquisition of a site near the Library, and the erection of suitable buildings by the Government, to be vested in trustees for the public, and an annual payment of £3,000 (£2,000 from Government and £1,000 from the City of Edinburgh) to the Faculty of Advocates, who were to make their collection available for the purposes of the National Library. The matter was laid before Mr. Gladstone, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, but nothing was done. Much discussion went on during the following years. In 1869 a Memorial embodying similar proposals was submitted to the Treasury, signed by most of the leading Scotsmen of the day, including Archbishop Tait, Lord President Inglis, Lord Moncreiff, Lord Young, Lord Gordon, and Mr. William

Chambers, then Lord Provost of Edinburgh. It also came to nothing. In 1873 the Faculty made a direct attempt to obtain Government aid, either upon the abandonment of the copyright privilege, on the footing of compensation, or upon its continuance with a grant-in-aid to the Faculty. A deputation, which included the Lord Advocate of the day, waited upon Mr. Robert Lowe, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, to request his favourable consideration of these views. His reply was characteristic:—

11 DOWNING STREET,
WHITEHALL.

5th May, 1873.

SIR,—The Chancellor of the Exchequer desires me to state that he has fully considered the application which was made personally to him the other day, for an annual grant from Imperial Funds towards defraying the expenses of the Advocates' Library.

He understands that the privilege of receiving books from Stationers' Hall is felt by the Faculty as a burden.

If so, they can easily relieve themselves of it, but it affords no ground for commutation or compensation.

Mr. Lowe cannot admit that the "importance of the Library," "the liberal manner in which it has been administered," or "the exertions to maintain it efficiently," afford any ground for public aid. To concede that they do would make a precedent of the most dangerous kind.

Any greater facilities of access to the Library would doubtless be beneficial to the citizens of Edinburgh; and Mr. Lowe thinks it is to them rather than to the Government that the Faculty should apply if they find themselves unable any longer to maintain the Library out of their own resources.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

E. W. HAMILTON.

E. S. Gordon, Esq., M.P.

In striking contrast to this official deliverance stands the letter received in the following year by the Dean of Faculty, Mr. Robert Horn, from Mr. Thomas Carlyle, which is printed in the September RECORD.

During the next thirty years the question was mooted from time to time in the Press, and by the Convention of Royal Burghs, but nothing serious was done until 1912, when the matter was again taken up by Mr. Charles Scott Dickson, then Dean of Faculty. A Committee was appointed which opened communications with the Government as to a possible scheme of public support. Lord Pentland, then Secretary for Scotland, was in sympathy with the proposal. Various possibilities were discussed, and matters looked promising, when the outbreak of the War put an end for the time to all such projects.

During the War the Library suffered badly from shortage of funds and shortage of staff, and was carried on under difficult conditions. The stoppage of the flow of intrants caused by the War adversely affected the finances of the Faculty, and there is now no indiscretion in mentioning that a serious depletion of the funds available for the maintenance of the Library was only averted by the generous personal contributions of many individual members of the Bar.

Under post-War conditions it became clear that it was no longer possible for the Faculty, out of their own unaided resources, to carry on the Library on the old scale, and to continue to the public the facilities hitherto afforded. In 1919 a Committee, under the convenership of Mr. H. P. Macmillan, K.C., afterwards Lord Advocate, was appointed to report on the position of the Library, and was empowered to enter into such communications with the Government as might be necessary. It was not without natural reluctance that the Faculty considered the possibility of parting with the famous Library which had been their pride for two hundred years. They might have decided to continue the Library as a purely private concern, to dispose of part of its contents, to relinquish the copyright privilege, and to discontinue or restrict their hospitality to readers. It was felt, however, to quote the words used by the Vice-Dean of Faculty, Mr. C. H. Brown, K.C., at the handing over of the Library, "that this heritage was too precious to break, and too valuable to hide." In 1922 the Faculty approached the Government with a definite offer to transfer the Library to the State, with a view to its reconstitution on a national basis.

On 7th March, 1922, the Secretary for Scotland addressed the following letter to Mr. Macmillan :—

MY DEAR MACMILLAN,—I have submitted to the Government the offer made by the Faculty of Advocates to transfer to the nation as a gift the contents of the Advocates' Library (with certain exceptions) as a basis of a National Library for Scotland, in accordance with the scheme which you communicated to me with your letter of 1st March, 1921.

The Government desire to record their recognition of the fact that the Faculty have for many years made their great collection available to the public for all reasonable purposes of research and reference.

They regret that in the present state of the national finances it is not practicable to proceed with the transference to the State of the ownership and management of the Library. At the same time I am authorized not only to express great appreciation of the offer made by the Faculty, but to state that the Government regard the constitution of a Scottish National Library on the basis of the Advocates' Library as a public object which it would be highly desirable to achieve when financial conditions permit.

They realize that the present owners of the collection cannot, without financial assistance, provide even for the necessary maintenance and use of the Library, and they are prepared to make an annual grant from public funds towards the cost of upkeep and use. Subject to the consent of Parliament, a grant of £2,000 will be provided under suitable conditions for this purpose.—Yours sincerely,

ROBERT MUNRO.

The annual grant of £2,000 was a welcome aid to the Library finances. The important matter, however, was the public recognition by the Government of the position of the Advocates' Library as a national asset, and of its claim to public recognition and support.

The Government grant, coupled with increased annual subscriptions from the members of Faculty, made it possible to carry on the administration of the Library for the time being. But it was realized that the Faculty's offer of their Library to the nation and the Government's approval of its reconstitution on national lines, which financial considerations alone deterred them from carrying out, had created a new situation. It was fitting that

the public interested in the institution of a National Library should be apprised of the position, and particularly that finance alone now stood in the way of the realization of the project.

A statement regarding the Library, signed by a number of representative Scotsmen, was accordingly prepared and issued in pamphlet form. In addition to setting out shortly the history of the Library since its foundation in 1682, the pamphlet gave an account of its contents and described the great service which it had rendered to Scotland. It was pointed out that it had from the beginning been maintained by the efforts of a comparatively small body of professional men, numbering some three or four hundred, who had expended upon it over a quarter of a million pounds. The concluding paragraph was as follows : " The position which has been brought about by the Faculty's proposal and the sympathetic attitude of the Government merits the consideration of all who are interested in the future of Scottish literature and learning. The matter cannot well be left where it stands. A great library has been offered to the Scottish nation. The State is willing to accept the offer. All that is needed is the provision of an endowment sufficient to supply the expenses of administration, and so justify the establishment of a representative body of Trustees authorized to accept and administer on the nation's behalf the proffered gift. As things stand to-day, the necessary funds cannot be obtained from the Exchequer. Unless they are otherwise obtained the achievement of an inspiring national project must be indefinitely postponed. It rests with the Scottish people to ensure that this does not happen. It must not be said that a nation, which above others is tenacious of tradition and historic possession, permitted one of the chief of its heritages to decay, or that a race which has carried the light of learning throughout the globe suffered the lamp in its own citadel to grow dim."

This statement was signed by Lord Rosebery, Lord Balfour, Lord Finlay, the Duchess of Atholl, Lord Crawford, Mr. Bonar Law (then Prime Minister), Sir Herbert Maxwell, Mr. John Buchan, and Mr. William Graham (late Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Member of Parliament for Central Edinburgh, in which constituency the Library is situated), and also by the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh and Glasgow and the Principals of the four Scottish Universities.

With a view to affording the public the means of financially supporting the scheme, a small Trust was set up early in 1923, under the title of the Scottish National Library Endowment Trust, for the purpose of receiving and holding donations towards the endowment of the prospective National Library. The Trustees were Viscount Novar (then Secretary for Scotland); Lord Clyde, Lord Justice-General; Sir John Stirling Maxwell, and Professor R. S. Rait. Mr. Macmillan acted as Honorary Secretary. The announcement of the formation of this Trust was made in the Press, which strongly commended its objects and throughout did much to promote the scheme.

In June, 1923, within a few days of the public intimation of the creation of the Endowment Trust, the immediate financial difficulty was solved by a gift of £100,000, received from Mr. (now Sir) Alexander Grant. This made it possible for the Government to accept the offer made by the Faculty. On 27th June, 1923, the Under-Secretary for Scotland wrote to Mr. Macmillan in the following terms :—

SIR,—I am directed by the Secretary for Scotland to thank you for your letter of the 23rd instant, intimating that Mr. Alexander Grant, of 15 Hermitage Drive, Edinburgh, is prepared to provide from his own funds a sum of £100,000 as a permanent endowment for the proposed National Library for Scotland.

The provision of this endowment enables the Government to accept, as they now do (subject to the satisfactory adjustment of details), the offer made by the Faculty of Advocates to transfer to the nation as a gift the contents of the Advocates' Library (with certain exceptions) as the basis of a National Library for Scotland, in accordance with the scheme which you formerly communicated to the Secretary for Scotland with your letter of the 1st March, 1921.

I may add that it is a matter of gratification to Lord Novar to be able to make this intimation to the Faculty, which he trusts will lead to the early realization of the great national project which they have so generously initiated.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN LAMB.

On the following day Mr. Grant's gift and the Government's acceptance of the Library for the nation were announced by the Prime Minister in the

House of Commons. Other gifts of money were also received by the Endowment Trustees, including a sum of £5,000 from Lord Rosebery for the purposes of the Manuscript Department.

Further negotiations took place regarding the conditions of the transfer. These led up to the passing of the National Library of Scotland Act, 1925, which established the National Library. The Act received the Royal Assent on 7th August, 1925. The actual transfer of the Library took place on 26th October, being the "appointed day" fixed by Order in Council.

The Act establishes as the governing body of the Library a Board of Trustees, analogous in composition to the Trustees of the British Museum. There are thirty-four trustees, of whom twelve are *ex-officio* members, the Lord President of the Court of Session, the Lord Advocate, the Secretary for Scotland, the Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, the Minister of the High Kirk of Edinburgh, the Member of Parliament for the Central Division of Edinburgh, the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen and Perth, and the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer, as representing the Treasury. Five trustees are appointed by the Crown, five by the Faculty of Advocates, one by each of the Scottish Universities, one by the Convention of Royal Burghs, one by the Association of County Councils in Scotland, and one by the Association of Education Authorities in Scotland. Five Trustees are co-opted by the Board. There is also a personal Trustee, to be nominated by Sir Alexander Grant during his lifetime. The copyright privilege formerly held by the Faculty has been transferred to the National Library.

The Faculty reserved from its gift its purely professional Law Library, and also reserved the existing right of borrowing books by those who were members at the date of the Act, following in this the precedent of the Royal Dublin Society at the establishment of the National Library of Ireland. With these exceptions the Library is now entirely dedicated to the use of the public. That use is, as in the British Museum, restricted to the purposes of research and reference. Readers are admitted on conditions which are practically identical with those of the Museum. In 1926, the first complete year of the new regime, the number of readers' visits was 4,360, and the number steadily increases.

The Library remains in its old buildings and its administration is necessarily carried on very much on the old lines. Much has, however, been done to improve the security and convenience of the buildings. Many purchases have been made, which would not have been possible in the old days. Heavy arrears of binding which had accumulated during the War have been disposed of. Additions have been made to the staff ; in particular, it has been possible to obtain the much needed appointment of a whole-time Keeper of Manuscripts.

We are still in the day of small things. Much remains to be done, which will be done in due time, and ample opportunity awaits the Maecenas of the future. The future, however, lies outside the scope of this paper.

The important matter is that the books have been permanently secured for Scotland. It is well that the public should appreciate how great the gift is which they have received from the Advocates. The Library at the date of transfer contained about 750,000 printed books and pamphlets, and a collection of MSS. which as regards Scottish historical and literary interest stands without a rival. Its chief contents have often been described. It may suffice here to recall that they comprise charters of the Scottish Kings from William the Lion onwards, MSS. of Fordoun, Wyntoun, Barbour and Pitscottie, many letters of Mary Queen of Scots, the Auchinleck Manuscript, the Bannatyne Manuscript, which is one of the chief sources of our knowledge of early Scottish verse, and the original manuscripts of *Marmion*, *Waverley* and *Redgauntlet*.

The announcement of the proposed transfer of the Library produced some notable donations. Among the gifts received in the two years preceding the transfer were the MS. of *Redgauntlet*, presented by Mr. H. P. Macmillan ; the Mary Stuart papers purchased with funds collected by the late Dr. Walter Seton, which include two autograph letters of the Queen ; the Rowallan Letters, including nine letters signed by Mary, two by her mother, Mary of Lorraine, and two by King James VI, bought with funds collected by Dr. Seton and Mr. Stewart Black ; another collection of papers of the same period presented by Mr. James Cathcart White, and the original Order for the Massacre of Glencoe, presented by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. Since the transfer the Library has received, among many other donations, the Glenriddell Manuscripts of Burns ; the library formerly at Lauriston Castle,

bequeathed by the late Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Reid, and containing a remarkable collection of Scottish chap-books ; and the Glen Collection of Scottish Music, presented by Lady Dorothea Ruggles-Brise. Lord Rosebery has signified his intention of presenting his unique collection of rare Scottish books, now at Barnbogle Castle. Early in the present year an important purchase was made by the Trustees from the Earl of Morton, of the Morton Papers, formerly at Dalmahoy House. These include the papers of the Regent Morton, and contain letters from many of the well-known personages of the reign of Mary Queen of Scots, from the Queen herself, Darnley, Murray, Huntly and Kirkaldy of Grange, an autograph letter of John Knox, and many State papers of great interest, one of them being the warrant for committing Mary to Lochleven. The acquisition of the Morton Papers and the Rosebery books will alone suffice to make the year an *annus mirabilis* in the history of the Library.

Dr. Dickson's paper was followed by an address by Dr. GEORGE H. LOCKE (Chief Librarian, Toronto).

MR. GEORGE H. LOCKE'S ADDRESS

IT is with great pleasure that I join with my fellow officers in bringing to this Jubilee meeting of the British Library Association the greetings and congratulations of the American Library Association, of which I am the youngest, sometimes called the immediate, past president, having been out of office only two months after having had the shortest term of office in the history of the Association. With these congratulations let me mingle those of the Library Board of the City of Toronto, whose Chief Librarian or executive officer I am, and also of the Libraries of the Dominion of Canada ; and finally I may add that I believe for the first time in its history the Government of the Dominion has recognized officially the library movement, and I have been specially commissioned by the Under Secretary of State for External Affairs to convey to the British Library Association the

congratulations of the Federal Government of the Dominion of Canada. Education is with us a provincial and not a federal matter and, therefore, it is with special interest that I convey this message. Indeed, the Government has been this summer the host of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the Prime Minister of Great Britain, on the occasion of its Jubilee Celebration of the Act of Confederation, which transformed the separate British possessions of the northern part of the continent of North America into a nation which was fittingly termed a dominion, in that it extended from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth.

We have at least five great Canadas, each larger than many European countries, the Canada of the Maritime provinces, of Quebec, of Ontario, of the provinces of the plains, and of the province beyond the western mountains. Each has its local and pressing problems which require special solution and, therefore, it is perhaps a happy thing that education both in schools and in libraries is a provincial affair, but there are occasions, such as this, when the voice of Canada is a single voice.

Within almost a twelvemonth we have had the great meeting in the United States at which the fiftieth anniversary of the American Library Association was celebrated at Atlantic City, where we had the happy privilege of welcoming delegates from your Association, including your worthy President, and the special honour of a visit from your President-elect. Then only a few weeks ago that same Association crossed the border and commenced its new era by meeting in my own city of Toronto, in what we think was the most representative meeting ever held ; and now I see before me to-day some who, with me, were at both these meetings, and within the year are now enjoying the privilege of meeting with this great Association in this historic city which to many of us is the heart of romantic literature.

It is the fitting culmination of thanksgiving and congratulations and will, I believe, be an inspiration to greater endeavour.

It is not without significance to me at any rate that this meeting is being held, not in the atmosphere of modern science and invention, but in a city of romance, a city of adventure, in the city distinguished for its pursuit of the humanities, of that which gives colour to life and incentive to progress. Yours is the background which furnishes us younger nations

of your own blood with the setting in which to paint our figures, and to make a foreground worthy of its setting. Perhaps sometimes we paint in our colours a bit vividly—but you did that too in your youth and time has mellowed those colours, as it will ours.

The fifty years that have gone by are the years when education has been recognized as a national duty, and indeed a national necessity. When Lowe said of the Reform Bill “Now we must educate our masters,” he saw that there was a new duty arising in the land as the result of a new power, but even he had but a glimpse as it were of the great changes that education would make in the life of the nation.

Education is at best a slow process, and in no aspect has it been as slow of development, so far as public recognition is concerned, as in the institution with which we are identified. I do not propose to dwell upon it, to trace its evolution, lest my description be as wearisome and slow as the progress itself. It has been truly a Pilgrim’s Progress, with all the deterring and wearying adventures so graphically described by “the tinker out of Bedford”; but perhaps in these ideal surroundings we are nearing the celestial city.

We have encountered Boards of Education, Parliamentary Committees and Commissions, Borough Councils and City Councils, in each of which Giant Despair had representatives; but worst of all, in my opinion, have been those friends of Job whom he dreaded even more than he did the boils—those men of little faith who were of our own household.

And here we stand to-day, recognized, even though late, as members of a profession whose object is to help people to become happier, and more useful to themselves and to others, through the medium of what is called education. To me the important thing to-day is to realize that we belong to a profession, that we have something to profess, that there is a great and necessary work to do which demands not only technical training but also belief in the righteousness of the work to which we are devoting our lives, and of its importance to our nation.

Sometimes when I hear what some people say about libraries, library work and librarians, and sometimes when I see the idealism growing dim and the drabness settling down upon the work, those lines of Kipling recur to me, when speaking of the soldier returned from the South African War :—

“ If England is what England seems,
And not the England of our dreams,
But only putty, brass, and paint—
How quick we'd chuck her—but she ain't ! ”

I have used the word “ education ” many times during the past few minutes. I am wondering whether the connotation in your mind, the first quick association, may not be what is in most minds when that term is used—“ schools.” Let me just say in brief that one of the objects of my professional life is to influence as many minds as possible so that “ libraries ” (and especially “ public libraries ”) as well as “ schools,” will be the resultant “ associational reaction.” I feel that our work is different from that of the schools even during the ages commonly assigned to that aspect of education ; and to my mind one of the dangers not only to our institution but to the boys and girls themselves, and to the nation at large, is the tendency in some places to associate the two aspects in such a way that the library—the public library—is deemed subordinate to the school. They are co-ordinate elements in the educational process. True, the Library, we hope, will help the boy or girl who leaves school to continue his education ; but it does more than that, it helps the boy and girl to get an enlarged education while yet he is receiving instruction in the school. The school must always have a fairly well defined system logically developed, so that within a fixed time certain facts may be acquired, certain habits formed and a facility developed in the handling of the instruments of knowledge. In our general system, for economic reasons, there must be a more or less platoon system of advancement, and while personally we may regret it, economically we must make the best of it.

But in the institution with which I, as a public librarian, am identified, my object is not so much instruction as education, not so much the advancement of the mass as the opportunity of enabling the individual to free himself from the mass and to rise to the heights of which he is personally capable. Here is the opportunity to develop leaders of thought and action so vital to the success of a democracy. I think it was a citizen of your own city who many years ago said that he had known no man of genius who had not had something irregular in his education.

My life as a librarian is mainly concerned with endeavouring to develop the individual, and hence there has been an emphasis upon the work among boys and girls. True, it seems a slow process to go away back to youth and be willing to come up slowly through the years. It needs faith and it takes faith to plant acorns and wait for oaks—but isn't the result worth while? Anyone can plant radishes.

I am running a business, not a philanthropy. I am looking for results and expecting to be able to report dividends to my shareholders—hence I do not object each year to appearing before the representatives of the shareholders and explaining the business of the year and asking for increased appropriations for the enlargement and success of the business. While to some it may appear a hardship, inasmuch as the representatives of the shareholders are not always sympathetic, yet on the other hand, it keeps me, more than almost any other educational representative, on the alert to make my institution successful.

Our world has greatly changed—indeed, is greatly changing. I have but little sympathy with those who bemoan the changes and who think that intellectual changes should not keep pace with material changes, those who would have us keep the old methods of thinking and use only the old material while in their own lives they have adopted the motor system of transportation and have a radio set in the dining room. This is one of the drawbacks of our educational system. Look at our nomenclature. The very word “curriculum,” the very semblance of that perfect but unadaptable figure, the circle, gives us a sidelight on the slowness of adaptation to changing conditions.

There is another word that annoys me in this evolutionary day. It is “inculcate.” Literature or religion is to be inculcated in the youth—ground in. And when I am at it let me throw something at “create” and “fashion” and “mould.”

Herein I think lies the opportunity of our public library, the opportunity of developing in such a way that it at least keeps pace with changing conditions, and I would like to go a little farther and say that what it needs is such leaders as will seize occasions and anticipate changes, such as have a sense so developed through professional study and interest in public affairs, that they will be ready for the changes and able to use them when they appear.

This is what the successful business man does. One of our main difficulties is that we lament the changes or despise them, and then when it is almost too late we are forced into the position of having to use them—and even then we do it with grudging hand. We hesitate to scrap our machinery and hold on either until we fail or we hand over a failing business to our successors.

In the words of the apostle, "What shall we do then?" Let us realize that we are in a work which deals with living persons and their development, and let us conduct experiments with a view to making that life more interesting and more valuable individually and socially and nationally. Therefore, I look with hopefulness upon the experiments that are taking place in public libraries in your country and in ours, experiments that will bring home to the people the necessity of knowing what others before us have accomplished through the medium of the triumphs and failures of the past, and giving them an opportunity of being able to form judgments based on knowledge rather than on the emotion engendered by sensational news-columns of a diurnal press. There are scores of interesting experiments now going on, many of which are unknown to most of us. The publication of these would be of great service.

I have little or no fear of the man with the red flag, for I know where he is, but I have a wholesome dread of the unthinking righteous who smother progressive policies by their indifference. •

I have been talking of public libraries. If I were to talk with you individually, instead of publicly, I would have to admit that I have been talking out of my own personal experience in public library work in a city not over devoted to the pursuit of literature. "What I have felt and seen with confidence I tell." I have nothing but experience, and as I dread generalizations and educational platitudes I am trying to have equal consideration for you; but I believe sincerely that no matter how many different kinds of libraries arise—and I welcome all of them—the great work for democracy must be done by the library of the people, and we of the profession are not doing enough until we have convinced the people of the necessity of giving their educational institution a hearty support.

The public library is the great central power station, the great intellectual public utility. We hear a great deal about socializing industry—let us socialize intelligence. Some day I am going to see, I hope, the gathering .

for a great experience meeting that will recognize the Public Library, the Publisher, the Bookseller, the Teacher, and the Press, as all contributing to the intelligence without which no democracy can survive.

Within the past few weeks, in this very city, you have had a great meeting of men who profess the science of medicine, and the characteristic feature of this meeting was the recital of the triumphs of the men of that profession in overtaking disease, in practically wiping out diseases which only a few years ago were deemed incurable ; and the keynote of the meeting was that this was only a beginning, that the thrill of conquest has taken hold of them, and that we may expect still greater triumphs, the triumphs of preventive medicine, not in the dim future, but by next year.

What we need in Librarianship is a few thrills of conquest, and these come only by experiment. The resources of intellectual experiment for social advancement lie all around us every day in our work, and what we need is the incentive, the belief in the possibilities of our calling and the determination, each in his own way, in his own sphere of action, in his own laboratory, to make a definite contribution towards educational progress. And for that we need the belief that it is through education that the great and pressing problems—social, national and international—never as pressing and important as to-day—may be brought to a happy solution.

Mr. Locke in his address would put aside his notes and cite illustrations from his experience, all of which seemed to find sympathetic listeners who had had, or wished they had had, similar experiences. He told how that when the matter of statutory grant with a minimum and maximum amount to be required from the municipality was before the Legislature, the then City Treasurer had remarked that he could not conceive of such a thing happening as that the Chief Librarian should come before the Municipal Council needing less money than he had had the previous year. It would mean that the work of the Library was not flourishing as it should, was not keeping pace even with the city's growth ; whereas it ought not merely to keep pace, but to show the way and plan out new roads of usefulness.

But the story that remained with many was the encounter with a member of an Aldermanic Board where the question was of a reduction in the grant for the maintenance of the Library. One of the Board protested his admiration for the Librarian, his disinclination personally to do anything that would interfere with the progress of the Library, but "the Librarian must remember that libraries is luxuries." "True," said the Librarian, "but so is bath tubs, and so is everything that gives colour to life and makes life attractive."

Mr. E. LA T. ARMSTRONG (ex-Librarian, Public Library of Victoria, Australia), who opened the discussion, thanked Dr. Locke for the lead he had given them. He said that he hoped, in the future, the librarian would know what he had to do. Some little time previously a very great Scotsman had said that libraries were cemeteries of books. He did not like that term, but he was afraid that unfortunately there was a little bit of truth in it. A better description of a library would be a dispensary of the soul.

Mr. N. N. GHOSH (Bengal) said that he felt proud to be present as a representative of India. In regard to Dr. Locke's address, he wished to say that libraries should be divided into sections, each with its own librarian. No man could have a knowledge of all subjects, and it would save time if a student could get definite information from the librarian as to the nature of a book he wanted, and, on the other hand, the librarian would be spared the trouble of endeavouring to answer questions which were beyond his knowledge. They in India were struggling to maintain their stand, but they were beset on all sides by lack of sympathy, lack of funds, and by cold treatment from the Government. What they wanted was sympathy and co-operation. (Applause.)

The PRESIDENT expressed regret at the absence of Dr. Melvil Dewey, who was to have given an address on "Looking forward : an effort to prophesy the growth and changes of the modern library movement in its second half-century." Dr. Dewey was, he said, unfortunately laid up and unable to be with them. That was much to be regretted, for Dr. Dewey was one of the veterans of the profession, and not only a veteran but an active veteran, and it would have been a pleasure to greet him at their Jubilee Conference, because he was one of the few who were present at the inaugural meeting fifty years before, in London. (Applause.) In his letter, Dr. Dewey said that he could not say, "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen the coming of the Lord," for he had a quarter of a century of work mapped out, and had no wish to depart until his work was done. (Applause.)

On the motion of Mr. L. S. JAST (Manchester), it was agreed to send a cable-gram of greeting to Dr. Dewey.

"The Library Association : a retrospect of early days" was the subject of a paper to be given by the Honorary Secretary of the Association (the late Mr. Frank Pacy). The HONORARY SECRETARY, when called upon, said that his paper could not be read as it was considered to be much too long. It had been perhaps a mistake for him to undertake it at all, for he found it was impossible to state the history of fifty years within the limits of fifty minutes. He thought that it would be desirable that they should have copies of the paper, which had just come from the printers. He would therefore content himself with saying : "The Association was born fifty years ago ; went through a precarious childhood ; on attaining majority, received a royal gift ; and now, in a vigorous old age, hopes for a future life not affected by the tables of the actuary." (Applause.)

The text of the late Mr. Pacy's paper follows :—

EARLY DAYS: A RETROSPECT

By THE HONORARY SECRETARY

YOUTH looks forward and age looks back, particularly when passing the milestones ; and the impulse is irresistible, when one arrives at such a notable point as a jubilee, to cast a glance over the long years, now so strangely shortened ; to recall impressions, revive memories, review judgments, and, before the dust of oblivion covers them, live once more through the high moments that stand in memory or record.

The jubilee of the Library Association so nearly coincides with my own fifty years of librarianship, that I may be excused if, in these reminiscences, the personal element becomes obtrusive. The Association has been so much a part of my life that I now find some difficulty in remembering that, after all, I am also a librarian as well as your secretary.

I do not really pretend that, in the year 1877, I was in a position to take such a personal interest in the newly-born society as did my old friend, Henry Richard Tedder, who was so active as its midwife ; but at times, such is the effect of long intimacy, I almost feel that I was there with him, even as King George IV believed that he commanded a division at Waterloo.

However, due respect must be paid to facts, and honour given where it is due, so it behoves us to admit that the real *fons et origo* of our Association was in America, where the sister society anticipated us by a year, as indeed they had held a preliminary conference a quarter-century before that even. We precipitately hurried from Conference to Association within one fateful week, the first week in October, 1877. It was in the old London Institution, that Mecca of Victorian culture, better known to us perhaps through its famous first librarian, Porson the Grecian, a great scholar but a bad librarian : for did not his managers complain that they only knew he was their officer through seeing the receipts for his salary ?

There was a notable American delegation to this Conference, including Cutter of the " Rules," our first pandect ; the American Nestor, Poole of

the Index ; Dewey of the Decimals, that great classification which is swallowing up all others ; and Justin Winsor. Great names ! Is it fancy or false perspective that makes me think we have few to put against them now ? The almost legendary Dr. Garnett was there, the almost mythical Dr. Crestadoro ; William Blades, Robert Needham Cust, R. K. Douglas, W. S. Jevons, Stirling Maxwell, Henry Morley, Mark Pattison, Bernard Quaritch ; name after name has earned place in our Valhalla, " The Dictionary of National Biography." How many of us, I wonder, will attain that degree of immortality ?

To read the proceedings of this Conference is to renew one's youth. Every subject is fresh, every question new, every point novel. Here and there simplicities and naïvetés that make us smile, but mainly we can only feel abashed at the thought of how little we have progressed. The ambitious young librarian who seeks distinction by some address or thesis on matter of his profession should read the transactions of these early conferences. He would arise a sadder and a wiser and a much more silent man.

At the last session of this epoch-making Conference, after nearly everything had been said that, in the ensuing fifty years, we have been re-saying and repeating, the Library Association was founded. The reason of its being was that proclaimed at the almost-forgotten Conference of 1853 : " for the purpose of conferring together upon the means of advancing the prosperity and usefulness of public libraries, and for the discussion of topics of importance to book-collectors and readers."

An organizing committee had already drafted the Constitution, which was largely the work of Henry R. Tedder and E. W. B. Nicholson. The first Council was formed : there was no election ; no doubt it was difficult to improve upon the list of names, for the President was the Principal Librarian of the British Museum, the Vice-Presidents were the Librarians of the Advocates' Library, the Bodleian, and Trinity College, Dublin. Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, sent their men ; the joint Secretaries were E. W. B. Nicholson, then of the London Institution, afterwards to become Bodley's Librarian, and H. R. Tedder, even then of the Athenæum ; the Treasurer, the courtly and venerable Robert Harrison, of the London Library. Our Association was bravely launched, and the

great Conference concluded with the congratulations of the distinguished foreign representatives.

The first ordinary monthly meeting was on March 1st, 1878, at the London Institution, our earliest home in a long series of migrations. The first annual meeting was at Oxford, which emulated the London conference in producing a noble volume of Transactions and Proceedings.

The first change of officers was the replacement of Mr. Nicholson by Mr. E. C. Thomas as joint secretary.

The early meetings provided a continuance of the good things of the first conference. The supply of meaty material then seemed inexhaustible. Open access, percentage of fiction, quality of bindings, periodical indexes, all our stock dishes were on the menu and appetite was keen. An early *pièce de résistance* was the "General Catalogue of English Literature." Bodley's reverend librarian, presiding at the Oxford meeting, in the true Bodleian tradition deprecated this undertaking, thinking that there was much in English literature, the record of which he did not care to see perpetuated. This must have been before they bought back their discarded Shakespeare folio!

The second annual meeting was at Manchester, in that grandiose new town hall they were so proud of. The lovely old Greek building, discarded for the Victorian Gothic, now housed the library, under that gentle soul Charles W. Sutton, who had done all the organizing work of the meeting, but *more suo* shrank from recognition. The gathering was rather overpoweringly Mancunian, but very profitable to the Association in increased membership, as the black-letter school was eclipsed by the modern municipal.

Indicators were more popular than incunabula.

With somewhat excessive modesty and self-effacement the young Association had adopted the American "Library Journal" as its official organ, but, not surprisingly, soon found it inconvenient to await from America accounts of its own proceedings and notices of its meetings: so in 1880 a tentative leaf of "Monthly Notes" was put out, as an inset or supplement to the trade circular of Trübner, the publisher, one of the original members.

The annual meeting of 1880 was at Edinburgh. Mr. Tedder had resigned his joint secretaryship to Mr. Charles Welch of the Guildhall.

It was not so well attended as the Manchester meeting, in spite of the influx of a strong body of Macs, but amongst these was one MacAlister, who later proved to be a host in himself. A strange feature of this meeting was a tactless attempt to pass a resolution approving of the Sunday opening of libraries and museums—the ill-timed proposal being, very properly, severely defeated and snubbed by a shocked assembly. The *genius loci* may further have been responsible for a curious crop of papers upon economical but incongruous binding materials, such as linoleum, cretonne, chintz, etc. The great Indicator war had also flared up into an activity which was to rage for a generation. Some shouted for Elliot, some for Cotgreave, the Bonner, or the Duplex. The ambitious and ingenious sought cunning inventions, gadgets and notions, proudly to bring them to the lap of the Association as a cat would bring its kittens : but, thanks be, we were never really dominated by the craze for mere technique as then were our trans-Atlantic brethren. The fever passed.

In 1881 Sir John Lubbock's Public Libraries' Bill was the principal subject to occupy the minds of members ; the present Council will be appalled to hear that twenty-five long meetings of their body were held that year ; but they were also gravely concerned about the many rejections by apathetic and irresponsive electorates of proposals to establish town libraries. The fair but fickle Edinburgh had been ungrateful, rejecting the Acts a second time. Indeed, all broad Scotland then had fewer libraries than the English county of Stafford. They were not long to wait for a revulsion of popular feeling. London was stirring. The Richmond library, with Mr. Alfred Cotgreave of the famous indicator as its first librarian, spoiled Westminster's unique claim.

The President, the Rev. H. O. Coxe, Bodley's Librarian, died ; and we also mourned the loss of our first President, Mr. Winter Jones : the proposed Conference at Cambridge was deferred and a hurriedly arranged annual meeting held at Gray's Inn. This meeting saw the first step towards what is now perhaps the most important and certainly the most onerous of the activities of the Association ; the education and examination of library assistants. The constitution was revised, the provinces being allotted their quota of representatives on the Council. We were pleasantly entertained at Richmond by a lady whose popularity had certainly not suffered at our

hands, Miss Braddon. This year showed a large increase of members, and somehow I myself managed to slip in with the crowd, although the editor of the "Monthly Notes," in recording the elections, apparently thought that incident too trivial for mention.

In 1882 the "Monthly Notes" began to expand into quite a little journal, and gradually to acquire the characteristic features which later on became so familiar to us. News came thick of polls and adoptions, the decade of growth had arrived, the era of Carnegie and Passmore Edwards. Public libraries were springing up all over the country like so many mushrooms; new appointments, promotions, changes, made a yeasty bubbling in our membership. Prospects were bright.

Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,
But to be young was very heaven!

In 1882 the "Library Journal," an austere parent, disclaimed further responsibility for us, and Messrs. Trübner also felt that we were getting too big for the nest. The Cambridge meeting closed the first lustrum, with a membership of nearly 400 and an awe-inspiring record of activity and zeal. It was very academical, and possibly at that time began the first symptoms of revolt against the too antiquarian tendency. There were signs of schism; the bibliophiles protesting against the aridity of the exclusive diet of professional topics which characterized the A.L.A. In fairness to the black-letter men it must be said that the catholicity of the appeal of the Association had resulted in a membership which at that time had far outgrown the A.L.A., and contained names that any learned society would have been proud to claim.

Mr. Welch relinquished his share of the secretariat, and for a time Mr. Thomas carried on alone. Through 1883 the "Monthly Notes" continued, rather timorously, hiding the nakedness exposed by the withdrawal of Trübner's fat catalogues with a depressing blue cover of the true Seidlitz-powder hue. It was bright enough inside though, and an amusing little feud with our contemporary, "The Bibliographer," pleasantly relieved the inevitable stolidity of the usual matter. There was quite a touch of the brotherly greetings of the *Eatanswill Gazette* to the *Eatanswill Independent*, and the sparring only concluded with a triumphal but heartless crow in December, 1884, over the demise of "The Bibliographer."

But it was clear that the title, "Monthly Notes" lacked distinction, and late in the year members were thrilled by the imposing yet dignified prospectus of "The Library Chronicle: a journal of librarianship and bibliography," promised for March, 1884. This was largely the outcome of the Liverpool Conference, which, as it was the first annual meeting that I attended, lingers in my memory as a most successful and important gathering. My neighbour and colleague of later years, Thomas Mason, then at Glasgow, was almost lyrical in a newspaper account of its sustained festivity.

The first meeting of 1884 saw the election of a Scottish library assistant who was destined to have great influence upon our calling, James Duff Brown. In March "The Library Chronicle" came as promised, under the editorship of Ernest Thomas, and I think that its five volumes with their noble page, fine printing, delightful devices and ornaments, need not shrink even from Mr. Esdaile's critical glance. He may perhaps be envious when I tell him that the first number ran into a second edition! I doubt whether that has ever been equalled in our RECORD.

The "Chronicle" indeed deserved to be a best seller; it is eminently readable to-day. I should like to see some of those old papers reprinted. Dr. Garnett on "Librarianship in the Seventeenth Century" for instance; or Ernest Thomas on "The Libraries of London in 1710." The learned Germans have commenced to visit us again; I hope they will be as candid in recording their impressions as was Conrad von Uffenbach. May I quote from him? "The person in charge of the library is an Englishman, which is as much as to say a man who troubles himself very little about it." "Whenever I examined books in London I always made my cuffs as black as coal." "The man who showed us the library knew nothing about anything." (This was at Sion College, our retiring president will be grieved to hear.) The Westminster librarian "not only looked like a chimney-sweep, but was very deaf." I hasten to point out that this was at Westminster School. Herr von Uffenbach wasn't a bad sort though, he thought Archbishop Tenison's library, near St. Martin's Lane, "the handsomest and most numerous of all the libraries in London," and this of course was the Westminster Public Library of that time. Also he offered another librarian a tip of two crowns. *O! si sic omnes!*

The Conference of 1884 was at Dublin, and attracted a remarkable attendance of local notables. The Lord Lieutenant, Spencer, the red earl, came especially to hear the paper upon the Althorp Library, contributed by Lord Charles Bruce. It was rather a high-brow meeting, but lightened by a paper by J. D. Mullins on "Some of the Less Pleasant Duties of a Librarian," which led to a discussion that reads quaintly now. The most remarkable statement came from Mr. Peter Cowell, of Liverpool, who plaintively complained that there they used to indicate improper books by an asterisk in the catalogue, and were pained to find that this actually led to people reading them instead of avoiding them as was expected. I wonder whether our friend, Mr. Quinn, then an assistant there, had the difficult and delicate task of making the selection.

The first examination of library assistants was held in July, 1885. I am afraid it was not a great success. The entrants were three in number. However, all but one passed. This standard was not even maintained. A year or two later, after elaborate preparations, not one solitary candidate faced the examiners.

The Conference of 1885 was at Plymouth, and the municipal librarians had their turn. The eloquence of my friend Herbert Jones then, I believe, charmed for the first time, and I also found myself making my maiden speech. In this year we said good-bye to our earliest home, the London Institution, and moved to Gray's Inn. The Benchers were hospitable, but we began to feel the need of some *pied-à-terre* of our own.

The "Chronicle," which was rather a burden upon the slender exchequer of the Association, was turned into a limited liability company.

The next year commenced in gloom. In one short month we lost Edward Edwards, Henry Bradshaw, and Henry Stevens. The youngest of us know the first two names, but I am afraid few are left who remember "the young man from Vermont."

Addressing myself for a moment more directly to our American visitors, I wish I could find words to explain to you the unique position Henry Stevens had attained in our regard. Our elders then were very much of their age, Victorian. Somewhat solemn, perhaps a little pompous, taking themselves always very seriously. Stevens was a type new to them. He was of course a great bibliographer: his knowledge of early American

books had amazed and delighted the great Panizzi. But it was the puckish and whimsical personality of the man that at first puzzled and finally captured our hearts, when its underlying sweetness became apparent. It was his humour always to append to his name the letters "G.M.B.," which, he delighted to explain to the dull Britisher, did not cover some degree in our ancient and most honourable Order of the Bath, but stood for "Green Mountain Boy," an esoteric distinction which will no doubt convey more to you than it did to us, and certainly which he prized above his academical and antiquarian honours. He has been dead now these forty years, but still lives in bright and affectionate remembrance, in the memories of those who knew him.

The ninth annual meeting was again at Gray's Inn, under the Presidency of Dr. Bond.

The "Chronicle" about this time was very much a newspaper. Space could hardly be found for all the personal paragraphs, the appointments and changes, and the little items of news; amongst which, many names that in our later years became very familiar first cropped up. The editor's eye ranged wide; even the indignant American librarian who was fined twenty dollars for smacking the head of a small boy who made a noise on the stairs was solaced with a paragraph.

The Birmingham Conference came in the jubilee year of Queen Victoria, and our well-loved and remembered friend, the leonine Sam Timmins, had his hour of glory. I can see him now, in the old Red Horse at Stratford-on-Avon, a not unworthy occupant of the armchair that once held Washington Irving, giving his inimitable lecture on "The dark races," or discoursing in Johnsonian manner to his attendant Boswells and his *fidus Achates*, Edmond Tonks. We visited the famous Althorp library in the home where it grew; and I contributed my first paper, even as this, I fear, may be my last.

There were many new entrants to librarianship about this time, and as all were not yet subdued to the hue they worked in, the gentleness which marks the true bookman, a certain acerbity was noticeable. Rumours spread of a mysterious "executive" of the Association, a *Vehmgericht* more convivial than terrible; George Bullen, Sam Timmins, Edmund Tonks, with the young MacAlister, were regarded askance—sinister figures

wielding unlawful power. We began to quarrel in our annual reports, to read each other's jealously, fiercely to search for over-statements and unfair claims, to hurl statistics at large, making invidious comparisons. If there was a battle of the indicators, there was a veritable campaign of statistics. It became really astonishing what we could prove with them. Bound volumes of pamphlets or magazines scored heavily and unfairly in issues. One famous library return proved that its small reference library stock, in the class of Commerce and Education, was "turned-over" sixty-three times in one year! Ultimately the thing became almost a scandal and altogether laughable, and a Committee of the Association was appointed to draw up some recommendations which would reduce the absurdities.

It was only excess of zeal: a desire to show meanly and mercantilely minded town councils that their new toy was worth the money. For town councils then did not take their libraries for granted, as most of them do now. The remnant of the opposition was going down fighting. The enthusiasts were sometimes indiscreet. We were in the limelight, and local legislators were flattered to find their personal views on the morality or otherwise of the novel of the day a matter for wide comment. If Stow-in-the-Marsh banned "Jude the Obscure" the nation heard of it. When Ealing blushed hotly over "The Manxman," that blush was not unseen: when again that delicate-minded community condemned Marie Corelli, the outraged novelist, invoking the shades of Shakespeare, Sterne, Swift, Shelley, and Byron, made the Press resound. Small wonder that one library committee I heard of swelled to the number of sixty members.

Amongst these new librarians were also many who entered our calling without any previous service in its lower degrees. Some library committees were dazzled by showy academical qualifications. Others, strong in parish patriotism, resented "furriners." I remember that Croydon, of all places, was deeply moved; the local Press indignantly pronouncing that a local candidate, whose claims for consideration would, in these days, seem somewhat ambiguous, was altogether too good for the librarian's job, he was even worthy of a seat on the Committee! Or the north-country editor who unkindly argued that as "anybody is fit to be a librarian, *therefore* the post should be given to the W——— candidate." True,

the day had passed when library appointments were looked upon as suitable endowments for effete clergymen and schoolmasters, but the day had yet to dawn when it was generally recognized that there was in truth an art and craft and science of librarianship. The position was very fairly, sanely, and most humorously put, in a striking paper by MacAlister, "Wanted a Librarian," which attracted much attention, and crystallized the vague ideas and tendencies that, somewhat aimlessly, still were already drifting towards the ideal of a Charter and a Profession.

It was soon after the Birmingham Conference that MacAlister's name appeared jointly with that of Ernest Thomas as Honorary Secretary.

In 1888 we met at Glasgow, under the presidency of Professor W. P. Dickson, Curator of the University Library; a propaganda visit, for Glasgow still held out against taxing herself for "buiks," thrice sternly negatived. The city bailies were duly apologetic, and the members properly tactful. Homage was made at the immortal birthplace in Ayr, and a pleasant junketing "doon the watter."

Late this autumn our financial worries, never far from us in those penniless years, became more pressing. Ernest Thomas had broken down in health, and in his absence we found to what an alarming extent he had been the main support of the Association for so many years. Librarians then were passing poor on a salary of, say, £120 or so. Lack of pelf, as always, vexed the bookish mind. Half-a-guinea subscription was a grave matter; the kindly officers turned a blind eye to many defaulters. But the Treasurer could no longer carry on the Sisyphean task, and early in the next year, 1889, resigned, to be succeeded by Henry R. Tedder, who never more than in that dark moment showed faith in the Association. From that day until his death in 1924 he controlled jealously and with skill our precarious finances. His passing is too recent and his great services too fresh in our minds to call for further mention. He was the link between the heroic days of the Association and our own prosaic times.

With the dawn of the new year, 1889, came a more startling change. The gentle and quiet Ernest Chester Thomas was eclipsed by the vivid, forceful, and dominating personality of John Young Walker MacAlister. The "Chronicle" faded and died: but immediately sprang up, full of

life and vigour, "The Library: a magazine of bibliography and literature." Less ambitious in form, it retained in full the scholarship and distinction of its predecessor, and was even more definitely our official organ. MacAlister had strong views upon the need for some centre or headquarters where the Association's business might be carried on, and had previously issued the prospectus of his scheme for the formation of a "Library Bureau," an admirable idea which still lacks its full accomplishment according to the original programme, although some years later that capable business man and good friend to librarians, Cedric Chivers, borrowed it, with the inventor's blessing.

In this year the Mersey District Association of Librarians was formed, the first of our provincial branches, but for the time unaffiliated.

The twelfth annual meeting was held at Gray's Inn, under the presidency of Richard Copley Christie, Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester. * Chancellor Christie was a lovable and a learned man, and, with perhaps a single exception, was of our long list of distinguished presidents the one who took the most personal and real interest in his job. He never forgot us and assuredly we shall never forget him, as long as his munificent legacy, our solitary testamentary benefaction, brings in its ever welcome annual tribute to cheer a treasurer's heart.

When I glance over that list I feel that I should like to write an addendum to these reminiscences, entitled "Some Presidents I have known." I assure you it could be made quite interesting. Presidents, of course, are, at any rate officially, all good and great men, but still they are men, with the failings of weak humanity, and—"I could a tale unfold."

But I must put this temptation away, and return to our twelfth annual meeting. Professor Dewey was there again: he must be immortal; 1877, 1889, 1927, these must be figures without meaning to Melvil Dewey. My principal recollection of this meeting has its painful side: the ever-troubling financial question clamoured for notice.* The long-suffering treasurer humorously complained that when, at meetings, he hinted at unpaid subscriptions, only those owing one year had the grace to blush, those owing two years kept brazen faces. In timid desperation the Council brought forward a motion to increase the subscription from half-a-guinea to fifteen shillings. An amendment was put to split the difference and make

it twelve-and-sixpence, but I, in the extravagance of youth, moved that it be a guinea. This was carried, and, I fear, the shock to the frugal or impecunious was the first cause of the secret unpopularity under which I ever afterwards lay.

In December of 1889 the monthly meeting was held at 20 Hanover Square, an address that was to become very familiar, for in the following spring, thanks to MacAlister, we were able proudly to speak of "our" rooms in that fashionable quarter.

The North Midland Association was formed in 1890, and William Blades died. The conference was at Reading, and we talked a lot about the new Public Libraries Bill. Secretly, we much preferred a pilgrimage to Eversley and a delightful river trip. I remember how the lovely English scenery deeply impressed Professor Justin Winsor, who again was an honoured guest. Thomas Mason, who for some time had unofficially replaced Ernest Thomas as joint honorary secretary, at this election was accorded formal recognition. I think it was at this conference that our now important exhibition-annexe first took shape, organized by the Reading librarian. It was there that Mr. Cedric Chivers's new inventions and improvements in book-binding became known to most of us.

The late 'eighties and early 'nineties certainly were the great age of library journalism. The adoptive basis of the Acts, the propaganda on both sides, the polling of ratepayers, had thoroughly aroused the public interest. Each opening of a new library was the occasion of a function and a speech by some notable. The opposition was such that it only added savour to the success of the movement. Had we been serpentlike in our wisdom and employed them as *agents-provocateur*, we could hardly have found better helpers than some of our opponents. There was the gentleman who misquoted John Morley as saying: "Eighty per cent of the books read at the free libraries were of a licentious, lewd and low character." There was the essay in "A plea for liberty," that forlorn attempt to raise the bannerol of a dead individualism. There was the disgruntled professional bookman who announced "The Free Library Failure," in Henley's brilliant "New Review": he disliked our lending libraries because they were too "light," and our reference libraries because they were too "heavy." My own newly established library in St. George's,

Hanover Square, provided him with much material. I still feel crushed under the scornful list of the "behemoths" he there discovered. Dugdale's "Monasticon," Foxe's "Acts and Monuments," Jeremy Bentham, Barrow's "Sermons"; actually a set of the Camden Society, and "all the rubbish that Pope, Longfellow, Wordsworth, Southey and the rest ever wrote"; in the most expensive editions too! It was dishonest alike to publishers, booksellers, and authors, and to all who depend upon the book-trade for a living. Sixpenny editions might not be everything the bibliophile could desire, but were quite good enough for the public, and the outlay of a few shillings would provide all that the ordinary common man could read in a quarter of a century. How this book-cleric scolded! His voice is in my ears to-day.

It is a true instinct that fears indifference more than dislike. When we have none to condemn we shall have none to praise.

Further, to be quite candid, the right was not always on the one side. Some of those early librarians were rather dreadful. Usually the official organ dealt tenderly with the crude attempts at cataloguing betraying the grossest ignorance of the books as well as of the method; but too often the mild comment exposed *gaffes* that must be read now to be believed in these days of certificates and schools of librarianship. Skeletons hang in many library cupboards. The classic "Ditto on the Floss" does not bloom alone. The editor of "The Library" must have been sadly tempted to compile an anthology of the humours of the "dot and dash" system of cataloguing, but his discretion or more likely his kind heart led him ultimately to decide in a reproachful leader, which contained a few choice final quotations, only to notice good catalogues.

My favourite from MacAlister's gibbet is—

I Puritani, by Bellini;

— say no," by Wilkie Collins;

but there are many rivals. The humours for which the printer might share responsibility are better known, but most of them, I fear, are apocryphal. I have failed to verify Penn's "No cows, no cream!" but I can guarantee the authenticity of Cobbold's "Notes on Infernal Parasites"; Stewart's "Conversation of Energy," and Jevons's "Poetical Economy."

To resume my chronology, in the early 'nineties itinerant monthly meetings were our fashion, most of the libraries in and near London being visited to hear the proud custodian display his charge to his colleagues.

The conference of 1891 was at Nottingham, under the presidency of Robert Harrison. It was very businesslike and severe: we had been rebuked by the more ascetic brethren for the picnics and pleasuring that enlivened the preceding gatherings, and were somewhat chastened. Our noses were kept well to the grindstone, and Messrs. J. Potter Briscoe and J. D. Brown abashed the rule-of-thumb librarian with a frightening exhibition of modern library appliances, almost American in their stark efficiency. The museum afterwards went to Clerkenwell: I do not know what has become of it, but trust that it has been burnt.

In February, 1892, Ernest Chester Thomas died, and we lost the first of the great triumvirate. For twelve years he had been our secretary, for almost as long our editor and his own principal contributor, at any rate the only one he could rely upon with confidence. Of untiring energy and capacity for drudgery, upon his frail frame rested the fortunes of our Association during its precarious childhood, and upon his light purse our financial probity. He grudged nothing to us but everything to himself.

One monthly meeting in 1892 was memorable. Our patron saint, Andrew Carnegie, was in town, and benevolently allowed himself to be led to 20 Hanover Square by Mr. Hew Morrison, who read a paper on the Edinburgh Public Library. Ursa Major was gracious and explained his theory of the economics of the disposal of surplus wealth. Thomas Mason, as to a brither Scot, had the temerity to suggest that the endowment of the librarian was a deserving and suitable complement to the endowment of the library, but the great man was not to be drawn.

Our *bête noire*, the net book agreement, first raised its grisly head at the June meeting, but was light-heartedly shooed away, the members present being too full of anticipatory delights in the forthcoming Paris Conference.

Of that gathering, I regret to say, I have no personal recollections. The President was Dr. Garnett, also an unwilling absentee. The official account of the Conference, of course, tells us nothing of what we would really like to know, but judging by the havoc it created in our humdrum

routine, it must have been a devastating success. I am told there was a princely reception at Chantilly by the Duc d'Aumale, that a lady had for the first time mounted our rostrum, that although the papers were long the sittings were short. Anyhow, it was six months before MacAlister was able to bring out another number of his journal. When the dust had cleared away we found that Thomas Mason had dropped off the pillion and MacAlister rode alone as Secretary. Also, a lot of interesting things were happening in the library world. Woman had cast her eyes upon the profession, so Miss M. S. R. James warned us : and a little cloud no bigger than a man's hand had formed in the Clerkenwell district which was to spill disaster and ruin on the trade in indicators. We heard for the first time in an anonymous article in "The Library," that revolutionary, that anarchistic suggestion, "why not let the public inside and place the staff outside the counter."

I do not propose to say much about the great controversy that raged for a generation afterwards. I never took part ; in fact, to this day I have a foot in both camps. One flower I should like to put on the grave of the vanquished. The indicator had the grace to blush redly when it revealed deficiencies—the open shelves stare blankly.

In December of 1892, for some reason I do not recall, our monthly meeting was held at Liverpool. From a paper read there by Mr. J. J. Ogle, the summer schools, now so popular and valuable, had origin, the first being in London, in July, 1893.

To the Chicago Conference of 1893 we sent a small but potent delegation, which included Miss James, J. D. Brown, and Peter Cowell. Brown was, of course, one of the last men to be impressed by imposing façades, and his shrewd dissection of the claim, far too readily admitted over here, that American libraries were much superior to ours, aroused much comment, and was not altogether relished by our friends.

The Conference of 1893 was at Aberdeen, a violent rebound from Paris. Or perhaps it was regarded as a suitable place to economise, for the Paris meeting had proved expensive, the Association having to bear all local costs as we were self-invited guests. However that may be, it was a highly successful meeting, and I cannot remember any which was more productive of animated discussion and argument. That of

course was natural and to be expected in such an atmosphere. The "blacking-out" question, made notorious by Aston, was the principal bone of contention.

The Amending Act of this year abolished the appeal to King Mob, and the Verneys lit their little lamp at Middle Claydon.

The black-letter men budded off and formed their own society. I think we suffered by that; perhaps we had a little too much of the monk of Bury and "rare old Bartholomew" from the ancients, but some sweetness departed with them.

From the increasing complexity of library legislation we fled to Mr. Fovargue, who has ever since guided our steps in the mazes of the law, a fine record of honorary service. Indeed, with of course one obvious exception, we have been fortunate in our officers beyond ordinary.

My memories of 1894 are faint; there was a big meeting at the Royal Colonial Institute, and I think the rise of Edward Foskett of Camberwell as a controversialist became a feature; as also that equally doughty fighter, C. W. F. Goss. In the squabbles that enlivened our monthly gatherings during the next decade, and gave our Society a likeness to that upon the Stanislaus, Foskett was redoubtable and unquenchable. I recall a severe trouncing that he gave to Mr. Charles Welch, librarian of the Guildhall, in reply to a somewhat superior and high-brow condemnation, delivered *ex-cathedra* at the Mansion House, of fiction reading, the Guildhall Library being of course happily free from the charge of encouraging the growth of this "evergreen tree of diabolical knowledge." Mr. Welch thought our readers would be much happier if they were permitted to take home Herbert Spencer's huge tomes of "Descriptive Sociology," Spon's "Dictionary of Engineering," or Sowerby's "Botany," works which we had mistakenly placed in our reference libraries. One of Mr. Welch's best-sellers for a lending library was Kemble's "Codex Diplomaticus Ævi Saxonici," a book no doubt deservedly popular, but which I was dismayed to find was not in my library at all. Lacking these delights, the starved reader had perforce to content himself with Ouida and Miss Braddon. Chancellor Christie strove hard in support of Mr. Welch, but I am afraid the sense of the meeting was against him.

We went to Belfast in the autumn, under the presidency of that illustrious Irishman, ambassador and viceroy, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava. His interest had contributed to the success of the Paris Conference, which took place during his embassy, and a seed then sown now bore fruit.

This year died George Bullen, full of years and honour, and in the new year William Lane-Joynt of Dublin, a brilliant orator of the old school and a personality that would have fitted the hero of a Charles Lever novel. Both were original members ; the list was shrinking rapidly.

Early in 1895 we first heard, somewhat incredulously, of a dazzling distinction our Secretary held out as a not impossible aspiration—a Royal Charter. He cajoled a fund of reluctant guineas, and persuaded the Cardiff Conference to bless him and wish him luck. The prospect may have unsettled us, for most of the papers at that meeting were taken as read, and we spent the time with the grasshopper, not the ant ; Mr. Ballinger and our President, Lord Windsor, better known afterwards as the Earl of Plymouth, conniving.

The Library Assistants' Association was formed this year, but I dare not venture to include any reminiscences of their early days ; they are young enough to be sensitive.

Owing no doubt to the editor's pre-occupation with the Charter, "The Library" again relapsed into irregularity, but its brilliance atoned for its dilatoriness. Some of you will remember with me the controversy MacAlister unwisely entered into with a popular pseudo-scientific periodical, upon the alleged danger of infection from library books ; his humorous rage at finding his carefully compiled evidence of the negative results of nasty experiments superbly ignored, and his careless words turned against him ; when a flippant remark upon the poisonous practice of thumb-licking was seized upon by the unscrupulous journalist, who triumphantly held as finally proved the lethal qualities of the well-thumbed volume. Or his delight in the pious managers who, yielding to a demand for Sunday opening, soothed their uneasy consciences by ordaining that *Punch* should be locked up from Saturday to Monday to ensure against the spiritual danger of an ill-timed smile. I do not know where these casuists gloomed, "O profane one," but for the sake of the Puritan tradition I do hope it was Banbury!

It cannot be denied that MacAlister was at times capricious, and impatient under criticism. Hotly proud of the Association, a keen upholder of its honour, indignantly resentful of the little meannesses of spirit that, alas, seem inevitable cankers in the growth of all such bodies, scornful of the soft answer, he of course made some enemies. But the causes that led to the formation of the schismatic "Society of Public Librarians" in the autumn of 1895 were not entirely personal. Again we lost a valuable element, and MacAlister's Æsopian fable of "The Goslings" on the parting was—

"Of that nature as to make
"One's fancy chuckle, while his heart doth ache."

The 1896 volume of "The Library" is precious to me through J. D. Brown's article on "Fiction Classification," a gem that should shine in the yet-to-be-compiled "Librarian's Golden Treasury." I think I see his hand also in the "Model Rules for Open Access Libraries" in the same year. From time to time I have come across many evidences that his sly spoofery was taken seriously, even by his compatriots: for instance the following excerpt from an alarmingly technical and laboriously compiled children's catalogue:—

340 LAW.

343.—4-9. Crime and punishment in special countries.

343.4267 ESSEX [!!!].

Thorndyke, R. Doctor Syn, a tale of Romney Marsh.

Oh! Dewey: what crimes are committed in thy name!

Brown, even when conveying ideas seriously meant, had a trick of colouring them with his sardonic humour, even to the *reductio ad absurdum*; and when he enrolled that other occasional *farceur* (if he will forgive me), Stanley Jast, in a crusade to spread the religion of the new cataloguing, their success in drawing the heavy guns of the old school in a broadside from Robert K. Dent and others, must have been as much a delight to them as it was to an amused library world. The monumental dictionary catalogue of the old Newcastle, Birmingham, and Manchester type, was then at least moribund from natural causes, and the light-hearted savagery of its slaughtering caused more tears of delight than regret.

At a Special General Meeting, in January, 1896, the constitution was revised, an important change being that providing for branch associations. This poor old constitution of ours was always getting torn, or patched; little can now be left of the original garment. We felt in need of a quiet holiday after the excitements of previous conferences, so went to Buxton to take the waters, without fuss or hospitality. To compliment Manchester upon its success in resisting the tax-collector, we chose Alderman Rawson, Chairman of its Libraries' Committee, for President. It was a soothing, domestic meeting, and the somnolence induced by the continual rain enabled me to creep into the Council.

The Diamond Jubilee year was marked by the great International Conference, for into such had developed the idea of a joint conference between the American Library Association and our own body. Sir John Lubbock presided, and was supported by many distinguished vice-presidents; men of mark in science, literature, and art. Fourteen governments and more than three hundred libraries were represented, in a membership of 641. It was a worthy successor to the 1877 Conference.

Our next annual meeting, following soon after, naturally suffered somewhat as an anti-climax, and we were distressed to learn of the contemplated resignation of the Honorary Secretary. About to see his work crowned in the now imminent Royal Charter, suffering in health, and dismayed at the arrears of his journal, which had not appeared for some months, his violent desire for a quiet life grew into a tumult. It was at a Special General Meeting in February, 1898, called to discuss some tea-cup storm—Mr. Goss, I think had been handling the spoon—that the news of the receipt of the Charter first came to us. It was formally handed to the President, then Mr. Tedder, on May 9th.

Our Education Committee also came early this year with H. D. Roberts, who largely was responsible for it, as its first secretary.

The Conference of 1898 ought really to have been held at Wigan, but fearful lest the undeserved reputation of that much-maligned town should repel, we compromised by including Southport and Preston. The Earl of Crawford, who had become well known to us by presiding at some meetings of the International Conference, was President-designate, and we had the

privilege of visiting Haigh Hall and viewing his famous library. We had, of course, been there before, in 1883, but now felt more at home.

Lord Crawford, the possessor of one of the finest private collections in the realm, was not only a great bookman but a great scholar, like his father before him and his son after him. Few could fathom his knowledge of astronomy and Egyptology, to mention two only of the subjects in which he was an acknowledged expert. A dignified and reserved man, he took his duties as our principal officer seriously, even when that duty was the distasteful one of keeping order at a turbulent meeting, or soothing the ruffled plumes of contentious members.

It was at this meeting that I, in the valour of ignorance, first took up the load MacAlister had dropped after eleven strenuous years. My first tenure of the office was but for three years, and it was terminated in some temperamental outburst, no doubt of immediate moment, but insufficient to impress my memory with detail. Lawrence Inkster took up the rejected burden, but his frail form could not endure a double task for more than five years, so in 1906 he relinquished it to L. Stanley Jast. A man so various could not but give credit and distinction to any office, and perhaps Jast's erratic genius would have made an even deeper impression upon the history of the Association had not the cataclysm of August, 1914, momentarily entangled him, and in the confusion I weakly consented again to resume the duties Jast astutely jettisoned. Since then, with misplaced confidence and pathetic loyalty, successive annual meetings have re-elected me.

The resignation of MacAlister closed an epoch and marked a change. A Special Committee on Publications had come to the conclusion that it was imperative that the Association's journal should be its property. Delicate questions affecting responsibility had arisen. The great fight of indicators *versus* open access had flared up into a perfect orgy of paper warfare. It was very necessary to tread warily, for more cautious and timorous editors than MacAlister was ever likely to be fall foul of the law of libel. So with its tenth volume "The Library" ceased to be our official organ. Perhaps it was inevitable: the editor was obviously out of sympathy with much that he had to print. His fastidious taste could not gladly accept the dull papers that, as Secretary, he had to invite and even welcome, for lack of better. His wide mind could take no pride in the

minor chronicling of small events. His habit of work was foreign to the meticulous routine of the office. Relief must have prevailed over regret when, freed from the harassing of committees and councils, the heckling of monthly meetings, the disputations of captious and querulous correspondents, "The Library" commenced a second series and a new life in December, 1899, as an independent quarterly review of bibliography and library lore. MacAlister's faith in the child of his brain has been well justified, and now in its fourth series, as the organ of the Bibliographical Society, still under the main editorship of Dr. Pollard, this long familiar journal by its old associations has secretly a place in my affections that its official successor never reached.

When in later years, we made some tardy acknowledgment of MacAlister's great services by electing him our President, we honoured ourselves more. His death, following so closely that of his long-time colleague, H. R. Tedder, made sharper the severance of past and present. MacAlister had many gifts of mind and person, but the greatest was his gift of attracting friendship.

With THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECORD, our official organ and our own property, the first number of which appeared in January, 1899, under the editorship of Dr. Guppy, begins a new era. For nearly four years, until that library of a dream, the Rylands, claimed him, Dr. Guppy brought out THE RECORD with unfailing punctuality and unfaltering excellence, so much so that, upon his departure, no one cared to continue the task. It took quite a number of us, an editorial committee, and the result was the lowest common denominator of our intelligences. Strange the workings of group psychology—always an amusing study to a secretary. After plumbing the depths of dullness the RECORD came to light and life again with Mr. Esdaile. The "sundry and manifold changes of the world" we have, more than most, been unable to escape. But, as the Latin poet said: "All things change though nothing perishes," and in the present dignified yet simple pages we can feel that the torch bravely lit by Ernest Thomas, brilliantly carried over rough seas by Sir John MacAlister, gallantly handed on by Dr. Guppy, stumblingly by the Publications Committee, and now serenely by Mr. Esdaile, will be a beacon to us for generations.

But these later days I find more difficult to speak of. The events of thirty years ago, in these impetuous times, are fast fading from memory. I have therefore some confidence that even those who could, and there are lamentably few, would hesitate to contradict or correct me ; to question my incidents or deprecate my comments. They are such old friends that their hearts if not their minds would maintain me. But with the events of this century I feel less certain of either. One can regard with benignity and complacency the errors of youth, but impartiality becomes more difficult as distance lessens.

This retrospect, therefore, must remain a distant one—I dare not bring my eyes nearer yesterday. For I claim no virtue of judgment—not for me the clarity and final summing of the historian. I have no stomach for the dullness of the recorder : and have we not already the ordered, the monumental roll of transactions and proceedings on our office shelves, mummified for all time. We librarians by nature of our calling see enough and to spare of dusty death.

Just for a span I have endeavoured to live again the winged moments, the pleasant hours, of the days when I was young, when Plancus was Consul.

In the afternoon, a well-attended General Session was held in the Heriot Watt College, with Mr. G. T. Shaw in the chair. Mr. MAURICE MARSTON (Secretary, National Book Council), read a paper on "The Teaching of Book Reading," which has appeared elsewhere.*

In the discussion which followed, Mr. J. S. M. THOMSON, B.A. (Educational Work Secretary, Scottish National Council of Y.M.C.A.'s) said that the problem of the librarian, as he conceived it, was how to get ordinary people to read, and he thought real progress could be made by the provision of bibliographies and by co-operation with people outside the library. The bibliographies should not be compiled by librarians alone ; nor should they be farmed out, lest the person to whom the list was farmed out might be one-sided ; nor should they be made up by subject experts alone. What was wanted was not mere lists of the best books on a subject, but indications what was the line of least resistance in getting people to study a subject. They wanted something like the American "Reading with a Purpose Series." That would mean that libraries would buy fewer books, but a great many copies of each one. It made a great difference whether a library was a collection of books or a collection of books in which the people were beginning to be interested.

* See *Publisher's Circular and Booksellers' Record*, October 1, 1927.

Miss ANNE CARROLL MOORE (Supervisor of Work with Children, New York Public Library), said she had always approached reading as the greatest sport there was. With a sport-loving nation like the English, more emphasis should be placed on that aspect of reading. As regarded children's books, there seemed to be no consistent or sustained reviewing of them in England, and it was quite impossible to make a good bibliography of such books without first-hand knowledge of them. She believed that reading was like nature and sunshine; directly they had a planned system, it became unattractive to the very person who most needed it. Reading must be free, and it must be good fun. (Applause.)

Dr. E. A. BAKER (Director, University of London School of Librarianship) said that it was useless for librarians to fill their shelves with bibliographies, unless the staffs were also familiar with the works. There was a considerable difference between a bibliography in the library sense and a guide-book for a course of reading, in which readers were more essentially interested.

Mr. L. STANLEY JAST (Manchester) said that they did not want more lists; they wanted fewer books and better books, and they wanted some opportunity of seeing the books that were published. He suggested that in future librarians should exercise some influence upon publishing, and that librarians should have some say not only on the contents of the books, but on the form of the books they put on their shelves. There would then be no need for the National Book Council.

Mr. C. FOULDS (Nottingham) said that he attached the greatest importance to the provision of books in schools. In Nottingham they had established children's libraries, because they realized that children must be got hold of and taught what to read and how to read.

Mr. W. E. DOUBLEDAY (Hampstead) said he thought that the scheme of providing bibliographies should have a chance.

Mr. MARSTON afterwards replied.

THE PLANNING OF A GREAT LIBRARY

By ANDREW KEOGH, *Librarian of Yale University.*

FOLLOWING Mr. Marston's paper Mr. Andrew Keogh, Librarian of Yale University, gave a lantern lecture on the planning of a great library. The lecture was illustrated with seventy-six slides and seventeen drawings of elevations and floor plans of the Sterling Memorial Library at Yale.

Mr. Keogh outlined the development of New Haven from its settling in 1638 and the growth of Yale since its foundation in 1700. He spoke of the adoption of Gothic as the prevailing style for future Yale buildings, and of

the difficulty of choosing a site for the library in a University scattered unevenly over an area a mile and a half long and a quarter of a mile wide, running through the centre of the city, and without right of eminent domain.*

While the site was being chosen and before the architect was appointed, the librarian, as chairman of a committee, drew up a programme of requirements from the point of view of the administration of the library. Questions of architectural style and construction were purposely omitted, and the arrangement of rooms was indicated only where their function or their relation made such indication a matter of importance. The third draft of this programme was submitted to the deans or other representatives of all the schools and departments of the University, and after approval by the University trustees was given to the architect to translate into drawings and specifications.

Later, when the plans were sufficiently advanced to submit them to the criticism of librarians of other large libraries recently erected, and in particular to librarians of university libraries, the programme and the plans were sent to Mr. Coolidge and Mr. Lane, of Harvard ; to Mr. Hanson, of Chicago ; to Mr. Bishop, of Michigan ; to Mr. Putnam, of the Library of Congress ; and to Mr. Gerould, of Princeton. These met later for a whole-day session in the librarian's office at Yale, at which were also present the President, the Provost of Yale, the Dean of the Art School, and Mr. Rogers, the architect of the new building.

The programme had taken into consideration the relation of the library to the libraries in the various schools and institutions, which was that between a general library and its branches. The number of books now in these departmental libraries is about 350,000, mostly duplicates of those in the general library, which has about a million and a half. It was assumed that departmental buildings for the humanities would be erected in reasonable proximity to the new library ; that such buildings would provide offices for instructors and so relieve the library of the noise connected with the coming and going of classes ; that they would include departmental working libraries,

* The "right of eminent domain" is a technical term used in American law of real property. It refers to the right of a state or city to take possession of property that may be required for purposes of public utility, e.g. the construction of a railway.—[ED.]

and would communicate with the general library by bridges or tunnels, and by electric or pneumatic carriers, so as to make available to readers in one building the book resources of the others. The University Library was defined as consisting of all the books owned by the University, in whatever building they were housed, and the co-operation between the central library and its branches would include daily motor service between all parts of the library system.

The problem of the general library was to provide adequately for present needs, and for future needs so far as they could be foreseen. The programme therefore asked for suitable accommodations for three million volumes at the day of opening, and ultimately for four million volumes; reading-rooms for at least one thousand readers at one time; seminaries, studies and stalls for another thousand research workers; rooms for special collections and purposes; and rooms for the library staff. As it is impossible to predict the number or size of the special collections that will come to Yale, or the character and extent of the demands that may be made upon the library by the development of schools and departments, the library was planned so as to be adjustable to changing conditions. Structural walls, for example, were few; and many of the interior walls were easily alterable to admit of rearrangement of space.

The ground floor was the main floor, and access to it was easy and direct, with few or no entrance steps. On this floor were found the public catalogues, the delivery desk, the reference staff, the reading-rooms, the exhibition rooms, the rare book room, a small lecture-room for the use of materials that would not be allowed to leave the building, and the work-rooms for the staff. The reading-rooms included a general room seating 260 readers, and shelving 15,000 reference books; a reserved book room, seating 220 readers, and shelving 25,000 volumes of duplicates for class use, with provision in the basement for as many more volumes; a periodical room, seating 120, with wall shelving for 2,000 different current serials; a special room for undergraduates, seating 165, and shelving 30,000 of the best books in English on all subjects. A "commuters' study" in the basement shelved 1,000 of the most important reference books, and provided 90 seats. The accession and catalogue departments had carefully planned their own sections of the first floor.

Two public elevators, each holding a dozen persons, gave access to the upper floors, which were reserved for advanced students. The stacks were vertical throughout, but on the lower floors, where the classes most used were to be placed, there were horizontal extensions. There were twenty seminaries and seventeen studies, seating 660 persons, and interchangeable. Seminaries had no books permanently reserved in them, but had shelving for temporary use, wall space for blackboards, maps, etc., and seating capacity estimated at sixteen square feet to a student. Each study was assigned to a particular subject, had the best reference books in that subject on its shelves, had tables with drawers for books and notes, and seating capacity estimated at twenty square feet to each reader. A study was always on the floor where the books in that field were placed, and adjoined a seminary room. There were three hundred individual stalls, where a student writing his master's thesis or his doctoral dissertation might keep his books and his notes in privacy. These stalls would also be available for professors or visiting scholars for temporary use. The stalls, which were scattered throughout the stacks, were normally 4 feet by 5 feet ; but some were larger and lockable. Special rooms were provided for Babylonian tablets, for prints, for maps, and for the 20,000 coins in the library. Art books, newspapers and other folios, of which Yale possessed an unusual number, were specially provided for. Pneumatic tubes for book-tickets and messages, and electric carriers and lifts, connected each of the floors in the stack with the delivery desk.

The site for the building was approximately 350 feet by 360 feet, and was in the very centre of the University. The stone chosen was a light grey granite, not unlike the stone used in adjacent buildings. Foundations were so solid that floors can be added in certain parts of the building, adding a million volumes to the book capacity without marring the æsthetic effect of the whole. Particular attention had been paid to lighting and ventilation, and an abundance of natural light has been made possible in all the rooms. Quiet governed the location of the reading-rooms ; street noises were excluded ; doors and windows, elevators and toilets, floors, trucks, and other equipment were as noiseless as possible ; it was not necessary to pass through one reading-room to get to another ; entrances were so placed that a reader would not attract attention on entering ; the decoration of

reading-rooms was not usually of such a character as to attract sight-seers, and where it was, a gallery was provided for observation.

The architect is Mr. James Gamble Rogers, of New York, a Yale man, and the designer of the adjacent Harkness Memorial Quadrangle. Mr. Rogers had worked in constant consultation with the librarian, who in turn consulted the various faculties and administrative officers.

The building was to be erected out of a bequest by John William Sterling, who graduated from Yale in 1864, and left most of his fortune to his University. The building would cost £1,500,000, and there was to be an endowment of £500,000 for the maintenance of the building. Excavation had begun, and it was hoped that the building would be finished in three years.

COUNTY LIBRARIES SECTION

Simultaneously with the meeting of the General Section, there was a meeting of the County Libraries Section, over which the Earl of Elgin presided. The meeting opened with a paper by Miss S. FAITH FERGUSON (County Librarian, Worcestershire).

ADDRESS

By S. F. FERGUSON, *County Librarian, Worcester.*

I HAVE been trying to think lately what are the qualifications most needed in a librarian, and I have come to the conclusion that all librarians ought to be geniuses. I have read somewhere that a genius is a man of extraordinary vision, extraordinary conduct and extraordinary energy. We need the vision, we need to show the action, the effort that this vision impels us to, and we need, how badly we need, the energy. Isn't it Henry Ford, in his "To-day and To-morrow," who says "Those who get headaches are trying to hold the world back"?

Unfortunately we are not all geniuses. Personally I think the quality we most need is judgment—judgment in book-selection, judgment in organization, judgment in our dealings with people—judgment, we County Librarians,

in every box we pack, in every journey we make, in every centre we visit ; a right judgment in all things—if we had that our work would be bound to succeed. Of course experience can do much for us, and by experience we may learn judgment, but fresh situations arise, new problems crop up, unlooked for crises face us and without judgment we may fail, our difficulties may become too many for us.

It is about some of these difficulties that I am to talk this afternoon. I had almost wanted to use the word “ limitations ” when choosing a title for my paper, but I hesitated to use such a word in connection with work that from one point of view has no limitations, except such as are due to our own too limited outlook. But from another point of view County Library work has very serious limitations, limitations not of opportunity, but of means to rise to the opportunity, and fellow County Librarians will be the first to agree with me. There are, in fact, so many that one can only mention a few, and I propose to speak of them under the following headings :—

The limitations of time and space.

The limitations of our finances.

The limitations of the people we are working with.

The limitations of the people we are working for,

and then, of course, there are the limitations of the County Librarian.

Let us take first the limitations of time and space. Our work is badly hampered by the necessity of having to observe the unities. We must all have realized how distances and the difficulties of transport make it quite impossible for us to get to know all our centres really well. Sometimes we spend practically the whole day going to a village to do one small job, or worse still we don't go because of the precious time we save by not going. I once complained to Colonel Mitchell about the difficulty of keeping in touch with our more distant centres, and his reply was that I might be thankful I did not have to travel two days on a mule taking another mule to carry the books like one of our fellow librarians across the water. Well, I think I am very thankful. I don't think I know how to manage a mule, much less two mules, but all the same we must all have realized that the time and money we spend on travelling is a very serious drawback. Such a difficulty cannot be done away with, but it can be minimized. Every County Librarian should have an assistant capable of taking charge at headquarters when the librarian is out

in the county, and also capable of visiting the centres when necessary instead of the librarian. Also every County Librarian should have a car of his own or else free and unrestricted use of a hired car. Those librarians who are fortunate enough to have a book van no doubt visit every centre regularly, and those of us who have not, but who go round with our lorry, have found an inexpensive means of keeping in touch to some extent with our various branches. I think it is well worth while to go round when the boxes are taken, even though it means a very brief visit to each place ; there is time for a word with the librarian and time also for him to make a suggestion or to voice a complaint if he feels so inclined. Not that lorry driving is a particularly pleasant means of locomotion, I know I've had to run behind ours with a brick before now when the road is steep, in case it should refuse the hill in its heavily laden condition. I was reminded of this when I was reading not long ago in *The Times Literary Supplement* an account of a book called "You can't win," which purports to be the autobiography of a burglar. Now when this burglar emerged from prison and wished to settle down to a more respectable way of life, a friend found him a job as a librarian, but he doesn't seem to have liked it : he writes : " In thirteen years I have learnt to work—some day I may learn to like it. Yet it is so easy and safe and secure and simple, that I now wonder how any man coming out of prison can think of doing anything else." Personally I don't find it a particularly easy and simple profession nor when going round with the boxes a particularly safe one ; we have been known to run violently down a steep place into the ditch backwards, we have skidded in the January snow, and we have also been reduced to borrowing a steam engine to tow us to a suitable slope before we could get started at all. Perhaps if we had all taken a short course in "burgling" as part of our training we should find our job simpler and less nerve racking in comparison. But that is more a matter for the School of Librarianship to consider.

Just a word with regard to the limitations imposed upon us by lack of money, though I do not want to talk about finance to-day, We all of us I suppose, this side of the water, suffer from too small a book fund or too little to spend on equipment. As my little clerk murmured when I had to refuse her a certain file she had set her heart on, "It's horrid being poor." Yes, it's horrid being poor when someone writes for an expensive volume and

the Central Library merely puts him on a waiting list, and it's horrid being poor when the children clamour for more fairy books and we gaze sadly at our empty shelves or regretfully turn over a pile of unpaid bills. And it's horrid being poor when a hopeful young traveller arrives and plants two exciting-looking suitcases on our office floor and we have to implore him not even to open them because we dare not examine the treasures that we cannot afford to purchase. Yes, it's horrid being poor. And the remedy? Begging? To beg I am ashamed, though I do beg. It is not sound, what we need is a higher rate and the way to get a higher rate is to make the borrowers realize their power as voters. If they show they are willing for the rate to be raised the County Council will see that the need for books is a very real need, and not the figment of the imagination of a one-ideaed librarian or an enthusiastic committee member here and there.

What of the limitations of the people we are working with? Dare I criticize our hundreds of local librarians, fellow librarians helping us to administer the scheme? I yield to none in my admiration of the way these men and women have come forward, most of them in an honorary capacity, and willingly, eagerly taken on the added burden of the library for the sake of the village in which they live. But among the many capable, efficient fellow-workers we are fortunate in having with us, we all have some local librarians who disappoint us, who work the library without imagination or initiative, who fail to make it a real force in their locality. This is a serious difficulty, a real limitation, and sometimes we look in vain for a remedy. But there are ways of making the less keen librarians more interested, and one way I think is by an annual conference. Local librarians, like ourselves, seem curiously susceptible to conferences, they have met each other, many of them as teachers at teachers' meetings or as clergymen at clerical conferences, or as Women's Institute members at their frequent gatherings, but they have not met so often as librarians; and the interest there is in the scheme, its scope and its far-reaching opportunities, often come as a revelation to an indifferent worker when indicated by some local librarian who has imagination and vision and experience.

One of my most keen local librarians has made a suggestion that I hope to carry out next winter; he has suggested that we might have district meetings and perhaps eight or ten librarians might meet at some central

place and compare notes about the work, discuss improvements, perhaps listen to a short paper by one of their number, or arrange an exchange of stationary library books. Perhaps eventually the whole county might be divided into districts for these short informal meetings and a convener for each district appointed. I believe there is some such organization among the Women's Institutes. The County Librarian would do well to attend these meetings to learn what he could of local conditions. Every local librarian has his own special difficulties, we have all doubtless discovered what havoc can be wrought in our work by the endless village feud, and we know that an unsatisfactory centre is not always the fault of the local librarians. Sometimes they are hampered by the thought of a friend at the post office or village shop, who is trying to run a small subscription library. I think the only answer to this difficulty is to point out that the more keen we make people about books the more books they will be likely to want from the village shop as well as from us.

The limitations of the people we are working for : this is a very different matter and a very important one. Most of us find, certainly in the more rural counties, that on the whole the taste in literature of our borrowers acts as a limitation to our work, it does limit the standard of the stock we have to maintain. This is a side of our work which gives many of us much anxious thought, but the library is for the people not the people for the library, and within certain limits it would seem as if we must send what the people demand. I was struck by a remark made to me by an Irish friend of mine about her County Librarian. "Of course," she said, "he sends out trash, but he chooses his trash so well." I consider that something to have achieved. We must, I fear, face the fact, that probably many of our light fiction readers will never ask for anything much better. But what I do hope and what I do think we are accomplishing by supplying the books the less well educated people ask for, is to make whole families interested in reading. If we please the parents we won't have them complaining that "So-and-so always has her head in a book" or write as that famous parent wrote to the schoolmaster : "Dear Sir, Tommy is going to be a grocer so please don't learn him any more poetry." If we can get it established that books are welcomed into every home, then the more studious will meet with encouragement rather than with ridicule and disfavour. There

will be more homes like that described by Viscount Grey in his essay on reading when he draws a picture of Auberon Herbert greeting some visitors after a cordial welcome at his country house with the words : " And now what would *you* like to do, *we* are reading." I always think that must have been a delightful home to visit. Lord Grey adds we want more and more of this spirit of reading. A large proportion of our borrowers obviously read entirely for recreation and even some of us here to-day perhaps would own that we find, like Sir Walter Scott, that fiction is an opiate of most blessed power when the whole head is sore and the whole heart sick. Because this is so I think that the local librarian who writes " My sister-in-law's cook wants the Tidal Wave in our next box " (incidentally I might mention that my committee has banned that author) has as much right to consideration as the borrower who asks for a book on cost-accounting or for Guedalla's Palmerston.

All have a right to say of the Library World :—

" There is room for all,
 Let neither Fawn nor Saint reprove
 Others for different ways ;
 There's room for wings
 And feet, for wine and water springs,
 For things that walk and things that dance,
 For Iceland and the South of France,
 For lake and village pump and sea,
 For you—but also room for me."

In the meantime let us keep in touch with every activity in our centres, the Women's Institute classes, the lectures at the local club, the talks they hear on wireless. We have to aim at avoiding the leakage that so often occurs among our borrowers between the ages say of 14 and 24, and with this end in view we turn for mutual help to our Evening Schools, we have to build for the future and for this reason our book selection for the younger people is of such vital importance. What we hope is that the children, when they become the grown-up borrowers of our libraries of the future will insist that our successors raise the standard of our stocks and issue finer novels and more general literature. The attractive books brought out to-day for children in science and in art, in literature and in history, may

we hope make them ask for further opportunities to study these subjects as they grow older, because they will remember that it was such books as these that—

“ Unroofed dull walls

And bared for them the heart of wonder in familiar things.”

This will no doubt take time and we must be prepared for things to move slowly ; we have need of patience, perhaps by then more librarians will be geniuses and in the meanwhile it may help us to remember that a great writer has said, “ Patience is Genius, patience with enthusiasm, without which Truth wins no victories.” And Truth, the Apocrypha tells us, is : “ Wherever people form right judgments.”

Miss MINNA BROWNING (County Librarian, Warwickshire), opening the discussion, said that she had very little to add on the subject of space. The only means at their disposal at that time to overcome the problem were motor cars and lorries, and they could not make as much use of the latter as they would like. She supposed that some day every village school would have a telephone ; that was another way in which they could overcome the difficulty. There were also the limitations of the local librarians to be considered. She sometimes wondered if some of those limitations were not, in reality, the limitations of the county librarian himself. Did they always understand human nature so well that they struck exactly the right note with the local librarians ? She did not think they did. She had found that the best weapon for dealing with the local librarian was a reputation for always being a little bit better than her word. They had a great responsibility towards their local librarians ; they had to regard them at once as their friends and as their assistants. They had been told that, now everybody could read, there was no reason why they should read trash. And yet in many small villages there were people who could not understand the books in stock, which, indeed, had been written almost entirely for the middle class. (Applause.)

Miss L. R. ANDREWS (Librarian, Dumfriesshire County Library) said that the fundamental limitation was the limitation of the borrower. They met with apathy and bad taste over wide areas ; the remedy was to give the borrower what he wanted. The reason why people wanted books that were bad from the literary point of view, was that they could understand them ; they accorded with their own experience. And also a taste for sensational books arose because people got so little romance and adventure in their own lives. It was to be hoped that, when such readers had worked through the bad stuff, some of them would gradually take to the good. They should cease to pay homage to what she called the “ art-gallery ” idea of a library. It was their duty to give borrowers what they wanted ; and in any case, it was always possible to choose the best of the poor books and to sprinkle the good among them. She further maintained that they were educating readers all the time, even with the bad stuff.

Mr. HENRY W. ACOMB (County Librarian, Shropshire) said that some librarians suffered from an obsession that it was their job to educate. He had found that, in dealing with the problem of the limitations of borrowers, such an attitude to them was definitely harmful.

Miss R. MACKENZIE (Librarian, Leicestershire County Library) very heartily agreed with the speakers who said that borrowers should have the books they wanted.

Mr. ALBERT H. GILLGRASS (Librarian, Cheshire County Library) referred to the necessity of securing the interest of Library Committees in the work on hand, and of getting them to take more than a mere casual survey of the library position.

Mr. HENRY J. B. WOODFIELD (Librarian, Yorkshire (East Riding) County Library) said that he found that Thomas Hardy was one of his popular authors. That was because his people knew the sort of life with which Hardy's novels dealt.

Alderman LONGSTAFFE (Chairman, Barrow-in-Furness Public Library) said that once they had the members of the local council interested they had got over the greater part of their problem.

Mr. ALFRED OGILVIE (County Librarian, Lanarkshire), then read a paper.

THE COUNTY LIBRARY: ITS PLACE AND POLICY

By ALFRED OGILVIE, *County Librarian, Lanarkshire.*

THE value of a public service is measured by its cost. The value of the Public Library services of this country have been measured for three-quarters of a century by a copper coin or fractions of that coin. The first Public Library Act to be placed in the Statute Book empowered local authorities to establish libraries out of public funds, but limited the rate to be levied for their establishment and upkeep to one halfpenny in the £1 of assessable rental. That Act has long been superseded, but it attached a stigma to the service which has retarded its development ever since. Even at the present day when legislation sanctions a more generous provision local authorities are reluctant to depart from its influence.

Had Public Library legislation been introduced in a more generous spirit at the outset we might have been discussing the perfecting of a great national system to-day instead of evolving a policy towards its development.

Although the earlier Acts were framed to permit of the establishment of libraries in parishes the rate limitations imposed rendered their establishment

impossible, as few county parishes have a rateable value high enough to make such provision practicable. We know now that the parish as an independent library authority cannot hope to be successful.

The subject of this paper has little concern with legislation or taxation, but it is impossible to discuss any public service without some reference to the foundation on which it rests.

Sixty years elapsed before any attempt was made to extend the Public Library service to rural areas. In the large towns the service grew and developed into highly efficient systems, but the population resident beyond their boundaries was without the means of adding to the education with which the law compelled it to equip itself. To the student of education it cannot but appear absurd that vast sums were expended on the teaching of children, which is as it should be, and so little consideration given to the only possible means by which it can be supplemented.

During that long period when the educated rural dweller was dependent on his own resources for the improvement of his mind the deficiency was not entirely neglected by the librarian. At the inaugural meeting of this Association in 1877 it was the subject of a paper, and it has been discussed at frequent intervals ever since. It is interesting to recall that, at the third annual meeting of the Association, held at Edinburgh, in 1880, an excellent contribution to the subject was submitted by Mr. John Maclauchlan, who was then, and for a quarter of a century afterwards, Chief Librarian of Dundee Public Libraries. Even at that date the county was recognized as the practical unit of administration, but the great drawback to suggested schemes appears to have been the fiscal question considered in the light of the period. In his paper on "How the Free Library may be Extended to Counties," Mr. Maclauchlan indicated a scheme for the County of Perth on the basis of a series of branch libraries estimating an annual expenditure for its maintenance equal to the revenue from a rate of twopence in the £1. That was a bold estimate to place on record forty-seven years ago, and even to-day it sounds incredible, but it may yet be necessary to make such provision if the County Library, in any county, is to fulfil its purpose and become the efficient service it is designed to be.

It is late in the day to speak of the place of the library in the social life of the country, but there is still a tendency to ignore its importance. In the

large centres of population it has long been a necessity and what is essential to large bodies of population is no less essential to scattered communities. Mankind's needs are similar everywhere according to his standard of life, and the standard of life does not vary to any extent in any portion of these islands.

The rural dweller as a citizen of the State contributes his quota to the national exchequer ; he has a voice in the affairs of the State by the franchise ; his education is exactly the same as that of his town brother ; the postal system delivers, with unfailing regularity, his daily newspaper ; yet our service, which is cheaper than any other public service, was denied him for sixty years.

Since the inception of the County Library as a practical proposition the demand for books on all subjects has been considerable, and it is worthy of conjecture how this demand was likely to be met had there still been no organization to meet it. It is impossible to realize, except by actual observation, how much the present service is appreciated by those who have benefited by it. It is true that a large proportion of the reading has been fiction, but no excuse need be offered for this. That other books in the higher branches of literature are also read may be ascertained from the records of the Central Libraries for Students. An encouraging sidelight on the subject of county reading is the "List of books in the stock of the Scottish Central Library," which has just been published by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. The works contained in that list have been purchased principally to meet actual requests from Scottish county readers.

Our efforts to establish County Library systems in the past ten years have been remarkably successful, and the progress made has proved for all time that the Public Library is an integral part of the life of an educated community. We have supplied a service of books, often from the slenderest resources, to widely scattered populations, by whom the literature of the day was previously unobtainable, but the lines on which our service was originally laid have serious limitations, and if our progress is to continue we must be permitted a much wider scope for our work and a fuller understanding of the problems to be solved in the near future.

We have reached that stage in our development where we dare not look back, and to look forward we see a pathway beset with obstacles which

only wise statesmanship can surmount. We require a definite policy with a definite purpose.

The formulation of a sound policy of County Library development has still to be discussed, and it is now that we have the opportunity to discuss it. We are only at the beginning of the movement although the county schemes are in all stages of development. We have a rich experience, gained from the earlier experiments, from which we can draw to guide us towards the best and most practicable methods of administration. It is vain to speak of an efficient County Library service for some time to come as no scheme has reached that state of development where the whole of its population is adequately served. It is questionable what an efficient service should be in any county area, but it is beyond question that the service must have some relation to the population. Efficiency cannot be attained until at least one volume of the county stock is available to every three members of the population, with an adequate stock in reserve to maintain that level.

Before we attempt to evolve a general policy it may be helpful if we focus our attention for a little on the defects of our existing system.

To begin with, we must admit that our conception of County Library work was formed entirely on the experience gained in the experimental schemes brought into being by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. We are not likely to forget that it was these pioneer schemes which hewed the path and opened a vista encompassing a future national system, but important as these experiments were we must also remember that they were merely models and not complete systems. They were the bench marks from which our future measurements could be made, but they were not the foundations of the permanent structure. After they had served their purpose by stimulating a public interest which resulted in the introduction of the necessary legislation their day had passed and the outlook changed. Systems, hitherto unofficial, had now taken upon themselves the dignity of a public service, and the administration which formerly looked for maintenance to a beneficent corporation became a civil service upheld by public funds with new obligations and a great and permanent duty to perform.

There is a prevalent and persistent idea in many quarters that these County Library schemes are simply an outlet for the philanthropy of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, and that their operation and

administration are part of a charitable organization. Such an idea is detrimental to our serious development as a public service, and we must endeavour to educate public opinion to the actual situation.

All Public Library legislation is permissive, that, to us, is an elementary detail ; but it is only permissive up to that moment when a local authority resolves to adopt its principles for the area under its control. From that moment and so long as a rate is levied from the ratepayers for such a purpose the authority levying such a rate is under an obligation to provide the service it has taken upon itself to establish. Public opinion should be educated to that simple truth, and when it is fully realized that the library service is not a gift, but a right, there will be fewer obstacles to its development.

While the county service was in its infancy it was natural to expect that several years must elapse before it gained a firm footing. We had to survey wide areas and consider how the service could be applied so that something approaching uniformity could be evolved under varying conditions brought about by the incidence of population. We are now fully informed regarding these conditions and little doubt exists as to the best means of making the service effective.

In sparsely populated districts we utilize the school as our centre of distribution ; in villages we have been able to co-operate with Institutes where these exist or again utilize the school ; and in small burghs of 10,000 inhabitants or over we require branch libraries to serve the needs of our readers.

Where the school functions as the local library we should now consider one defect in the system which is worthy of attention. We are building up a public service and a public service ought to have continuity. Schools are closed for ten or twelve weeks every year, and, although there are exceptional cases where an arrangement is made to continue the issue of books over the school vacation, the general rule is that the service ceases with the school curriculum and recommences with the new term. As our service is for the general public who do not participate in lengthy holidays some solution of this problem should be sought for in view of the fact that a portion of this vacation period occurs during times of the year generally looked upon as a reading season.

Being, as we are, attached to the educational administration of the county our outlook is to some extent influenced by the activity or inaction

of the scholastic machine. We shall have to outgrow this view of our service and organize our department so that it functions with unfailing regularity. Advantage is taken of these school vacations to allow the staff a well-earned rest, but we are thinking of a public service ; therefore we may, for the moment, ignore the claims of the staff.

In counties where the system has been in operation for a number of years and where Institutes and Branch Libraries are units of the scheme this intermittent service has been overcome, and the public enjoy a more or less regular if not a continuous opportunity for reading, but if our aim is uniformity and efficiency our policy should be towards a continuous service everywhere.

It is in the populous areas of our counties that we have our greatest opportunities of achievement, and it is by our success in this field that our future as a public library service depends. It is here we are forging the real link in a unified system, and difficult as our task appears it is by no means hopeless if we have the means and the true spirit behind us.

In my experience of county work I have found in many instances the machinery already in existence for our purpose which has only required the stimulus of enthusiasm and new life to make an effete and exhausted institution vibrate with activity. It is well known that the public library owes its origin to the mechanics' institutes which the skilled workers of an earlier generation established in the larger industrial towns. This ambition to add culture to character has manifested itself in many a village and small burgh to a much later date and to-day we do not require to search far to find the old spirit struggling in its pride to uphold, even in the humblest way, a library, which alas is more often a museum with little appeal to the modern spirit.

The County Library was instituted to rescue these derelict libraries, and if their managers are approached it is seldom that some arrangement on an equitable basis cannot be made. This type of development presents great opportunities for the County Library. Examine the shelves of these village and institute libraries, and you will be surprised at the wealth of local history and antiquarian lore they contain and if you are fortunate enough to be allowed to absorb the stock consider how wealthy your county stock will become. It is neither necessary nor desirable to remove or circulate

these local stocks, but after very careful examination of the books and the elimination of obsolete material they should be catalogued for possible future use, and you will know where to find them. To the residue of these stocks, after examination, add your circulating collections and you have given fresh life, which, nourished by the county service, will never again languish.

In the more densely populated districts where population is numbered by thousands the only possible means of providing a library service is by the erection or adaptation of a suitable building and establishing branch libraries. This principle is so obvious and necessary that it need only be mentioned.

In most of our county schemes and particularly in the smaller counties the staffs are quite inadequate for the work to be performed, and it is to this under-staffing that the principal defects in the system are due. In the pioneer days of the service haphazard methods were no doubt necessary, and were to some extent permissible, but with the experience we have gained in our own field added to the methods which have been evolved in the older burgh libraries our internal administration should now be planned on a more solid foundation.

It is only in the method of meeting our public that the work of a county scheme differs from a burgh library system. We purchase the same books, and our process of assimilating our purchases is identical ; we have, or should have, the same accession work to carry out in preparing our stocks for circulation ; we have the same repair work and rebinding to overtake ; and as years go on we have wastage and replacement to consider as well as the addition of new books, and an ever widening circulation to meet and maintain. Added to all these we have a system of recording and filing to operate which necessitates constant vigilance and unremitting labour. Taking these facts into consideration it should be obvious that the staff required to carry out the work efficiently in the county scheme will be as large as the staff required to administer a burgh library serving a similar population. This, unfortunately, has not yet been admitted, and our attempts to establish and operate a system with inadequate personnel has been rather pitiable ; if we persist in this course it will lead to utter stagnation if not disaster.

We have endeavoured, with commendable zeal, to eliminate everything from our work which takes time to perform, and we cannot deny that much of our work, in consequence, has been slipshod in character. While approving of every method evolved for the saving of unnecessary work, I cannot agree that all library routine may be safely neglected, or relegated to outsiders, simply because staffing is inadequate. The science of librarianship demands a certain standard in classification, cataloguing and all the other adjuncts of its peculiar sphere, and to lower that standard in the most modern extension of its principles is inconsistent with true progress. The royal road to success in County Library work will not be found in curtailing labour, but rather in organizing it.

Some of our counties are too small to maintain a system with the efficiency which a modern service demands. These counties are in exactly the same relative position as the small burghs are where the Public Libraries Acts have been adopted, and are not much better than parishes in so far as library administration is concerned. It has already been said, and I reiterate it to-day, that the only possible hope they have lies in amalgamating for this purpose or in co-operating with larger areas in their vicinity. Every county scheme should serve an area large enough to support a capable and efficient staff. It is too often the case that illness or some other cause paralyses a system because absence of the librarian or a member of the staff means the complete cessation of activity. A public service with wide ramifications should not depend upon any one individual or else it is inevitable that it will lose ground.

It is impossible to do more than indicate a County Library policy in a short paper, and I am merely attempting to stimulate discussion. This meeting, composed as it is of librarians from all parts of the kingdom, must be general in its view, therefore it is difficult to indicate a common policy where that policy touches our legitimate administration.

In Scotland the County Library functions under a section of the Education Act of 1918, which empowers County Education Authorities to become library authorities. In England and Wales the Public Libraries Acts have been extended to County Councils, who have in turn relegated these powers to their education committees. Our aims and purposes are

identical, but there are fundamental differences in our respective powers which it is impossible to deal with in the abstract.

Our Scottish schemes are ostensibly book schemes and nothing else. We may provide books to the population of our area, and all expense incurred in so doing is chargeable to the general education fund of the county. From its simplicity I am of opinion that the Scottish system is superior to the English one in many respects. We have an elasticity of action unhampered by questions of differential rating and local control which encourages progress and the education authority itself can decide how far it may exercise its powers.

I venture to approach this subject in all humility and with a sense of my profound ignorance of the tremendous issues at stake, but I should like to ask why a differential rate is necessary in England when providing a library service to a populous district or small burgh? As I understand it we aim at a uniform service throughout our whole area, and we hope, ultimately, to provide a library service equal to every demand which is likely to be made upon it. We must fall back here to the population basis. If a population numbering 10,000 persons is scattered over an area of twenty square miles, and another population of 10,000 is concentrated into an area of two square miles, the expenditure of energy is less in the latter case than in the former, so far as our library administration is concerned. We owe the latter a better service as its concentration allows for distribution at one point with one unit of reserve whilst the former may have twenty or more points of distribution with twenty or more units of reserve. Apart from that point of view there is another and probably a more important consideration which is that the populous district will generally have a higher rateable value than the sparsely populated district and will produce a revenue from a fixed rate greatly in excess of the other.

In my opinion County Library schemes should be book schemes only and with regard to the question of differential rating the only departure which can legitimately be made from a uniform rate is where a local authority demands a news room in addition to a library centre in which case the additional rate levied would be devoted to its upkeep. A news room is not necessarily an adjunct of a library, and for many years the practice has been to separate that department from the library proper. If a local authority desires a fully equipped central institution with lending, reference and

reading rooms, and its rateable value is high enough to support it, then it should be allowed to establish and control it as a separate authority outwith the county scheme. County schemes were designed to fill the gaps left by the burgh library systems, not to supersede them where they have ample revenue to fulfil their purpose.

I have spoken of things as they are and as they may be in the near future, but we cannot leave the subject of County Library policy without at least a fleeting glance forward to that time when every county will possess a library scheme developed to the highest standard that circumstances will permit.

Like the older services in the burghs we are labouring within well defined territorial boundaries and each county scheme is to all intents and purposes a watertight compartment. We serve our own population and our nearest neighbour is a neighbour and nothing else ; we are not neighbourly in our official capacity. So long as that state of matters exists it is a solecism to speak of a national library system. It must continue to exist until every county has built up a service within its area which is equal in efficiency to other county systems, and until the county systems have reached a standard commensurate with the services of the burghs.

We may continue to seek for an avenue towards co-operation, but the open road will only be found when equality in all essentials is reached. A superior system will not require to court co-operation, and an inferior system can hardly expect it.

Public Library legislation has created detached systems, and it is only by other legislation that we can hope to combine them. The machinery of true co-operation is already in existence in the form of the Central Libraries for Students, and, although these institutions are voluntary, they are bound to be ultimately recognized by the State as clearing houses for the literary wealth of the country.

Let us be content for a little longer with things as they are and concentrate our energies on perfecting that which is now within our view. We who are interested in the development of the Public Library, not librarians only, but members of public authorities, would do well in the meantime to visualize the system we are creating as one of the pillars which at a later period will support a vault under which all our race may partake of wisdom and knowledge as their heritage.

Mr. B. J. BARTON-ECKETT (County Librarian, Durham) said that there was a great tendency to exaggerate the "country cousin" business. He was convinced that, given the right facilities, rural areas were quite as capable of producing cultured citizens as the industrial areas. Adult education was still comparatively unknown in the rural areas, and it seemed to him that, on that subject, librarians were developing a very acute form of class-consciousness. They had heard a lot about the limitations of borrowers in the rural areas. Was it not also true in other walks of life? The shelves of the various circulating libraries seemed to show that it was. It would not be a bad thing to concentrate their energies in trying to increase the flat rate.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION SECTION

The International Co-operation Section also met on Tuesday afternoon, under the chairmanship of Dr. A. E. Cowley, Bodley's Librarian, Oxford.

Dr. Cowley explained that the purpose of the meeting was, primarily, to communicate to the Library Association resolutions drawn up by a Committee of Librarians, which met last April in Paris. Dr. de Vos van Steenwijk had come from Paris expressly to explain these resolutions and recommendations to the members of the Association.

Dr. DE VOS said that, as these resolutions were the work of a body known as the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, he would first of all explain the exact function of that body. The Council of the League of Nations had power to nominate advisory committees on technical subjects. One of these Advisory Committees was the Committee of Intellectual Co-operation, composed of scientists of world-wide fame, which was created some six years ago to advise the Council of the League on matters pertaining to intellectual co-operation. During the first years of its existence the current work of the Committee was performed by a secretary, but it soon became obvious that it was impossible to put into force any of its resolutions without the aid of some executive body. Two years ago, the French Government voted an annual grant to the League, to establish an Institute of Intellectual Co-operation. The Institute, which had its seat in Paris, was, properly speaking, part of the Secretariat of the League, but it had a somewhat special position in that it did not draw a single penny from the League. After it had been in existence a year, there were many who urged that the burden of supporting the institution could not be left to France alone, but ought to be shared by other nations also, and at the League Assembly of 1926 a motion was carried to that effect, inviting other governments to share the expense of the Institute. That motion had met with response in other countries—Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, and some smaller ones in Central America, and the Assembly had again issued a similar appeal, and it was expected it would meet with more response than that of the previous year. The Institute was not an institute of scientific research, but was designed specially to co-ordinate and to facilitate research in international fields. It consisted of several sections, but they, as librarians, were then only concerned with one of them—that of Scientific Relations. Each section was further divided into sub-committees for special subjects, each sub-committee having the power to co-opt specialist members. The Sub-Committee on Library Relations, with which they were concerned, had, in accordance with this power, co-opted several prominent librarians from

different countries to advise on library matters. These experts had met in April, and had issued the following recommendations :—

“The Committee of Experts, in accordance with the desire expressed by the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation at its meeting in July 1925 (A.24. 1925, page 7, 9th Resolution, §5), and taking into account the fact that since that date the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation has been established, recommends :—

1. That a special Library Service be constituted within the Section of Scientific Relations of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation. The duties of this Service shall in the first instance be :—

(a) To provide a means of contact between the various national information services already existing.

(b) To facilitate the creation or development of central national services designed to guide scholars and investigators in regard to special collections in their branch of study and if possible as to the libraries containing the books and documents needed by them.

2. That each of these national services provide the central service at the Institute with all necessary information as to their equipment. This collaboration should enable the national services (or, when such service does not exist, the state library) to be used, either themselves to provide information available for the special needs of scholars and investigators, or to direct them to the chief specialized libraries.

3. That this Service, in accordance with the previous recommendations of the International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, should investigate the possibilities of a more elastic and economical system for the lending of manuscripts and books from one country to another.

Such a system should take into account the interests of scholars, the necessity of protecting valuable books, as well as the new photographic and other methods of reproduction which might reduce the wear and tear of the books and obviate the necessity of their being sent abroad.

4. That this service endeavour by all suitable means to increase the number of States accepting the Conventions of 1886 and of 1925 for the international exchange of publications and to improve the methods employed in the exchange services of the various countries.

It is of importance also to establish closer co-ordination in the individual countries between the libraries, universities and other institutions engaged in this system of exchange. These institutions should combine to draw up lists both of the publications they have to offer and of their desiderata. It is also desirable that the publications received should be distributed according to the special needs of the various institutions concerned.

5. After having heard a statement from Mr. Bishop as regards the exchange of views which took place on the occasion of the Congress of the American Library Association at Atlantic City in October 1926, with reference to the formation of an International Federation of Librarians' Associations, the Committee of Experts is of opinion that Mr. de Vos van Steenwijk should attend the meeting of the British Library Association at Edinburgh in

September 1927, in order to ascertain the progress made in the realization of these proposals. When the matter has assumed definite shape a resolution should be adopted regarding the relations to be established between the new central service at the Institute and the contemplated International Federation of Librarians.

6. The Committee of Experts is of opinion that it is desirable to communicate the above resolutions, on the one hand to the Directors of National Libraries, and on the other hand to the Presidents of Associations of Librarians, and to bring about an exchange of views on this subject at the forthcoming Edinburgh meeting."

These recommendations, Dr. DE VOS said, had been brought before the Commission of Intellectual Co-operation that summer, had been passed by that Commission, and had been recently approved by the Council and Assembly of the League, so that they had now acquired a certain authority, and resolutions of action might be taken upon them.

There were two subjects touched upon in the resolutions, one applying to national or central libraries, and the other to associations of librarians. It had been felt during the discussions that it was wiser to draw a distinction between the functions of these two bodies, and they would perceive that if, on the one hand, these resolutions outlined a fairly definite plan of co-operation between the national or central libraries in the different countries, they adopted a more passive attitude towards associations of librarians. It was the opinion of the experts and of the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation that a more definite attitude could not be adopted until an organization of that kind had been created and until an appeal came from such a body. He was, however, instructed by the Director of the Institute to assure all interested in such an association that the Institute would always be at their disposal, and that it would be glad to extend to it the same hospitality as it had already extended to other international bodies, such as, for example, the International Committee for Historical Sciences. In conclusion, he expressed his great satisfaction at the report of the Departmental Committee on Public Libraries, and especially on the proposals they made for the Central Library for Students.

The CHAIRMAN said the report might be divided into two parts, of which the first was that a special library service be constituted. He suggested that the meeting take the recommendations of the Committee point by point.

Mr. ARUNDELL J. K. ESDAILE (British Museum) asked the reason for developing the library service in the Institute, in the face of the existence of the Bibliographical Institute at Brussels, which had been in existence for thirty years. Although, to his mind, the Institute at Brussels had propounded schemes which could not be carried out, it had nevertheless done a certain amount of practical work towards providing the means for international inquiry, which seemed to make it a necessary part of any international organization of the kind. It would be regrettable if the Institute of the League at Paris should be an entirely separate and, to a certain extent, a duplicating organization.

Dr. DE VOS, in reply, said that the Institute in Brussels had been mixed up more or less with the activities of the League since the creation of the Committee of Intellectual Co-operation. The Committee had tried from the first to

collaborate with and to use the schemes and the splendid enthusiasm of the Institute of Bibliography, and had actually reached, in 1924, a kind of agreement with it. The agreement was of a limited kind, as the Committee did not wholly approve of all the plans of the Institute of Bibliography, but limited itself to certain subjects. He was sorry to say that the agreement did not work very well, and that on coming into office at the Institute, he had experienced considerable difficulty in making arrangements with the Director of the Institute of Bibliography. He (Dr. de Vos) had the impression that the difficulty of collaboration arose from a fundamental difference of conception. At the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation it was considered that international co-operation could only work well if it was founded on a national basis—that, in fact, there should be several centres in the various countries and not one only which, they considered, could only perform the offices of a clearing house. He had found, on taking advice from several authorities on libraries, that there was an overwhelming majority against the idea of a new union catalogue of the whole world. He thought that the first condition of any success in that direction must be to secure the assistance of the leading authorities in each country, and to ask them what rules they cared to lay down. The central office could then try to co-ordinate them. He was not sure if he was authorized to pronounce about future relations between the League Institute and the Institute of Bibliography, but he might best characterize them as at least stagnant.

In reply to the CHAIRMAN, who asked whether Dr. de Vos considered that the proposed library service of the Institute in Paris would take the place of the Brussels Institute, and that the Brussels Institute would become more of the nature of an institute for a particular country, in this case Belgium, Dr. de Vos said that, to characterize the position boldly, he thought that the Institute at Brussels would try to give information about books, and the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation to give information about libraries.

Dr. HUGO KRÜSS (Director, Prussian State Libraries) said the question raised by the Chairman was a very important one. He did not think there would be any competition between the Paris Institute and the Brussels Institute, as they had conceived them. He thought they were quite unanimous that the main aim of the service in Paris was not to be an international institute like the one in Brussels, but to be a place to co-ordinate and encourage co-operation between existing institutions. They hoped in the first place to encourage the establishment and the development of national information services, for it was only by a kind of international competition that they could go forward. It would be soon enough to build up an international office when they were assured that co-operation through the national services might be secured. They were, in fact, seeking co-operation of any kind, and when some work ought to be done and could be done by the Brussels catalogue they would be very glad to entrust that special matter to the Brussels Institute.

Mr. R. R. BOWKER (Brooklyn) said that, at a meeting at Toronto of members of the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Bibliography of the American Library Association, a proposal had been made that the Brussels Institute, which had been frequently criticized on grounds which had been brought forward that day, should be transferred in some respects to the care of the American Library Association. The *Library Journal* for September 1927 contained a very careful and explicit statement by Professor Richardson, who had studied the work

of the Institute at its seat in Brussels, as to what it was and what it hoped to do. In Professor Richardson's view, the thirteen million cards which the Institute had collected represented a great achievement and possessed great value, if adequate use were made of them, and any competition which minimized the value either of the Institute's work in the past or of this great approach to the union catalogue of all nations, would be unfortunate. It was gratifying to hear Dr. Krüss's explanation that they might look for co-operation and not competition between this Institute, which had lasted so long, and the new Institute which represented the League of Nations. A definite proposal that there should be an American Director for this work had been favourably considered by the Executive Board of the American Library Association, only, however, with the understanding that adequate funds should be raised to carry on the work. If this should be done he was quite sure that the feeling in America would be that there must be co-operation with the Institute in its good work, that there must be no duplication, and that the spirit which they found pervaded that assembly would be characteristic of both sides. There had, of course, been vast enthusiasm in the Brussels Institute, and that enthusiasm should not be thoughtlessly put aside.

Sir FREDERIC KENYON (Director, British Museum) asked if it was the intention of the Institute in Paris that there should be a similar organization in each country which was co-operating? If each country was to have a directory, which would refer the student to collections of books bearing on his particular subject—and he thought it was a desirable object—he did not quite see what there was left to be done by the central Institution in Paris. If each country had its own directory it would be easy for each country to have a collection of the directories of the other countries. The question, therefore, which he wanted to put to representatives of the Institute was: What was there more to be done along this line of co-operation? He realized there were other forms of co-operation, which might still be left to be dealt with, but that, at any rate, was one piece of work which might be done by all the countries which possessed libraries. There was a second kind of intellectual co-operation which had been contemplated—and he did not know what were the feelings of the Institute in Paris on this subject—namely, the actual interchange of books. It was a delicate subject, and one about which, he wanted to suggest, there would be considerable difficulty. It seemed to him that the larger the library, the more difficult it was to send books away. Personally he would prefer that the Institute should start on the smaller and more practicable and convenient tasks of obtaining from each country some directory of information about its own resources on special subjects. He was rather afraid of the multiplication of machinery in this matter and in others. Constant conferences and congresses and committees of an international kind were rather a burden to those who had to travel to attend them. Anything that could be done which would minimize the necessity for actual meetings of committees and conferences would, he believed, be a help to practical work.

Dr. DE VOS, in reply, said what they were prepared to do was contained in the resolutions (a) and (b). They might consider that clause (a) was unnecessary, but he hoped they would accept his statement that it was sometimes really incredible how people who were doing the same work in different countries were quite unaware of each other's existence. Resolution (b) met the objection raised by Sir Frederic Kenyon. They only wanted to facilitate the creation of organizations

which could take up the burden for each country. The ideal of the Institute, in this sense, would be the ideal of education, namely, to make itself superfluous. If they succeeded in creating in each country a really reliable information service and directory of special sources of information, he thought that that part of their work would be done. It was a state of affairs which coincided with the intentions of the Institute, for as new demands were continually being made upon its activity, it was specially anxious not to burden itself with life-long work, but only to help certain organizations on to their feet.

Mr. BOWKER said they were working in America towards just this ideal of locating special collections of books. They had developed a system of inter-library borrowing, from the national library down to the humblest, which it was hoped to develop still further. He emphasized the importance of co-operation instead of competition between the two Institutes in question.

Lt.-Col. LUXMOORE NEWCOMBE (Central Library for Students, London), dealing with the subject of co-operation in England, said that there were three bodies which were working closely together: the Central Library for Students; the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, which was founded some four years previously; and the Joint Standing Committee on Library Co-operation, which was founded some three years previously in connection with the British University Libraries. These bodies kept in touch with each other, and each knew exactly what the others were doing. The work of the Central Library was mainly to provide individual books that were wanted. It possessed a very small union catalogue, which, however, they hoped would in time become a national union catalogue. The Joint Standing Committee on Library Co-operation was concerned mainly with tracing individual books. When a book, which was required could not be readily traced, details were sent to the Inquiry Office, now situated at Birmingham University, and efforts were then made to trace the book.

The CHAIRMAN said it was very important that they should decide whether the special library service, which was to be constituted under the first recommendation, was desirable. It was, as a matter of fact, in being, but if they expressed their disapproval of it, it would become a rather futile body. On the other hand, if they recorded their approval of it as a fact, he thought it would strengthen its position.

Resolution No. 1 was then unanimously approved of.

Dr. KRÜSS suggested that they should pass only Resolution 1, and Clauses (a) and (b).

The CHAIRMAN said that was his own view. They could recommend that the administrative details should be referred back to the Committee which formulated the recommendations.

Dr. W. K. DICKSON (Edinburgh) moved accordingly, and this was agreed to.

On the proposition of Dr. KRÜSS, the Section then considered the following resolution, passed at Washington in October, 1926:—

The delegates of eighteen different countries who have taken part in the after-conference excursion of the American Library Association and who are desirous to see continued the spirit and the lines of international co-operation thoroughly experienced and discussed during these fourteen days, unanimously recommend to the American Library Association the following action: That the American Library Association may take the initiative in this direction and submit to the different national organizations the proposal to discuss the

forming of an international library committee with the prospect that such discussion may be so advanced at the time of the Edinburgh meeting of next year that definite action then may be taken by authorized representatives of the different national organizations.

Dr. KRÜSS said he thought they ought to consider the possibility of forming a permanent international organization connecting the different library organizations. The delegates who took part in the after-conference excursion in America, under the very kind and friendly guidance of the American Library Association, had felt that the coming in contact with each other was so useful for each of them that they ought to think of means to continue such gatherings at certain times. The question was to find if there was a general wish to form such a permanent international committee or conference between the different national organizations. It would be very useful to provide for regular international gatherings, not every year or second year, but at certain times.

Mr. T. GORRIE (Dunfermline) said that the main problem in matters international was how to make the best of the popular literature of a country available to the general readers of the world, and that raised the question of the universal auxiliary language.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that, if the committee decided on having an international congress once in three years, that would be among the questions discussed.

Mr. CARL B. RODEN (Chicago) submitted correspondence and replies received by the American Library Association on the subject of international library co-operation, the following countries agreeing to join in such a project :—Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Poland and Switzerland.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought the meeting was in favour of the suggestion that an international gathering of librarians should take place at certain intervals—say every three years—and they were very grateful to the American Library Association for having raised that point. It was a most useful thing.

Dr. HENRY GUPPY (Manchester) said he was partly responsible with Dr. Krüss for the resolution passed at Washington, and they felt it would be a thousand pities not to continue in some form the happy relations that had been formed both in America and during the past week. Some of them that week had discussed the matter, but without reaching any definite conclusion. It was difficult to decide where the secretariat of such an international committee should be located. He thought there should be a triennial international conference.

Dr. ISAK COLLIJN (Sweden) announced the readiness of the Swedish Library Association to join in the formation of an international library federation.

The CHAIRMAN suggested the appointment of a small committee to make a beginning, and to find out who was willing to invite them.

Mr. CARL H. MILAM (United States) proposed that the meeting adjourn until Friday evening, and that a committee of seven, representing each a different country, be appointed to consider the proposal.

Mr. Milam's suggestion was agreed to, and the following committee appointed : Dr. Isak Collijn, Chairman, Dr. Vincenzo Fago, Dr. Henry Guppy, Dr. Hugo Krüss, M. Henri Lemaître, Mr. Carl H. Milam, Dr. Zdeněk Václav Tobolka.

The adjourned meeting of the International Co-operation Section was held on Friday night, at the North British Station Hotel, for the purpose of drafting a provisional constitution for the International Committee. Mr. Carl B. Roden (Chicago) presided. A memorandum on the use of the International Exchange Service was presented by Dr. Fago. After a long discussion, during which the draft constitution* was gone over in detail, it was finally approved on the understanding that neither this action nor any action which might be taken by the Committee should be binding on any national library association until ratified by such association. The draft constitution is as follows :—

CONSTITUTION OF THE LIBRARY AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL COMMITTEE.

1. Resolved that we hereby establish the International Library and Bibliographical Committee.

2. The Committee shall consist of members selected by the national library associations which ratify this action. There shall be from each country only one designated member with the right to vote, but with him may be associated adjoint delegates.

3. The duties of the Committee shall be to select the time and place for international library conferences and, with the co-operation of local committees, to prepare programmes for such conferences, and to make investigations and recommendations concerning international relations between libraries, organizations of librarians and bibliographers and other agencies.

4. International library conferences shall be held at least once in five years. The first conference shall be held in 1929 or 1930. Plenary sessions of the Committee must be held in connection with each international library conference. Other sessions may be held at the call of the Chairman and must be held when requested by one-third of the Committee. The first plenary session of the Committee shall be held within one year from this date.

5. The Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees from its own membership or from the membership of any of the co-operating national library associations.

6. The officers of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee shall be a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Secretary. These, with four other members, shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Secretary and other members of the Executive Committee, shall be elected by the Committee for a term ending December 31st following the next ensuing Conference. The Secretary may be, but need not be, a member of the Committee designated by some national association. He shall have the right to vote. Vacancies on the Executive Committee shall be filled by the Committee.

The Executive Committee for the period ending December 31st, after the first International Library Conference to be held, shall be :—

* The text of Dr. Fago's memorandum and of the first draft constitution submitted by the Committee to the Section are printed below, pp. 212-214, as Appendices II and III.

The Delegates of Czecho-Slovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Sweden and the United States. The first Chairman shall be the delegate of Sweden, the first and second Vice-Chairmen and the Secretary for the first term shall be chosen by the Executive Committee as constituted in this paragraph.

7. We do not think it necessary for the present to ask for any contributions from the national organizations. If contributions should later be needed, it is suggested that they shall be in a certain proportion to the number of members of each national association, as determined by the Committee.

(NOTE.—The word "Committee" in the above sections refers to the whole Committee except when modified by the word "Executive.")

Signed by :—

Austria	...	...	...	...	...	DR. UHLENDAHL
Belgium	...	...	...	...	...	FRANS VAN KALKEN
Canada	...	...	...	...	...	GEORGE H. LOCKE
China	...	...	...	...	...	MARY E. WOOD
Czecho-Slovakia	...	...	...	...	...	ZDENĚK VÁCLAV TOBOLKA
Denmark	...	...	...	...	...	OSKAR THYREGOD
France	...	...	...	...	...	HENRI LEMAITRE
Germany	...	...	...	...	...	DR. UHLENDAHL
Great Britain	...	...	...	...	...	L. STANLEY JAST
Holland	...	...	...	...	...	E. DE CLERCQ
"	...	...	...	...	...	A. HULSHOF
Italy	...	...	...	...	...	VINCENZO FAGO
Norway	...	...	...	...	...	WILHELM MUNTHE
Sweden	...	...	...	...	...	ISAK COLLIJN
Switzerland	...	...	...	...	...	HERMANN ESCHER
United States	...	...	...	...	...	C. B. RODEN
"	...	...	...	...	...	CHARLES F. D. BELDEN
"	...	...	...	...	...	GEORGE B. UTLEY
"	...	...	...	...	...	FRANK P. HILL
"	...	...	...	...	...	H. H. B. MEYER
"	...	...	...	...	...	CARL H. MILAM

A very large gathering assembled in the Conference Hall on Tuesday evening, when the first business was the Presidential Address. The first part of the Address was broadcast to all British wireless stations.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

A JUBILEE : A CENTRE AND A FREE SWING.

THIS is the Jubilee Year of the Library Association, and it is a significant coincidence that this year also records the publication of the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Public Libraries of England

and Wales. These two facts should add considerably to the interest and importance of the meetings of this Conference, and I wish to say at the outset how much I appreciate the fact that you have elected me as your President. In this office I succeed to a long line of distinguished literary and learned men, and I feel that in choosing me, a rank outsider, for your President in this memorable year, you have done me an honour which is unique but undeserved. It is no easy task to construct a suitable Presidential Address under such conditions. My predecessors in office for the past three years have had rather an unfair advantage : they have all been able to refer to the fact that an important Government Committee was investigating the whole position of libraries and to claim in consequence, that, until the Report of the Committee was received, it was impossible to say much ; with this introduction they have then proceeded to review the situation with perfect freedom. But the Committee of Experts has now reported—the report is in your hands and what more can I say ? They have critically examined the whole field in all its bearings, have given a complete review, and have made certain very valuable recommendations. I shall try to bring out what I consider to be the three salient points of the Report and focus them more particularly in reference to the present situation in which we, as a Conference of Librarians, find ourselves to-day. To these three points I shall add a brief birthday greeting. To do this I am choosing as my title : “ A Jubilee : a Centre and a Free Swing.”

You will notice, at once, that whereas I have mentioned four points, I have only three headings ; but I think that you will readily admit that a proper appreciation of the term “ a Centre ” and a full conception of its relationship to a Free Swing must acknowledge the existence of a line which harmonizes the swing throughout its course and unites its extremity or outer edge with the central pivot. With this diagram before us, let us examine the problem of a National Library Service in the light of evidence of the Committee’s Report.

What do we mean when we speak of a National Library Service ? I venture to suggest that we do not mean a service controlled by a Government Department, but that our aim is for a service which forms part of the national life ; in other words, a service which touches every individual citizen and is appreciated and valued by all. One of the main features on

which the success of the Library Service depends is Freedom—freedom of the locality to develop its resources without dictation : freedom of the library in its construction and accessibility, and freedom of the individual to seek for what he desires. I give this as my own opinion, for what it is worth, but I am fortified in it by the conclusions of the Committee.

“Library Service,” they say, “should remain predominantly local in its character ; more can be effected by persuasion and the force of public opinion than by coercion.”

But while I emphasize the value of freedom to the library service, I want to remind you that, in my heading, with the idea of freedom I associated another idea. A swing implies a more or less definite course harmonized by rhythmic motion. You all know—probably most of you better than I do—the value of a free swing in the game of golf, and you can imagine, perhaps, its interest to the hangman, but I will not take my illustration from either of these pastimes, but from its value in the proper use of the scythe. In these days of modern inventions—mechanical reapers and binders and so forth—reaping by hand with the scythe is rapidly becoming a lost art, but so long as the weather remains one of the things which modern invention cannot control, occasion for the scythe will arise as it has this year. I have taken the simile of cutting with the scythe not only because a free swing is necessary to obtain good results, but because there are several other qualifications essential to success in scything which seem to me to have striking parallels in the construction and working of an efficient library service. A field is not reaped simply by the presence of a man and a scythe, even if the man is able bodied and the scythe is sharp. So, too, something more is required than a man and a room full of books to make an efficient library service.

As the blade of the scythe must be set to suit the one individual who is going to use it, so a library must be set to suit the individual taste of the reader. Nothing has done more to advance this ideal than the adoption of the free access system allowing each would-be borrower freedom to browse among the shelves before making his choice; and the reader's mind must be set or focussed, too, on some definite line if he would obtain a just return for his effort. In this, and in teaching the would-be reaper to cut his crop close to the ground without running the point of his scythe into the ground or,

in other words, helping the reader by sound advice as to choice of book to learn his subject thoroughly and avoid unnecessary rocks and pitfalls, we find the sphere of the librarian.

Much has been done in the years that have passed since public libraries were started : much is being accomplished along these lines to-day ; but a great deal more remains to be done :

- (1) In a fuller appreciation by every citizen of the value of books and reading in developing his own character and allowing him to think out problems for himself instead of accepting a mould of character and ideals shaped for him by others ;
- (2) In a larger effort on the part of municipal and other authorities to place facilities for reading within the reach of all ;
- (3) In a more ample and generous recognition of those who labour in the service as librarians as being members of a learned profession, men and women who can and do have a vast influence on the character and lives of those around them ; and
- (4) In return for this last in an even greater effort on the part of the profession to qualify themselves for their responsible task, and to form by friendly rivalry and by loyal co-operation a strong, live and ever-expanding service or brotherhood, welcoming everyone who is interested in the furtherance of their ideal, the building of good citizenship.

While I have emphasized the value of freedom to the building up of a National Library Service, I have no wish to minimize or overlook the importance of the centre.

We must all admire the courage and foresight of Dr. Mansbridge and those associated with him in founding the Central Library for Students. Established in 1914, mainly by the Workers' Educational Association to supply books to members of their Tutorial Classes, it had a stock of 1,392 volumes ; this stock had risen to 30,824 ten years later, and has now reached a much higher level, and, by the linking up with it of a number of Specialist Libraries under a scheme of " Outliers," its resources have been vastly increased.

The creation and growth of the Central Library for Students presents a most interesting study : it was created by a spontaneous effort of the

W.E.A. in conjunction with Toynbee Hall to meet a demand for information and instruction : it has grown in response to that demand : it has not advertised ; it has not sought to swamp, swallow or compete with other enterprises but has held as its ideal the supplying of wants as they are made known.

The problem of linking up this great central reservoir with all the various local resources throughout the country, and of preserving it from undue strain has been the subject of careful consideration by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust for many years. The ambition of the Trustees has been to build up a scheme whereby any individual readers or any circle or class of readers, whether resident in the Metropolis or in the remotest wilds of the Highlands and Islands could obtain on loan a copy (or in the case of a class—copies) of the work in which they were interested.

Most of you are conversant with the working of this scheme which has already attained a fair measure of success : the basis of it is to place the first responsibility of supply upon the locality, augmenting its resources by a system of close co-operation between neighbouring authorities, both Borough and County, and holding as a National Reserve the great central pool which is only to be drawn upon when local resources have failed to meet the demand.

Speaking as a Carnegie Trustee, it is very gratifying to my colleagues and myself to find that the Government Committee have thoroughly endorsed this scheme in their report ; but they take a further and very important step in recommending that the Central Library should receive National recognition, not as a Departmentally-controlled institution, but as a free agency, closely allied to and linked with that great Institution of world-wide reputation, the British Museum. Personally, I think that this recommendation is of the utmost importance, and I hope that it may receive careful and sympathetic consideration both from the trustees of the British Museum and from the Government. Not only is it valuable as securing national recognition for the centre of our service which would, I hope, benefit thereby by grants from the National Exchequer ; it would also, as the Committee say, give a position and prestige to the movement which no other form of recognition could do. This, then, in outline, is the picture of a National Library Service—a body or system composed of a number of free constituents (Borough, County, University), each linked to and co-operating with his

neighbour, and a great central pool equally accessible to all, and ready to respond in all cases where local resources cannot meet the demand.

In this picture I have tried to visualize an efficient National Library Service, but is it efficient? Probably all of you will remember that striking vision of Ezekiel where the prophet draws a picture of the dry and arid valley full of dry bones: how he was called upon by the Spirit to prophesy and how the bones came together and the sinews and flesh covered the bones; the bodies were complete, but there was no life in them; again he prophesied and the Spirit breathed life into those bodies and they stood upon their feet—a mighty army.

In the early part of my address, I said that in a full conception of the ideas of a Centre and a Free Swing was implied the line which harmonized the swing and joined the centre to the outer edge of the arc or circle; by that I mean the power which links the constituent libraries and committees to one another and unites them all with the National Centre. What is that power to be? Is it to be the chafing bondage of official control—or the sinews and flesh of mere acquiescence—or is it to be the vigorous life-blood pulsating from the heart, circulating through the whole system, a constant flow of vital energy and strength?

The answer to this question is all important in its influence on the development of a National Library Service and, indeed, of the Nation itself. If we allow any form of jealousy or suspicion to grow up between the different branches of the profession, even if that jealousy is born and bred from a proper pride in the efficiency of a particular department, we shall get nothing better than a welded chain of inactive sinews and flesh; but if we can put in the forefront the one great ideal of unity for the Nation's weal and for the health of the whole great service, we shall be able to rise upon our feet a mighty army. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Library Association can do this; let it be the mark of this fiftieth year.*

At the outset of my remarks, I mentioned that one of the important facts connected with our present gathering was that we were celebrating our Fiftieth Birthday: a birthday is always an important event in a family, but I am inclined to think that with the ordinary individual there is usually (may I say "certainly" with regard to the gentler sex) a decided lessening of

* Up to this point the address was broadcast.

interest in birthdays after the age of, say, twenty-five until round about eighty! But this, of course, does not hold in the case of an Association such as ours: the fiftieth year has no terrors or age limits for us, and we can and do regard it as a year of honour—a Jubilee, and I feel that you would not wish me to pass by the fact in silence.

In the first place I desire in your name to give a cordial greeting to our friends who have come across the seas from distant lands to join with us in our celebrations, and to assist us in our debates. We were delighted to see so many of them at our opening meeting this morning, and we are looking forward with keen interest to hearing them take part in our discussions. It is a difficult task to select names, when our welcome is equally warm to all, but I feel that I may, without being accused of invidious distinction, offer a greeting to Mr. Carl B. Roden, the President of the American Library Association, and its past President, Dr. Locke, of Toronto; Mr. Bowker, also a Past President of the American Library Association and a veteran in the movement; Monsieur Lemaitre, Honorary Librarian of the National Library, Paris; Prof. Dr. G. Fritz, Director of the Central Library in Berlin, and Prof. Dr. Hugo Krüss, Director General of the Prussian State Libraries; Prof. Van Kalken, of the University Library, Brussels; Dr. Tobolka, of the Czecho-Slovak Parliament Library; Dr. Hulsof, of the University Library, Utrecht; Dr. Fago, Librarian of the National Library in Rome; Dr. Munthe, of the State and University Libraries, Oslo; Dr. Collijn, Royal Library, Stockholm; Dr. H. H. B. Meyer, of the Library of Congress. I had hoped also to be able to offer a welcome to that veteran of the profession, Dr. Melvil Dewey, but I am sorry to report that the state of his health has prevented him at the last moment from undertaking the journey. Fifty years ago Dr. Dewey was present at and took an active part in the inauguration of the Library Association in London, and his anticipated presence amongst us to-day is a very striking proof of his constant and unswerving loyalty to the cause, which has been his lifelong interest, and is also a testimony to his perennial youth.

But while I welcome our visitors from overseas, I wish to say what a pleasure it is to me to see such a good gathering of "oor ain folk." We have with us the custodians of many of our National Libraries, headed by Sir Frederic Kenyon, Dr. Dickson and Mr. Ballinger, and in no formal or

perfunctory manner would I offer greeting to one who has given something like twenty years' valuable and devoted service to the Association as its Honorary Secretary—Mr. Frank Pacy.

It would be impossible within the limits of a Presidential Address to give an exhaustive list of those who have rendered outstanding service to the Library Association during the past fifty years, but I feel that the following must be mentioned :—

Mr. J. Winter Jones, the first President and Principal Officer of the British Museum.

Mr. Tedder, Librarian of the Athenæum, one of the first Joint Secretaries and later Treasurer till his death in 1924.

Mr. E. B. Nicholson, the other first Joint Secretary and Bodley's Librarian.

Sir John MacAlister, President 1915-17, many years Hon. Secretary of the Library Association.

Mr. John Ballinger, President 1922, National Library of Wales ; and

Mr. Falconer Madan, President 1914, Bodley's Librarian, and, like Dr. Melvil Dewey, one of the very few survivors of the first Conference fifty years ago.

To all of these and to the vast number whom they represent we record to-day our grateful thanks. So far I have spoken only of those within the profession, but the movement owes a great deal to outside influences. I have mentioned from another aspect the valuable work of the Workers' Educational Association in creating the demand which formed the Central Library for Students, and it is only right that we should acknowledge here the action of those who, having the means at their disposal, had the generosity, the statesmanship and foresight to invest those means in providing facilities for that unfortunately large proportion of the population who are unable to secure such facilities from their own resources. Coats, Passmore Edwards, Mrs. Rylands, Carnegie and Sir Alexander Grant occur to one's mind. As a Scot I am naturally proud of the part my countrymen have taken in this respect ; and there can be little doubt that the name of Andrew Carnegie must be recognized as surpassing all others in this respect. In my opening remarks I spoke of the honour you had done to me, an outsider, in electing me as your President for this year, and I can assure you that I appreciate the

honour none the less when I see in it a grateful recognition of the invaluable assistance given by Mr. Andrew Carnegie to the cause of libraries. I feel sure that I shall be interpreting your sentiments aright when I say that we value most highly the presence here to-day of one who was closely associated with him for years in all his work and who added to those generous acts of his a peculiar grace, charm and dignity. I refer to Mrs. Andrew Carnegie. It is through the hard work, loyalty, devotion and generosity of such men and women that the field has been cultivated, the seed sown and the harvest secured during the past fifty years. Great developments have taken place, but is there nothing left to do? Surely there can be no doubt as to the answer to this question? A cursory glance at our programme indicates the vastness of the problems which confront us and shows clearly how wide is the ambit of our influence.

I can remember very well a conference between the administrative staffs of two of the armies during the war just prior to the operations on Vimy Ridge.

We discussed all manner of problems—roads, railways, supply of food, ammunition and stone—and the conclusion of each discussion was identical: "It's all a matter of labour." Labour to make and repair railways and roads, labour to load and off-load trains and lorries, labour to make ammunition dumps and to deal with food supplies. Without transport facilities, without supplies of food and ammunition the armies could not move. So in our problems to-day we are beginning to realize more and more the value of education—by which I do not mean cramming a man or woman with statistics and information, but giving each and every individual a fair chance to cultivate those talents and abilities which are latent within him; in other words drawing out and expanding his sphere of active usefulness; and in this aspect of education, libraries and the profession of the librarian must figure largely.

I may perhaps mention one or two avenues which appear to me to be opening up and to be worthy of further exploration.

First, there is the work for boys and girls. Systematic work is being done here in the establishment of libraries for Boys and Girls Clubs, and the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust has embarked upon a scheme of grants to assist in the foundation of these libraries and to carry them over the first difficult years of their existence.

In this connection also it has been a great pleasure to me to note that in all the newest libraries, which I have been privileged to visit recently, provision has been made for the boys and girls by the setting aside of a room for their special use.

In these days of haste and bustle, of motor-cars, cinemas, and wireless, there is a great temptation to accept the summary or the obvious, and to avoid searching for oneself, and there is no better antidote to this superficiality than the cultivation of the habit of reading. Here is a chance for the librarian, and I am certain that the response to a wise and sympathetic leadership in this department will be very striking.

Another avenue down which much progress has been made recently is the development of the County Library. I have indicated in an earlier paragraph the place which the County Library has in the scheme of a National Service, but in many counties the service is still in its infancy and in few, if any, has it advanced beyond its teens. Wonderful progress has been made, and I say, without fear of contradiction, that we have in our County Librarians a body of men and women imbued with a keenness and enthusiasm which knows no bounds. But an immense work lies before them to make the service thoroughly understood and appreciated in every home. This is what we have to aim at: it is an ideal worth working for, and I feel sure it can be achieved.

A third important avenue of which the gates are just opening is the Commercial and the Technological Library—a post-War development of much importance. The fact that a number of our large City Libraries have been able, since the rate-limit was removed or raised, to set up comprehensive and continuously up-to-date collections of practical and immediate use to the industrial sections of the community means that the Public Library is becoming in a real sense the communal centre of theoretical and practical knowledge. We may, I think, commend with equal justice the enterprise of the County Libraries which are providing for the needs of those engaged on the land. Just as our Educationists are broadening their conception of systematic instruction, so our Public Libraries are seeking to meet every one of the legitimate needs of the reading community.

There are many others, but I have specified these three as being the most important and as giving clear and ample proof that the call

is forward and to action—not to cease fire, stand at ease, or even to mark time.

As an outsider I cannot, of course, be expected to understand or appreciate all the difficulties which have to be encountered, but it is a well-known saying that an outsider sees most of the game. So perhaps I may be permitted to say in a final survey that, while there are many encouraging signs of progress, it is disappointing to find that so many public and other libraries are not represented in the Association either as Institutions or through their librarians or Committee members, and, unfortunately, among those not represented there is to be found a large number of the smaller and more remote institutions for whom the stimulus of new ideas and fraternal association is particularly valuable.

In a comparison of the membership of the Library Association as it exists to-day with the membership as constituted in 1877, it is rather surprising to note that, whereas the actual numerical membership is greater, the interests represented are not so wide as they were in the early days of the Association.

I rejoice to be able to record that within the past few months a large proportion of the County Librarians have become members and to mention the graceful act of the Association in recognizing this new group by allotting them two seats on the Council. I cannot think, however, that it makes for the good of the movement that side by side with the Chartered Body there should exist in water-tight compartments, organizations of Assistant Librarians, Special Librarians and University Librarians. Each of these bodies knows that my colleagues and I on the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, who I may claim have studied the problem more intimately than any other body in the Kingdom, are far from being unsympathetic to their aims and objects. But I state with confidence that it would be far more satisfactory to us if we could assist in bringing them all together into one united whole—a reconstituted Association or Federation embodying all sections of librarians—with a common headquarters and a single representative Council.

It is to be hoped that in the near future the Government will take action on the lines of the report and recommendations of the Departmental Committee, and in such an event it would be of the utmost importance that all sections of the library world should present a united front ; for demands,

criticisms and recommendations so marshalled would have far more effect than if submitted sectionally and with no concerted ideas.

I venture, therefore, to ask you, in conclusion, to look at this year not so much as a Fiftieth Anniversary but as a real Jubilee, a year of freedom and goodwill, a year when, without forcing our individual taste or preference, we shall hold out freely and willingly a hand of welcome to our brothers in arms and stand upon our feet a mighty army.

Mr. FALCONER MADAN, in the absence of Dr. Melvil Dewey, proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his address. He said that although the President was a member of the Royal Company of Archers, nevertheless he had not drawn the long bow. (Laughter). He had put his points without exaggeration. He had put them with force and also with moderation. Contrasting the address with the presidential address of fifty years ago, he said the then President dwelt less on retrospect than on aspect and prospect, but the present President had a much more interesting half-century to look back upon and think over.

There then followed a lantern lecture by Mr. CARL H. MILAM (Secretary, American Library Association) entitled "Some Features of American Library Service."

SOME FEATURES OF AMERICAN PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

By CARL H. MILAM, *Secretary of the American Library Association.*

WITHIN the boundaries of the United States and Canada there are many variations in population and living conditions. In New York City there are 20,000 people to one square mile, but in the North-west Territories of Canada each person has a theoretical allotment of 157 square miles of land and six square miles of water.

There is one province in Canada, as you know, where the majority of the population are French. In the Southern part of the United States there are two states in which the negroes outnumber the whites, and several others where negroes are numbered by the hundreds of thousands.

In some states nearly one-third of the population is foreign born. In Massachusetts ninety-five per cent of the people live in cities and incorporated villages ; in North Dakota, eighty-six per cent live on farms.

In the light of these facts you will not be surprised to learn that there is a considerable variation in the amount and quality of library service rendered in the several states and provinces of the United States and Canada.

Most of our large cities have public libraries ; some very good, some far from satisfactory ; but many of our small cities and towns, and most of our rural population are still without libraries. Massachusetts, Rhode Island and the Territory of Hawaii, are completely covered by library service ; but there are states and provinces in which sixty, seventy and eighty per cent of the people do not have access to any public library.

Detroit, a city of more than 1,000,000 inhabitants, may be taken as a representative of those communities which have excellent library service.

It has a great library building considered by many as one of the most beautiful library buildings in America. It has a down-town annex and twenty-one branches. Most of these branches are in buildings erected for library purposes.

There are nineteen sub-branches, ninety-two school deposit stations, a branch in the Institute of Fine Arts, comprising not only books, but photographs and slides ; another in a sanitorium, and a Department of Medical Science in the Detroit College of Medicine.

The heart of the library is the great Delivery Room on the second floor. On the same floor are an open shelf room, a fine arts room, the general reference and reading room, the civics room, and the music and drama room. On the floor above are the Technology Department, for both circulation and reference, and the Burton Historical collection, given and endowed by Clarence Monroe Burton, who devoted a lifetime to the collection of original sources of the history of the city, the state and the north-west territory. On the ground floor are two public rooms, the Newspaper and Periodical Room and the Children's Reading Room.

There is a Division for the Blind, and a foreign language division which circulates 100,000 volumes a year in German, Polish, Yiddish, Arabic, Armenian, Finnish, French, Bohemian, Spanish and the Scandinavian languages.

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There is also a Business and Commerce Division in the Down-town Annex.

The Detroit Public Library was one of the first to put readers' advisers on its staff, and it has recently added an Educational Director of Reading, who gives personal advice to readers in the library and is available to clubs and societies for talks about books and reading.

For several years the library, with funds appropriated by the county, has been making books available to the people in the county outside the city.

The Detroit Public Library has a staff of 250 people ; 132 of them are graduates of colleges ; 116 are graduates of library schools ; 93 came into library work through the Detroit Training Class ; 53 are specialists in library work with children.

These detailed facts mean little in themselves. Large and beautiful buildings, a multiplication of departments, annual expenditures of more than a million dollars, might all be simply an evidence of American extravagance if it were not for the spirit which animates all the machinery of buildings, libraries and personnel.

Detroit is an industrial and commercial city. It would have occasioned no surprise if, in its desire for more factories, more automobiles per minute, more buildings in which to house its ever increasing population, it had forgotten its public library.

The excellence of its present library organization and plant is evidence that the library has been able to maintain its poise in spite of the distractions of prosperity and rapid growth ; also that the library has successfully joined with the other cultural agencies in helping the city itself to keep its head.

Set over against this, the state of New Mexico, in the south-western part of our country. Its area is one and one-half times that of England and Scotland, but its population is 40,000 less than that of Edinburgh. It has only four cities of more than 5,000 population, the largest of which is Albuquerque which has 15,000. It has thirty-one counties, one of which is half as big as Scotland.

It has thousands of square miles of rocky mountains ; other thousands of miles of desert plains. And there are many fertile valleys. In some country districts Spanish is more often spoken than English. A few

counties are almost 100 per cent Spanish in population. Laws are published in both Spanish and English.

Navajo and Apache Indians occupy large Government reservations. The Pueblos continue their centuries-old communal civilization.

In New Mexico you will find remains of the old feudal system established by Spain before New England was settled by the Pilgrims, side by side with progressive farmers from the Plains states. Although there are 1,000 acres for each family, several thousands of people live crowded together in old Pueblo villages. Elsewhere in the state there are typically American villages.

There are twenty-five public libraries in New Mexico, all very small, four of which are rendering county service under contract. One of the largest public libraries is that of Albuquerque with its attractive Spanish building. But the figure twenty-five includes others not worthy to be called public libraries. They are mere shelves of books brought together by a woman's club in somebody's home, and made available to the people free of charge perhaps one afternoon each week. Seven counties and nearly three-fourths of the people are without even this kind of library.

The following paragraph from a report of a Social Survey of Taos County* indicates the lack of books :—

None of the public schools in Taos County have libraries. Aside from the books on the teacher's desk, there is not a book available to school children in the whole county. There are no town libraries, and it is possible to travel the whole day in some districts, visiting every house en route, and not find any book of any description other than a mail-order catalogue or an occasional Spanish prayer book.

A year ago, at a meeting of the State Teachers' Association, five New Mexico librarians organized the New Mexico Library Association. And when two or three librarians of America are gathered together they talk not of books, but of publicity—as your representatives to America sometimes report. This new association made immediate plans for state-wide publicity for libraries. Letters were sent to all English newspapers—many newspapers are published in Spanish—and they were followed twice each month with news notes and short articles about books and libraries.

*MS. by Mary Austin, quoted: Park & Miller, "Old world traits transplanted."

Last spring the new association arranged a series of speaking engagements for the head of the A.L.A. Extension Department as a means of arousing further interest in library establishment.

The A.L.A. field worker went first to Roswell, where she spoke at a luncheon attended by the mayor, and later at a woman's club meeting. The next day she was at Gallup, three or four hundred miles north-west, where she spoke at a district meeting of the Federation of Women's Clubs, at a reception in the new library and at the moving picture theatre.

The next stop was at Albuquerque and the final one at Santa Fe where she attended the meeting of the State Library Association, made more speeches and held further conferences.

The librarian's duty as conceived by New Mexico librarians is twofold ; first, there is the task of building up the little library over which the librarian presides, and of extending its service to a larger territory and a larger number of people ; second, and equally important, is the task of giving aid and encouragement in the establishment of libraries where none now exist.

Detroit represents an advanced stage of library development ; New Mexico, a new state with undeveloped resources and small population, represents the beginnings. All communities having good libraries have gone through the early stages. It is not many years since New York City (meaning Manhattan and the Bronx) had several unco-ordinated libraries. Under Dr. Billings they were combined in one great system. Under the present director the library has developed its activities until now it is one of our best examples of the modern library, concerned not only with the extension of its popular service into each corner of the city, but also with the advancement of scholarship, through the provision of great reference collections and skilled librarians.

The Cleveland Public Library, whose central building has seemed to some of your visitors extravagantly rich, has gone through many years of growth. For a long time it was housed in an old school building ; then for several more years it occupied two floors in a commercial building. As a result of the excellence and the extent of its work under handicaps, the money for the new building was voted by the people of Cleveland by a great majority in the worst period of depression following the War.

From what I have said thus far, you will understand that one characteristic of American library service is its variety. Another characteristic, illustrated by the work of the New Mexico pioneers, is the enthusiasm among librarians for the establishment of libraries where they are needed.

The American public library, at its best, is an *active* agency for education and enlightenment. It aims to increase intelligence, stimulate thought and provoke discussion. It concerns itself not only with books but with the intellectual aspirations of all the people within its area. Above all it attempts to make books *useful* to every individual who is interested or can be interested in what the library has to offer. Some features of library work which grow out of this ideal are: Library work with children, school library service, hospital libraries, work with the foreign born, and adult education.

In speaking of these activities as typical features of American library practice, I am simply stating what I conceive to be a fact, and do not mean to imply that America has a monopoly on the work described or on the ideal back of that work.

Library work with children received attention early in the library movement in America. In 1876 William I. Fletcher* condemned the common practice of excluding children under twelve or fourteen years of age, and urged librarians to bring their influence to bear on the young as early as possible. He took the precaution to add "that they should receive from the library that which will do them good."

Since that statement was made, we have passed the stage of argument. Practically every public library in America has special rooms for children. Occasionally whole buildings are devoted to the children, as in the use of the famous Boys' and Girls' House at Toronto and the Brownsville Branch in Brooklyn.

Children's rooms are equipped with tables and chairs to fit the varying sizes of young readers. Many have open fireplaces with comfortable seats, beautiful mural decorations and beautiful pictures. Books are carefully selected. The assistants are specially trained. Five library schools offer a full year's work for prospective children's librarians. The number of books circulated from the children's departments often equals or exceeds

* Public Libraries in the United States—U.S. Bureau of Education, 1876.

the number issued by the adult departments. In many small libraries the work with children probably exceeds in importance the work with the adults.

The children's department publishes and distributes lists for children, parents and teachers. It conducts story hours in the library, in the school and on the playground. One library has a puppet stage ; a good many organize reading and debating clubs.

Other methods of influencing reading include temporary and permanent displays of books in attractive editions and with beautiful illustrations ; personal attention to the children in the library ; posters and exhibits at the library and in the school ; talks to school children, parents and teachers. Most libraries take an active part in the observance of Children's Book Week, and arrange special exhibits and lists for distribution, just preceding the Christmas season. The object of it all is to develop the habit and the enjoyment of reading.

The increase in number and importance of secondary schools in America in the past decade is of outstanding importance. Large and splendidly equipped school buildings are being erected everywhere. With that growth in schools has come a modest but important growth in school libraries. For many years librarians had urged and encouraged such development, but without making a conspicuous impression on the public school educators. This attitude has changed. Now nearly every state has some sort of school library law. Four states require the employment of professional librarians in large high schools. Cities and states are appointing school library supervisors. All sorts of administrative methods are being tried out. Sometimes school library service is under the school authorities, sometimes under the library board, and, not infrequently, under joint control. The training of pupils in the use of books is being given by children's librarians or special assistants on the public library staff, or by school librarians. Numerous experiments are being made in the guidance of reading. The platoon school has come into existence, with definite provision for the library in its program. More schools each year are including libraries as an essential part of the equipment. Many have made provision for professionally trained librarians and assistants.

The hospital library movement in America received great impetus after the War, when the A.L.A. established hospital libraries for the wounded

soldiers and sailors. Those libraries have been taken over by the Federal Government and are being maintained in the Veteran's Bureau Hospitals with excellent book collections and professional librarians. The libraries are for both patients and professional staff.

How this service appeals to a war veteran in one of the Veteran's Bureau Hospitals may be seen from the following paragraphs taken from a recent letter :—

One sees one man here in the ward knitting, says this writer, and another over there tooling leather, but at one time or another during the day he sees every man reading. It is universal. With reading life is bearable even if one faces . . . another year in bed. Without reading it would become unbearable in one week.

Personally, I have taken advantage of the past year and a half in reading not only contemporary novels, essays and biographies, but in going back into the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to catch up in reading which I have always meant to do since my school and college days. . . .

By all means, reading is as essential to the cure as rest, good food, fresh air and sunshine. Yes, even more so, for it contributes to the well-being of one's mind which the others do not always do.

Read and get well might be adopted as the slogan of the library association.

Public libraries are also engaged in this interesting type of service, maintaining branches in hospitals, or sending assistants to the hospitals at frequent intervals. They go with their rubber tired carts down the corridors and into the rooms, where the patient may select the book he wants.

A particularly American problem is that of assimilating into our own type of civilization the 14,000,000 people who have come to us from other countries. You might walk the streets of certain sections of some of our cities for hours and hear no English spoken except by the children. Foreign language newspapers fill the stands ; foreign foods fill the shop windows. From the people you see and hear, you might think you were in a foreign country.

To a large extent the foreigners live in little colonies to themselves ; frequently, in the most crowded sections of the city. They have their own

parochial schools, their own newspapers, their own lodges, societies and clubs.

To acquaint these people with our standards of living, to instill in them our ideals of government, and to help them keep the best of their native culture and the ideals of democracy which brought them to America is no small task. It is a task to which much thought and effort have been given by all of our civic and educational agencies, including the public library.

The librarian of a new branch library in a section largely foreign would probably devote herself first to work with the children. They can read the simple English of children's books and they come to the library freely. Occasionally one brings a father or mother and the librarian, especially if she can speak the foreign language of its parent, has an opportunity to show her friendliness. The next step is to visit the parochial schools.

Having thus made a few acquaintances she will be ready to seek advice of the priests, the teachers, the editor of the newspaper, and other leaders in the selection of books in the foreign language. Such an opportunity to help appeals to the pride of the newcomers and makes them feel their responsibility as partners in the enterprise.

One branch library has a collection of Czech books, which would do credit to any small city in Czecho-Slovakia. Another library in a city of less than 100,000 population has collections in sixteen foreign languages, from Bohemian and Croatian to Swedish and Yiddish.

The presence of books in his native tongue and the "atmosphere" of the library tend to make the foreigner feel at ease. He may come and go as he likes, read what and when he pleases. The library trusts him and his children. He, in turn, has great confidence in the librarian and often calls upon her for advice, not only about books, but about minor legal questions, American customs and even the care of his children.

And he comes to the library both singly and with others, for the library becomes the meeting place for many gatherings and perhaps provides the class room where the English language is learned.

The new urge for adult education has not left the libraries of America cold. Conscious that the American library movement was begun by people who believed that the public library could become a powerful agency for

popular education, it has seemed natural for us to assume that libraries could take an important place in the new adult education movement.

We believe with Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher that "most forms of adult education so far devised are variations of the attempt to get the right set of textbooks into the hands of grown people, and supply enough good teachers to make sure that the textbooks are used."

Obviously the public library's first task is to make books available to those adults who are engaged in study—not textbooks, but the books which are needed for reference and for outside reading.

In every city of consequence in America there are adult evening schools, continuation schools, Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. classes, lecture courses, workers' classes, university extension classes and study clubs without number. In one city of half a million there are 50,000 students enrolled in these organizations. Librarians know that many of them are without library facilities, having no books other than textbooks—and that many students and teachers do not use the public library. All libraries are open to such persons, and most libraries will gladly purchase books to meet their needs. Some of the more aggressive libraries send staff visitors to the classes "to make the public library so real to adult students," as the Cleveland report expresses it, "that they will acquire the library habit and continue using the public library wherever they may be." Not infrequently collections of library books are placed on deposit in the class or lecture room.

Many such classes meet in the library lecture rooms regularly or are brought occasionally to the library so that they may become acquainted with what it has to offer.

In several cities the essential facts about the opportunities for adult education available to the people are assembled at the library. And the library becomes a bureau of information for those who are seeking such opportunities.

But the most distinctive contribution of American librarians to adult education may prove to be that of the readers' advisers. This title is given to library assistants who make it their chief business to aid ambitious readers in the preparation of courses of reading on any subject. The readers who seek the help of the advisers are of many kinds; older boys and girls out of school; men and women who have had little education and recognize

the need for more ; young men in business, with good prospects, conscious that they must develop themselves to keep up with their responsibilities ; university graduates who want to continue their education. The first call which came to a readers' adviser one morning was for a course of reading in American literature—from a Negro working girl who had had only six years in school. The second was also for a course in American literature, but this time from a man who had taken his doctor's degree in a university.

Obviously, no one person is competent to prepare reading courses on all subjects. The wise Readers' Adviser draws upon the resources of the library in printed form, including the reading courses which are being published by the A.L.A. for this purpose. He draws also upon the members of the library staff, many of whom are specialists in some degree on some subject. And not infrequently he calls in high school teachers, college professors and other specialists when the occasion requires it.

The library has no intention of usurping the place of the school or the teacher. It aims simply to provide such guidance as may be needed by the man who wishes to educate himself through consecutive reading.

The imperfections of American libraries are many. Many of the features of which we are most proud are far from universal.

And this is an inadequate picture of the work of American libraries ; for I have not even mentioned our great reference libraries, our college and university libraries, or our special libraries, all of which are animated by that desire to make books useful which we like to think is the dominating influence of the public libraries.

We are working, as you are, for the development of a library service which will make good books available to everyone who wishes to read, which will make a definite contribution toward enlightening recreation, popular education and sound scholarship. Some day in the not-too-distant future we hope that every family, no matter how far removed from the centres of population, will be within easy reach at least of a little library deposit station, that books will get to that station frequently, regardless of distance or weather, that there will be a branch library in every town and village, a central library in the county seat and a state library at the state capital, which will supplement the county and city libraries. We already have at the top our magnificent Library of Congress, one of the great libraries

of the world, made greater still because of its generous service to the other libraries of America.

M. HENRI LEMAÎTRE (Paris), proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Milam, said that he had shown to what a pitch of perfection the American Libraries had been brought, not only in the important cities but also in the more thinly populated districts. Mr. Milam had shown to them the many activities of the American Association, but he had carefully left untold the part he himself had taken in those achievements since 1920, when he became Secretary of the American Library Association. (Applause.)

WEDNESDAY

DEBATE ON THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES REPORT

The most important business before the Conference was the consideration of the Report of the Departmental Committee on Libraries, published in the previous July.* The Chairman of that Committee, Sir Frederic Kenyon, G.B.E., K.C.B. (Principal Librarian of the British Museum) gave a resumé of the Report. The President was in the chair.

Sir FREDERIC KENYON said they were there to hear what the librarians of the United Kingdom and the guests from overseas had to say about the report—whether they agreed with its main conclusions, and whether they wished to put the weight of the Library Association behind it. If they did so, it seemed to follow naturally that steps would be taken to urge upon the Government, the library authorities throughout England and Wales, and the other parties concerned, their desire that the necessary action should be taken by each of them to translate into fact the main recommendations of the report.

The first object of the report was to establish the public library service as a national service and to emphasize its national importance. His interest in the whole matter lay in his conviction—a strong, almost a passionate conviction—that what this country wanted was more knowledge, more thought, and more intellectual interests. Since books were the principal means of spreading knowledge and thought, he believed that public libraries were one of the principal agencies by which this great service could be rendered to the nation. Therefore he hoped to see the public library service recognized as a service of the first national importance, serving national aims, promoting national welfare, and entitled to the enlightened encouragement and support of the nation. To this end the report recommended that the efforts of the localities, hitherto more or less isolated and independent, should be linked up by spontaneous co-operation to form a national system, a system in which libraries would no longer have their horizons bounded by the limits of their rateable areas, but each library would be willing to associate itself with other libraries above or below it in the scale of importance, with a view to mutual assistance and support. Side by side with the local groups there would, he hoped, be a great organization of the special libraries which embodied the resources of the country in technical knowledge of all sorts, and which were now being linked together with a view to a general pooling of their resources by the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux and the Association of University Teachers. And in the centre of the whole organization, holding it all together, supporting it in all its branches, supplying information and advice wherever needed, they contemplated a Central Library, based upon the existing Central Library for Students, but converted into a national institution with larger resources, linked for its greater prestige and for the help to be derived from its bibliographical information and experience with the great national library in the

* *Public Libraries Committee: Report on Public Libraries in England and Wales* (Cmd. 2868), 1927. (H.M. Stationery Office, price 6s. net.)

British Museum. The second principle of the report, of no less importance, was that this system was to be brought about by voluntary co-operation of autonomous units. The spirit of the library service was the spirit of liberty. It had grown up by individual initiative and local support, and they did not wish to sacrifice one particle of that spirit of local independence and of local responsibility. They wanted each municipality, each parish, each county to take pride in the advance of its own library, or to take shame if, through any fault of its own, the library was backward, and less efficient than those of its neighbours. Initiative, enthusiasm, variety, were more valuable than mechanical organization under official control. They were dealing with things of the mind, and the mind must be free. What they were asking for was not so much a change in method as a change in spirit and in outlook. They wanted localities to be locally autonomous, but to think nationally. They wanted each library, whether it were large or small, to regard itself as part of a national service which would do its best to put the best literature and the fullest information at the service of the whole population. The thought of each librarian and of each library authority should be not how much he was bound to do, but what was the utmost that he could do to promote the increase of knowledge and the encouragement of the things of the mind which were of vital importance to the welfare of the nation. If that was the ideal which animated the service the details would arrange themselves. Librarians and committees would try their own experiments, would pool their results, and would be ready to learn from one another. Only let them get free of the spirit of parochialism, of suspicion, of exclusiveness, of jealousy. It was only those who were not sure of themselves who were always wanting to stand on their dignity. Now, if they accepted this ideal of a national system, locally administered, and accepted also the estimate of its importance, two consequences seemed to follow. It was incumbent on the nation, both through the central government and through the local administrative, to enable the service to discharge its functions up to this higher standard, and it was incumbent on the personnel of the service to qualify themselves and to continue qualifying themselves in even greater measure to give the nation what it needed.

The demands made on the Central Government in the report were not great; a grant to the Central Library, an enlarged grant to the Science Library—which the Government already maintained—and certain legislation to consolidate library law and remove certain impediments. Of the municipalities and other library authorities they asked collectively a fuller recognition of the importance of the library service—in some cases an ampler financial provision for it—and an improved status and scale of remuneration for the library staff. In many cases they knew the appeal was not necessary, and that the authorities were doing all they could within the limitation of their means. With regard to the staffs, he was sure they would gladly rise to any opportunity which the country might give them of increasing their service to the community. After all, the public library service had grown to be what it was much less from any demand of the public than from the devoted labours of the men and women who had shown them what the library could do for them. If the report brought about the organization of the public library as a national institution, and their recognition as a national service of the first importance, it would have achieved the result which the committee had at heart in preparing it, and the fiftieth birthday of the Association would mark a definite advance of the library service to a higher place in the educational equipment of the country.

Before the subject was thrown open to discussion, the President took the opinion of the Conference, whether the debate should be confined to the general lines of the report, and it was ultimately decided to take the report chapter by chapter.

Mr. G. M. FRASER (Aberdeen) said that to most of those who were carrying on library work in Scotland, it came as a great disappointment to find that the inquiry of the Departmental Committee was to be confined to England and Wales. He would like to urge the right of a public library committee to enter into an arrangement with a rural library authority, because he thought it had a most important bearing on the rural library scheme in which they were all so much interested. He suggested that they should be at liberty to utilize the large mass of books in the urban libraries of the country.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that that question was dealt with in paragraph 26 on page 207 of the Report.

Mr. FRASER replied that the question was there dealt with from the county side. His point was that in Scotland the city library authority could not operate outside the municipal area. He thought they should urge that the Departmental Committee should take into consideration the extension of the right of burghs to enter into arrangements with the county authorities.

Mr. L. S. JAST (Manchester) said he would be very sorry for the whole library service if the idea was to get abroad that it was to be primarily a learned service, in other words, that they should look in the near future for the main staffing of the libraries from graduates of the Universities. He agreed as to the general raising of the standard, but he thought the committee had put it too strongly, and anyone reading the recommendation, especially University men, would take it that the committee really wanted the libraries to be staffed mainly from the Universities. He thought that would be a very bad thing for the libraries.

Mr. ERNEST A. SAVAGE (Edinburgh) asked if it would be in order to move a resolution against the figures in paragraph 13 (Chapter II) being taken as standard. It was there said that, if less than 22 per cent of the expenditure of a library was devoted to books and binding, the library was in so bad a way that the Committee should inquire into the cause. With that point of view he wholly agreed; but it was also stated that if a Committee was spending more than 22 per cent on books and binding they were equally at fault.

Sir FREDERIC KENYON said that inquiry was not necessarily condemnation. If there was a large variation in expenditure it might be worth while to examine the reasons, which might be good or might be bad.

Chapter II was then approved.

With regard to Chapter III the CHAIRMAN stated that there had been a discussion on the County Library system on Tuesday, and that it would be resumed on Thursday afternoon.

Chapter III was then approved.

Chapter IV (Special Libraries) was approved.

Chapter V (an Organized National Service) was approved.

Mr. ERNEST A. SAVAGE (Edinburgh) said he hoped the Conference would consider very carefully the whole bearing of the recommendation with regard to a central cataloguing agency. He had several objections to the creation of such a body. They might gain a little financially—there probably was some economy in the proposal—but there was at the same time a very great loss indeed. And that

was a loss in the education of their staffs. The finest preparation for the work of a librarian was the work which he did in the classifying and the cataloguing rooms, and, if this scheme grew, it would mean that in the smaller public libraries of this country that work would entirely cease. He could not contemplate such a future with any peace of mind. Then, again, with regard to the card catalogue, he thought that the adoption of the card catalogue system was open to many objections. It would take up much space in the libraries and, if they confined themselves to it, they would impose on the public libraries of the country an incubus far greater than the old indicator system.

Mr. TAPLEY-SOPER (Exeter) said he entirely disagreed with Mr. Savage. He thought it was a wasteful system that several hundreds of librarians should, at different periods during the year, be engaged in cataloguing the same books. It seemed to him that some system such as was indicated in the Report was bound to lead to uniformity and a saving of time and money. Personally he would have been glad to see a recommendation for the establishment of a central body for the administration of the whole of the libraries of the country. There should be a Ministry of Libraries. Perhaps he ought not to mention London, but it seemed to him that in London there should be some form of centralization; and that the sooner that came about the better it would be for London.

Mr. W. R. B. PRIDEAUX (Reform Club, London) said that, on the question of cataloguing, a great ideal had been put before them, but it seemed to him that there were several difficulties to be faced before any such scheme could be made really successful. The first of these was, he thought, contained in the assumption underlying the scheme that, in future, all catalogues were to be card-catalogues. That was a false assumption, in England at any rate. In America it was different, but there, judging by the American manuals, principles of cataloguing were no longer discussed by librarians; all discussion was left to the Library of Congress. Even so, he thought the tide was setting against the card-index system. That, however, was no objection to card-printing. If they were to have a card issue, they should also have an issue available for other forms of catalogue. Another difficulty was the question of the system of cataloguing to be adopted. If the British Museum were to undertake the work of cataloguing, he presumed they would wish to use the system used in the British Museum. And yet, although no one had a greater respect than he had for the wonderful cataloguing rules of the British Museum, drawn up in the middle of last century, he thought they were in some respects out of date. The question of codes was one of distinct difficulty. There was one further difficulty which concerned speed of issue. If central printing were to be a success the issue of the cards would have to be speedy. By mentioning difficulties, he did not wish to appear to be against central printing; co-operation would be a gain all round. But, as he said, these difficulties did exist and had to be faced.

Mr. L. STANLEY JAST (Manchester) said he wished to remove two bogeys raised by Mr. Savage. First of all, Mr. Savage had said that a central cataloguing agency would take away from their staffs the educational value of the cataloguing of books. Was there any public library in the country which issued all the special reading lists and did all the bibliographical work for its readers which it wanted to do. There were whole fields of effective library work open to public libraries, if the staffs, now employed in cataloguing current works, were relieved for other duties, including other cataloguing work. They would have opportunities of

doing an enormous amount of bibliographical work to provide for their own local needs. It would be one of the finest things from the point of view of the education of their staffs, if they could be relieved from the card cataloguing of their current accessions. Secondly, it did not at present seem likely that any of their public libraries would grow so large, that the question of the book card catalogue would have to be dealt with in this country during the next century. On that consideration alone they need not bother about it. The over-bulky condition of the American catalogues was due, to a considerable extent, to the unfortunate adherence of American libraries, in the main, to an effete dictionary catalogue. If they adopted a classified card catalogue they would materially relieve the congestion of their cabinets. The dictionary catalogue was the most wasteful form of cataloguing ever invented.

Mr. SEPTIMUS A. PITT (Glasgow) said he did not think there was one library in Scotland, England or Wales, perhaps one might even say in America, where everybody was quite satisfied with the cataloguing arrangements. To leave things as they were in Britain was not only wilful waste, but it was an extravagance they could not afford. If they were to co-operate effectively in any branch of library work, the cataloguing of their stocks was surely one of the most important. Co-operation in cataloguing would save money, and it would provide the large libraries with up-to-date catalogues—a very serious matter. It was important that they should have, as early as possible after the publication of new books, first-class catalogue cards available, which could be destroyed when they had served their turn and could be replaced by printed records. The smaller libraries could not afford printed catalogues, and their card catalogues, owing to lack of staff and money, were very indifferently done. Were they to continue under those conditions for a fetish, or were they so satisfied with present conditions that they wished to go on in the same way? A great responsibility rested upon them to improve those conditions for the benefit of the public as well as the staffs.

Mr. A. J. K. ESDAILE (British Museum) thought the variations in catalogue rules were no great obstacle; these variations mostly concerned periodicals, anonyma, etc., whereas the great bulk of the titles required by libraries would be for ordinary books by stated authors, and neither the British Museum catalogue nor any other catalogue entered a book by an author under anything except that author. As to the delay in issuing cards, one unavoidable cause was that, under the existing Copyright Act, publishers were allowed a month's grace before they need send a book at all. Many of the larger publishers sent in their books pretty close to the date of publication; others took the month, and many took longer and had to be chased. That could only be put an end to by Act of Parliament, and would have to be added to the Committee's recommendations. The question had been raised whether the Museum would be able to print in card form and at the same time use the printing for its own catalogue; he thought it would be quite possible, technically, to use the same setting up of type for the two printings. In no circumstances that he could conceive would the Museum abandon its volume catalogue for cards; there would be a riot among the research workers who used the Museum library.

Miss R. MACKENZIE (Leicestershire) said that she had been trained in the United States, and had used the Congress cards. She thought that most of the difficulties which had been raised were non-existent. The Congress card system, owing to the various adjustments that had to be made in each library in such matters

as special additions, classifications, etc., gave all the practice in cataloguing that was necessary.

Mr. E. A. MARTIN (Croydon) said that there would have to be a change of heart and outlook if the various recommendations of the Departmental Committee were to be carried out, and he did not think they would see that change of outlook in their generation. There was much opposition from library committees to be overcome before they would get co-operation between rich and poor libraries. It was desirable that librarians should get more members of library committees to come to their conferences, for they must remember that librarians and members of committees were responsible to the rate-payers, and that rate-payers had a good deal to say as to how their money should be spent. Librarians could bring forward very good schemes before library committees, but these committees had many members who were not keen on libraries at all. Many of them were put on committees to oppose the work of the libraries.

Dr. H. H. B. MEYER (Library of Congress, Washington) said there had been a number of opinions, some of them not quite correct, expressed concerning the Library of Congress cards and their use. Most American librarians admitted that they had not used the same intelligence in arranging these cards as had been used at the Library of Congress in preparing them. The suggestion had been made that American libraries were proposing to print their card catalogues. The proposal, however, as put forth at the Library of Congress, was to print certain subjects, and in that way to relieve the card catalogue of a burden. Reference had been made to the little Manual of Instruction of card distribution. That was not a compendium of cataloguing rules, but a book of instruction telling users of the Library of Congress cards how to order them and making suggestions as to how they could be used. The cataloguing rules in use were still those formulated by the L.A.U.K. and the A.L.A. with some modifications that experience had prompted.

Mr. J. A. CHARLTON DEAS (Sunderland) said he regretted that it had not been possible to arrange with H.M. Stationery Office to publish a summary of the Report. Much labour had been spent on its preparation, but he very much doubted whether it had reached the general public, for whom it was originally intended. He feared that it had been read, in the main, only by members of the Library Association. He suggested that the Library Association should publish a summary, particularly of the pages with which they had dealt that morning. He felt that, unless this were done, the Report would not reach the committees, and so would remain ineffective.

Sir FREDERIC KENYON, replying to some of the points raised, said he was very much obliged to Mr. Savage for having called attention to Recommendation No. 347. It was one of the points on which it was most necessary to get the opinion of the library profession. He could not say that the British Museum was anxious to undertake the duty of supplying the cards, but if it was for the advantage of the library service of the country then, he would imagine, it would be felt that it was the Museum's duty to undertake it. It would, however, be very helpful to get even a rough indication of the present state of feeling among the librarians of the country whether they would support a system of central cataloguing. As for the system of card cataloguing he would deliver no judgments; he certainly preferred, for any large library, the present volume catalogue in use in the Museum. It would be possible for the British Museum to continue their own catalogue and to supply catalogue entries, either in the form of accession lists or cards to those

libraries which desired them. He would, therefore, like to ask for an indication of the feeling of the meeting on the question, whether a central cataloguing agency was desirable or not.

Mr. JAST asked if it would not be better to send a questionnaire to the public libraries. By doing that, they would get careful and considered replies from those who mattered.

Sir FREDERIC KENYON said he did not want to press the question, but the answers received to the original questionnaire were not satisfactory and he was loth to send out another. They wanted to know the opinion of the librarians in the light of the arguments they had heard; and, in making that suggestion, he had assumed that those who were present were, for the most part, librarians who knew what was meant by central cataloguing, and whose opinions were expert opinions and worth attending to.

A show of hands was then taken on the question of a central cataloguing agency. A large majority were in favour of its establishment.

Mr. R. R. BOWKER (Brooklyn, Editor of the *Library Journal*), being invited to speak, said that, from his experience, the printed card was indispensable for the small library, and that, for the larger library, one objection against its use was answered by the fact that Dr. Hall had a catalogue department which employed eighteen assistants in direct cataloguing work. Although the time before the Library of Congress prepared the titles was still considerable—a disadvantage which they were endeavouring to overcome—they could not do without centrally prepared general catalogue cards without very great disadvantage to libraries, both large and small.

Chapters VI (Adult Education), VII (Library Law), and VIII (Miscellaneous) were approved.

Councillor F. B. SIMPSON (Leeds) spoke of the need for an agreement whereby some concession could be allowed to libraries or groups of libraries making purchases of books exceeding some fixed amount in the year. He hoped that members of other authorities would insist, so far as they could, on putting forward some system of co-operation that would enable them to secure allowances in spite of the opposition of the booksellers and the publishers.

Mr. W. E. DOUBLEDAY (Hampstead) said that the Conference should entirely endorse the recommendations contained in the Report, and express the hope that they would be carried into effect. It was a wonderful achievement that the Committee had drawn up a document of this kind, which obviously commended itself to the sense of the meeting.

Mr. JOHN IZETT (Libraries Committee, Glasgow) said he was sorry that at these conferences they never took any notice of the great question of the net-price of books. In Glasgow they purchased £13,000 worth of books every year, and they paid the same price as the individual purchasing a sixpenny or shilling book. That was not right. He would ask Sir Frederic to place before Parliament the fact that they were not getting money value for what they were paying. He thought it was too bad that the rate-payers should year after year—especially this year above all others, when they had in Glasgow set up a committee to find out ways and means of bringing down expenses—throw away £13,000 on books and get no return. ("No, no.") He knew he had raised a hornets' nest about his ears, but he thought Sir Frederic should take note that there was a great deal of dissatisfaction among rate-payers.

Sir **FREDERIC KENYON** said that, in the Report, a definite opinion had been given that something in that direction should be done. He suggested that it would be unfortunate if the discussion were to be diverted into the question of net book prices.

The **CHAIRMAN** said they had had a useful discussion, and, he thought, made some progress. They had been able to give a general indication to Sir **Frederic** of the minds of librarians on the Report which he and his colleagues had submitted. It would, perhaps, be unwise to put a resolution endorsing in their entirety the recommendations of the Report, but they could certainly say that they wished to recognize their indebtedness to Sir **Frederic Kenyon** and his colleagues for the work which they had carried out and the masterly report which they had produced. (Applause.) If they could in any way support them in their attack upon the Government to get some of those things done, they would do their best to make their support effective. (Applause.)

Councillor A. E. SMITH (**Hackney**) said he did not think it was a fact that, speaking generally, members of borough councils and similar bodies went on to committees with the deliberate purpose of opposing the work of the libraries. It was want of vision and knowledge of what the library movement stood for, that was the stumbling-block, rather than ill-will. The work of the library movement would be better forwarded if the librarians, in whom, just as much as in members of committees, a change of heart was wanted, would go back from that conference infused with the spirit of its meetings as he had been.

COUNTY LIBRARIES LUNCHEON

The County Librarians held a luncheon in the Caledonian Station Hotel. **Capt. R. WRIGHT, M.C.**, presided over the gathering, which included many overseas visitors. The **EARL OF ELGIN**, in a brief address, remarked on the progress of the county library movement. A few years ago county libraries did not exist.

Referring to the discussion which had taken place at the session of the County Libraries Section on the previous day, **Lord Elgin** said they had heard comparisons between the intellect of people who lived in the country and that of those who lived in the town. Personally, he thought they would find just as good material in the country as in the town. In Scotland, of course, they prided themselves, or had prided themselves, on education, but he could believe that in all other countries they would find the same feeling of independence and grit, the same kind of material. The county libraries had the opportunity of getting in touch with the individual in his home.

Miss A. S. COOKE (**Kent**), who proposed the toast of "Our Guests," paid a tribute to the work of **Lord Elgin** and the **Carnegie Trustees**. She said that, but for the Trust, they would not have been there that day. The County Library Movement owed its being entirely to the **Carnegie Trust**.

Dr. GEORGE H. LOCKE (**Toronto**), who responded, spoke of the need for books in Canada. He said he hoped they would spot the whole of the **Prairie Provinces** with books, because that would remove the need for so many lunatic asylums. The one thing in the world that filled their asylums was loneliness—the loneliness of the great plains where one saw nothing, where the horizon covered one in from end to end. It was the loneliness in rural districts that made most of their mental trouble.

Mr. THOMAS GORRIE (**Dunfermline**), also responded.

Sir FREDERIC KENYON, proposing the toast of "The County Library Movement," said he did not think one could put any limits to the importance of the County Library Movement. To get at the scattered rural places had hitherto been the difficulty. Now, thanks to the Carnegie Trustees, it had become possible to reach them. (Applause.)

Mr. M. J. FERGUSON (California), and Mr. JAMES CHRISTISON (Forfar and Kincardine), responded. The CHAIRMAN proposed the health of Mr. Alfred Ogilvie, who arranged the function.

LIBRARY SCHOOLS LUNCH

Simultaneously members and delegates engaged in Library School work, held a luncheon, under the presidency of Dr. E. A. Baker (Director of the University of London School of Librarianship); it was followed by a fruitful informal discussion, of which no record was kept.

RECEPTIONS

On Wednesday afternoon, the delegates attended a reception given by the University of Edinburgh, in the Library Hall. The guests, of whom there were some six hundred, were welcomed by Sir J. ALFRED EWING, Vice-Chancellor of the University. He said the University felt honoured by their visit, especially as they brought representatives of no fewer than seventeen countries. (Applause.) There were, however, probably fewer countries represented than when the Association last came to Edinburgh in 1880, for its third annual meeting. Mr. Nicholson, Librarian of the University, had reminded him that, on that occasion, Mr. John Small, who was then their librarian, reviewed the work and analysed the aims of the Association. He spoke of Edinburgh and its libraries, and he emphasized two points which he lamented. One was that there was no public library in Edinburgh. That reproach to their City had long since been removed, and, thanks to Mr. Savage, Edinburgh possessed a municipal public library, which was worthy of it. (Applause.) The second point raised by Mr. Small concerned the failure of a scheme for grafting on to the Advocates' Library a National Library for Scotland—a proposal which had been made as far back as 1868 by the Lord Provost of the time, Dr. William Chambers. That failure had also been made good after many years. Thanks to the generous attitude of the Faculty of Advocates, and also to the special generosity in another sense of Sir Alexander Grant, his friend Dr. Dickson now presided over a National Library for Scotland. (Applause.) Notwithstanding the generosity of Sir Alexander Grant he understood that still more money was wanted. He might add, however, that Dr. Dickson had no monopoly of poverty. In the University, too, they cultivated the Muses on a little oatmeal. (Laughter.) Carlyle suggested that the modern university should be a library and little more; but Carlyle lived before the scientific era. Nowadays it had also to be a congeries of laboratories, which were far more costly to establish and maintain. Their University Library had been helped by generous gifts not only of money but of books and MSS. as well as by grants from the Carnegie Foundation. William Drummond, of Hawthornden, gave them some five hundred volumes just three hundred years ago; Halliwell-Phillips, the eminent Shakespearean scholar, presented, in 1870, an important part of his collection, including early Shakespearean quartos; and a

bequest of MSS. was made by Dr. David Laing, the Scottish antiquarian and bibliographer. And these were only a few among many notable gifts. (Applause.)

Professor FRANS VAN KALKEN (Belgium) returned thanks on behalf of the overseas visitors.

Thereafter the guests, under the direction of Mr. Nicholson and his staff, inspected some of the treasures in the Library, including the books given by Drummond of Hawthornden and the collection of portraits by Raeburn in the Senate Hall.

On Wednesday night, the President, Council and Fellows of the Library Association held a reception in the Parliament House. Lord Elgin, who was accompanied by his sister, Lady Veronica Bruce, received the company. The actual reception occupied nearly an hour, there being about eight hundred guests. A programme of instrumental music was introduced by two stalwart pipers, who marched up and down the long hall to the skirling of their pipes, greatly to the delight of some of the strangers from distant lands. Full advantage was taken of the opportunities afforded by the several authorities to see something of the National Library of Scotland (the Advocates' Library), the Signet Library and the Library of the Society of Solicitors to the Supreme Courts. Parliament House, with its historic associations, beautiful ceiling, fine statuary and paintings, made a picturesque setting for the gathering. The privilege of examining the many literary treasures displayed in the various libraries was highly appreciated. Refreshments were served during the evening, in the Law Room.

THURSDAY

A large number of delegates was present in the United Free Church Assembly Hall, when the President took the chair at the morning session.

The first business was a paper by Mr. R. S. LAMBERT, of the British Broadcasting Corporation, Adult Education Section.

BROADCASTING AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES: POSSIBILITIES OF CO-OPERATION

By R. S. LAMBERT, M.A., *Adult Education Section, British Broadcasting Corporation.*

IN broadcasting we have a new instrument of unparalleled range and power for the influencing of public opinion, and the moulding of thought and habit. In 2½ million homes in this country there are now wireless receiving sets installed. To what use should these mighty instruments be put? Can they be used for the raising of the general level of culture and spread of knowledge and study among hundreds of thousands who have never hitherto been touched by either? From its origin the British Broadcasting Corporation has taken seriously its educational responsibilities, and in the spring of this year a special adult education section was created in the Corporation to develop this side of its work. A committee set up by the British Broadcasting Corporation in conjunction with the British Institute on Adult Education, under the Chairmanship of Sir Henry Hadow, is now engaged in exploring the possibilities of adult educational broadcasting, and their report which will be issued at the beginning of 1928 is eagerly awaited in all quarters.

Our country is justly proud of its undisputed leadership in the field of adult education, and the British Broadcasting Corporation is anxious to co-operate closely with the various bodies engaged in adult education at work, and to be guided by their experience and tradition. But it is already clear that broadcasting has a special field of its own to cultivate, a field

hitherto hardly touched by the adult education movement,—a field that begins where pure entertainment ceases, and ends where class work and organized study begins. Broadcasting should perform a great elementary and pioneering function in adult education, stimulating the general listener and awakening his interest in things of the mind, spurring him on to read and to think for himself. Now this ground as I understand it is precisely the same as the educational ground covered by the Public Libraries. Indeed, broadcasting and the Public Libraries are appealing to the same public with the same objects only using different methods ; in broadcasting, the ear ; in the library, the eye. Why should not these two powerful educational influences be brought together wherever possible to co-operate in improving each other's utility ? Throughout this year a regular part of the evening broadcast programme has been set aside for adult educational talks at 7.25-7.45 p.m. These talks arranged in series of six at a time have covered the widest possible range of subjects. We have already tangible results to show in the effects which these talks have had upon the use which the public makes of Public Library facilities. This summer we sent out from the Adult Education Section a questionnaire to the majority of Public Libraries throughout the country asking them whether they had noticed any effect of broadcasting on the demand for books, and if so, which talks and which subjects were particularly successful in this way. Of some eighty librarians in Great Britain who returned answers to our question, forty-five reported a definite increase in the issue of books referred to in our adult education talks. Of these :—

14 Reported an increase in the demand for Music Books and Scores.					
9	"	"	"	"	Books connected with Literature Courses.
7	"	"	"	"	Travel Books.
6	"	"	"	"	Social Subjects.
5	"	"	"	"	Science.
2	"	"	"	"	Languages.
2	"	"	"	"	Gardening.
2	"	"	"	"	Dietetics.
2	"	"	"	"	Anthropology.
1	"	"	"	"	Wireless Technical Books.

EXTRACTS FROM REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE.

Public Library, Stourbridge.

"There has been an increase of approximately 25 per cent of the following subjects :—Natural History, Travel, Sociology and the Classics."

Public Library, Richmond.

"Books listed in programmes contained in this Library have been well used, especially those dealing with music and sociology. . . ."

Public Library, Smethwick.

"British Broadcasting Corporation programmes have been the general reading of the public more purposive. Locally, this was observable in connection with the music collection of the Library, and many additions were made to cater for the increased demand. On the publication of the 'British Broadcasting Corporation Talks and Lectures Programme,' all books and scores are placed on separate shelves and specially labelled. If one talk may be singled out, I should name that of Professor Walford Davies on 'Music' as being most sought after, probably on account of its continuity."

Public Library, Southall, Middlesex.

"During the last three months I have noticed an increased demand for works of Mrs. Marion Cran, Mr. Percy Scholes and books dealing with the subject of Mr. Ross's talks, 'One Hundred Years of Working Class Progress,' . . . Some were purchased specially."

Public Library, Chiswick.

"Effect of the talks on Scott and Pepys was quite noticeable . . . unusually large demand for works by Scott and for the Diary of Pepys."

Public Library, Swadlincote.

"The talks broadcast have undoubtedly influenced the demand for books. Those specially asked for have been mentioned in 'Books to Read,' and 'Companionable Books.'"

County Library, Worcester.

"Certain books specially asked for because recommended on the wireless, among these were 'Pepys's Diary,' and Boswell's 'Life of Johnson.'"

Central Public Library, Battersea.

"A continual demand for books mentioned in the Library talks. Musical scores and compositions also in demand."

In the case of one Library, the chief librarian stated that the series of talks on " Library Criticism " had obviously influenced his book selection committee on the purchase of new books. Altogether, through the agency of the Public Libraries, 5,800 copies of our " Summer Programme of Talks " were distributed to the public.

This autumn this number will be far exceeded, and I would draw the attention of members of the Conference to our new programme of talks and lectures, which represents a substantial increase both of programme time and of adult educational effort. We have also this year begun to develop a new feature of our work—again bringing in the eye to aid the ear—by the issue of " Aids to Study " pamphlets prepared by the lecturers in connection with their courses, giving summaries of talks, illustrations and diagrams, questions for discussion and references for book reading. With the help of this literature we are making it possible for groups of listeners to follow our talks by discussion and study so that we are playing our part in developing and aiding the more elementary forms of adult study circles.

I have given you the really striking evidence of Public Libraries as to the effect of broadcasting upon public reading. Now, from the other side may I mention examples of the great help we have received from the Libraries themselves. All over the country librarians are giving publicity to our educational work by distributing copies of our talks programme and our " Aids to Study " pamphlets. Many County Librarians send out copies of our programme with every box of books which they dispatch. Many of the Librarians not only stock the books recommended in our bibliographies, but also prepare and circulate lists of their own, showing the public which of the books recommended by wireless lecturers they have in stock, together with supplementary or substitute books which they can recommend on the same subjects. A good example of this is the 28-page leaflet circulated by the Middlesex County Library. Furthermore, every Public Library is a natural centre of information of broadcast talks. The librarian has his hand on the pulse of the popular taste. He can tell us from his observations which of our talks send listeners to read and which do not—surely the best of popular tests as to their educational value. Therefore, we value very highly whatever criticisms and suggestions librarians give to us ; and some of these suggestions we are now trying to carry into effect. For instance, the poster

which we have just issued for display in Public Libraries was prepared in response to many requests which we have received from those who are co-operating with us. We desire to see continuous consultation developed between librarians and the British Broadcasting Corporation in regard to the development of the work on both sides. In all our printed publications we urge our listeners to go to the Public Libraries and to make use of the Central Library for Students. The possibilities of this greater co-operation in the future can, however, be more plainly seen than heard. I hope you will follow what I have said by going and looking for yourselves at our exhibition of adult educational work in Professor Mackintosh's room, where specimens of our programmes and pamphlets can be obtained, and actual demonstrations are given of the adult education talks and their educational use. This morning there will be a concert of Scottish music from 12-12.45, and this evening from 7.25-7.45 Sir Oliver Lodge will give the first of his series of talks on "Pioneers in Astronomy."

To conclude, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all those librarians who have given us such hearty support and valuable advice this summer, and to assure them that we consider that the success of our work largely depends upon their continued and increasing co-operation.

Mr. GEORGE T. SHAW (Liverpool) said Mr. Lambert's paper had been confined to the subject of adult education. He would suggest that the B.B.C. should consider the question of helping the children. They did, indeed, include in their programme a children's story, but it was given at an awkward hour. A few years previously, on the occasion of the opening of a children's library in Liverpool, he had suggested to their president that a wireless receiving set would be a valuable addition to the reading-room. A very good set had been at once forthcoming, but it had been a failure, and a fine opportunity had been lost. They had heard much, during the week, about central cataloguing; so far as children's work was concerned, he thought the idea of having one story told to the children all over the country at the same time was a good one, and that such a story would be an addition to the library.

Mr. JAST said he thought it was a deplorable suggestion that Mr. Shaw had made. He hoped that the meeting would not acquiesce in the idea of a story told to children all over the country by a person they could not see.

To this Mr. SHAW retorted that the reader of the paper had said that one of the advantages of broadcasting was to foster the use of the ear as well as of the eye. And if his suggestion was not a step in that direction, he did not know what was.

Miss MAY INGLES (Librarian, High School Library, Omaha) then read a paper.

THE PLACE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY IN A NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE

By MAY INGLES, *Head Librarian, Technical High School Library, Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A.*

THE influence of social and economic conditions on business, industry, education, and government has made nothing short of a revolution in educational procedure the world over. In no division of our educational system has this change been more revolutionary than in secondary schools and in no other division has such rapid progress been made.

To our old high schools came a fairly homogeneous mass of pupils with well established traditions, language, and vocabulary. Few came with any intelligent interest—many with a real distaste for scholarship, although scholarship was all the old type of school offered. To the school of this day comes a heterogeneous mass with many diverging interests, all of which our schools try to satisfy, for while scholarship must be emphasized, the development of the individual so that he may fill his rightful place in society is the great work of the school. We no longer think of pupils in the mass, but as individuals. How can they, within the brief span of high school years, be given right attitudes of responsibility and self guidance toward right standards of living? Education which sends its pupils out with the ideals of free competitive struggle instead of ideals and practice of social co-operation which enables the individual to be of greatest service, falls far short of its opportunity.

Librarians speak with pride of the contribution the library is making to adult education. "When boys and girls are taught to like and depend upon books, the problem of adult education will be largely solved," an educational leader has said. Obviously then if books are to be the tools of the age we must teach the use of them. We know that all learning is a slow process, brought about only by careful direction and systematic training. The lack of this systematic training during school years accounts for the necessity of now trying to bridge the gap—beginning at the wrong end. Never can skill so acquired bring the satisfaction, the joy, the

spontaneity of that begun or originated, in the readers' youthful impulses. The game belongs to them and their joy in their ability to hunt out their own material and select their books will develop a power and even a leadership much needed in this day. As we are dealing with the individual, the library must find a way to recognize the pupil's initiative, his capacity for study, his interests, and thus prepare him for self-directed personal development beyond the school. His natural urges and curiosities must be conserved and directed in such a way as to bring to him the joy of work and the power of self-direction which go to make a successful adult.

The cardinal principles of secondary education as set forth by the American National Education Association as objectives of modern education in a democracy are worthy home membership, health, mastery of the tools and technique of learning, vocational effectiveness, useful citizenship, wise use of leisure time, and ethical character. In the light of these objectives, the high school library assumes new importance in the field of education, and becomes one of the most vital factors in the achievement of this goal.

(1) The challenge of worthy home membership carries with it the art of living together. The home of to-day, reflecting the influence of motion pictures, the automobile, the increasing rights of women and children, is very different from the home of yesterday. Not long ago, we celebrated mothers' day in our school by a big party in honour of the mothers of our girls. About two thousand came for the evening. To see a typical American girl, well dressed and speaking excellent English, proudly escorting her mother wearing a shawl over her head, speaking broken English, or none at all, and to realize the years of development that separate the two, was a great lesson in democracy. It gave a new conception of what the school is meaning in the lives of these people, as well as a new conception of the tremendous opportunity and responsibilities of the institution. These children become the interpreters of our customs, ideals, and standards to their homes. Through our books on domestic science, woodworking, cooking, sewing, study of colour, textiles and laundry work, the library can do much for them.

(2) Health has never received the proper attention from youth. The library must co-operate in the effort to raise health standards. A healthy body is necessary to a healthy mind. Books—good books—are our most powerful factors for producing a healthy mind. Only a healthy mind can

be an active one. Lazy thinking and habits break down mentality and morality. The school library can do much to inspire the individual to read, to investigate, to make his own life and that of his fellow-men healthier. The discoveries of science furnish great inspiration for independent reading. What normal youth will not devour books on athletics, swimming, golf, tennis, track? Through these books he soon learns where he is weak, and what corrective measures he can use. This is the great object of all our education—to make it carry over into living. Too many times there is a gap between what we know and what we do.

(3) Mastery of tools and technique of learning is of great importance. We are just beginning to realize that the library is a store house of the sharpest, finest tools, and to avail ourselves of their assistance. For fifty years the library has stood ready to help, but has been used only in the most indifferent way. Books used to be for the scholar, the student, and the man of leisure, only. To-day, all must turn to books. The housekeeper must study home sanitation, food values, domestic economy; the public official must know how to study municipal statistics, city planning, recreation, and welfare work. All are realizing slowly the value of books. We can no longer expect youth to accept the coin of our wisdom. We have learned that the only way is to place in his hand the tools, teach him how to use them, and leave him to get the experience, the wisdom for himself. This method alone will make cultivated practical citizens.

(4) Vocational effectiveness is demanded by the industrial world. Only through books will be opened the great field of human interests and information to broaden and develop habit and ability for any work. Books will help all to choose wisely the service which they will render, and to continue development in chosen lines. The right to find what he can do best, to labour, to produce, to the end that he will not be a burden on society is the birthright of every boy and girl.

(5) The challenge to citizenship must give to all a new vision of our responsibilities. Not every youth can take courses, in civics, economics, sociology, while in high school, but the library is open to all, and much can be done to influence their reading along these lines. The youth of to-day are our citizens of to-morrow; they will elect our officials, plan our cities, and man our industries. Somehow they must be taught what

they have inherited and how to carry their share of the burden. No classroom can develop this type of citizen, but the lives of Lincoln, Gladstone, Washington, and Franklin do teach the long struggle to make the safer civilization in which they now live.

(6) The use of leisure time is closely allied with home membership. Many of our problems of social and economic life will be solved when the home has been made attractive enough for people to find pleasure within it. The school library may prove a most powerful factor here ; a taste for books, a habit of finding entertainment in them, is no longer the privilege of a leisured few. In other days only this few could read and develop libraries of which you have such magnificent examples all over Europe. To-day this privilege extends to the masses, and is about the only force against commercialized recreation controlled by men whose only interest is money making. Unless we can systematically foster this privilege, teach our youth the joy of reading—give an appetite for something better—their impressions and desires can lead to nothing but deterioration in thinking and mental vigour.

(7) To develop character—the culmination of all other objectives—we must give these youths the experience of putting into practice again and again the principles of conduct which are the guarantee of good character. It is those who leave school with unformed characters who become tools of the unscrupulous boss. Companionship with books has long been recognized as the corner stone of character. Never has our moral obligation to be intelligent been greater than now ; intelligent to guard, to preserve, to improve, to transmit institutions and ideals handed down by generations. Our greatest task is to equip our youth with such education that they will develop attitudes of fair play, and a regard for rights of others, which eventually grow from a sense of co-operation with responsibility toward society. This can come only from working in an atmosphere of proper stimulation, and to provide this atmosphere, the school library exists. Every pupil must fashion some philosophy of life ; we need to help him to see and feel some of the thrills and joys of those who have lived and served for the good they could do, and not for the material reward. The story of Pasteur, happy in study and service ; of Grenfell, living a life of hardship because Labrador needed his skill ; and the stories of the lives of many others

will help to make his life less sordid and selfish. The eminent French psychologist and philosopher, Le Bon, in his book, "Revolt of the World," says: "The principal function of all education should be to create those habits which are guides of everyday life. The future will belong not to those whose intellect is greatest, but to those whose character is strongest." What a challenge to the school library! The public library alone will not do; the habit forming library must be inside, not outside the school. We must begin with the youth of the day.

The modern high school library is rapidly developing into a specialized form adapted to its own peculiar needs. One of the most important factors of its success is the appreciation by the principal and teaching staff of the functions of the library, and their wholehearted co-operation in helping to achieve these functions. To become a vital unit of the school the library must establish its identity and have its functions recognized and respected; it must be free to work out its own salvation. The giving out of information through books and other materials to supplement class work is a most important function, but not the whole function. Classes in history read widely in fiction, travel, biography and sociology as well as history. English classes add biography, history and sociology to literature. All use every means to enrich the class work. Thus, the library becomes a vital part of the life of the school, and pupils learn to appreciate and possess the library. The high school library needs a tremendously live collection of materials of various kinds—books, magazines, clippings, pamphlets, pictures, victrola records and maps. It is just as important to be able to furnish a model of a boat for a boy who is making one, as it is to have the classical dictionary on the reference shelves.

Only about 47 per cent of those who enter American secondary schools complete the course. In our own school, about 50 per cent are foreign born. The process of making a living, the adjustment into the environment of a new country constitutes a positive struggle, and supersedes all other activities for culture. All the finest antecedents of birth, custom, social position of their own race, are lost in the confused order of evaluation of the new distractions of the day. Some agency—logically, the high school library—must arouse them to an appreciation of true valuation and delight in reading for recreation. Youth has the happy faculty of projecting itself

into characters which interest it. The thrill the adolescent boy or girl gets from reading is an experience that comes once in a life time. To have a girl in tears because Jo did not marry Laurie ; to have a boy describe " The Talisman " as a " whizz of a book, I sat up till two o'clock to finish it " ; or another to call Barrie, " the guy who writes keen plays " ; to have " The Cloister and the Hearth " described as " the swellest book I ever read ; it made me cry," serve to give us a renewed appreciation of literature branded as old-fashioned, which is too often buried under the mass of modern production.

The really efficient high school library surely has its place in any system of national library service. In America we find the following types : First, that linking the public library system to the school system by co-operative arrangement, whereby the public library administers the school library, housed and financed by the Board of Education ; second, the school library under the supervision of the school division of the public library, usually under an agreement whereby book collection, transportation, supplies and equipment are furnished largely at expense of the Board of Education. These partnership plans should furnish only temporary relief—they can be justified only when they are the one means whereby a school library can be obtained. It is difficult enough to find concentration to-day under favourable conditions. The coming and going of the public cannot be otherwise than most distracting to school atmosphere and discipline. The school library will lose, too, by the lowering of the tone of the book collection, and the librarian, if she understands the need of the high school work, will have no time for the general public. Third, the type *par excellence* ; the library belonging wholly to the school. Each school is different, and each group of teachers will work to the same ends along entirely different paths. Each library must have the most advantageous location, and must adapt itself to its type of school, class of pupils, and plans of teachers—ever vital co-workers. For is it not the mental workshop, the laboratory, the centre of the intellectual and cultural life of the school ? Therefore there must be freedom, easy access to shelves, and every encouragement to browse, with shelves showing quality more than quantity, and a recognition that what pupils want, they want at once. Interest lost may never be regained. The library must work, primarily, always to interest—to make pupils want more and more—better and better.

And what are the results? Who can tell? "Life is a lot bigger than it looks" is the comment recently heard from a high school junior, who had just finished reading De Mille's "Strongheart." One of our late encyclopædias says: "The most potent and most economical influence to be exerted for good on young and old is through reading." Is not our chief task to create in our pupils such a love for books, such an appreciation of libraries and dependence upon them, that when school days are over, they will turn instinctively to other libraries at their disposal for all they have come to expect from the library in their school? The child of to-day has a right to receive, while in school, that experience and training which will obviate confusion and embarrassment in furthering his self education in the years to come.

The field of the high school is a fascinating one for library service, rich in opportunity and rewards. It gives a chance to contribute to the well-being of good citizens, through the fostering of good reading habits, and cultivates a connection with public libraries and those of other institutions. "Preparation for participation in the ever increasingly complex social life of our times demands a training as wide as life itself." Surely no type of library service can be more inspiring, or can be more worthy of the best efforts of our profession.

Mlle CLAIRE HUCHET (L'Heure Joyeuse, Paris), who opened the discussion, said that conditions were very different in the United States from what they were in France, but she was in agreement with Dr. Locke, who had pointed out, on Tuesday, the danger of bringing the library too close to the school. Miss Ingles had explained all the advantages of the library in the school. It was her intention to expose the inconveniences. When the library was inside the school, the children did not have a chance of a change of atmosphere, and the library became part of the school work and task. In France, the association of the two words "school" and "library" would be sufficient to cure any boy or girl of any desire to turn, when school days were over, to other libraries. If the library was in the school, the children met only the children they were with during school hours, and they lost the benefit of one of the best social influences the library could have. France had had school libraries since the Revolution, or, at any rate, had had the principle of them. Generally speaking, a school library in France was a closed cupboard, opened once a fortnight or once a month, containing black-bound books. Were they going to reform these so-called libraries? Would it not, rather, be easier to start a new train of thought than to reform a two hundred

years old administration. Children naturally wanted to get out of school when their long day's work was over. In L'Heure Joyeuse Library they welcomed children of from five to seventeen years of age. They had very poor children and wealthy children, who got to know and appreciate each other. They had also working children, over thirteen years of age—apprentices of all kinds. If, on the other hand, the library were associated with a school, they would not have this useful intermixture of classes. Children came to L'Heure Joyeuse, because, to quote their own words, the librarians were different from the teachers! The children, who were still at school, came for the social side of life which their school did not give them, and those who had left school came because the library had been something different from school. They in France would have to work for the development of junior libraries, working in co-operation with the teachers, but outside the schools.

Mr. W. C. BERWICK SAYERS (Croydon) thought Miss Ingles's paper unique in the history of the Library Association in that it presented a type of library work which they had never before discussed. That was library work in the secondary school. It seemed to him inconceivable, although cases could be found, that there was a secondary school anywhere without its library. It was an absolute essential of any well-organized school, but if they looked at the high schools of England—and he imagined Scotland might be included—how many secondary schools would they find, which had a library in the control of a librarian such as had spoken to them that day. He thought it was an almost unknown thing in the British Isles. The problem of library provision for elementary schools was also a serious one, and there was the danger to which Mlle Huchet had referred, namely, that the children might cease to use the library when they left school, if the library was entirely confined to the school and not connected in any way with the public library. The best use of the school library was to fit the child for the better use of the public library later on. As librarians, they had to give careful consideration to the question of providing skilled technical and scholarly library service in the schools, since their libraries were at present mainly managed by teachers, who with all their goodwill had not that experience of books which ought to be the possession of the trained librarian.

Mr. W. H. PARKER (Hackney) supported Mlle Huchet's contention that there should be a strong line of demarcation between the libraries and the schools.

Miss MONICA CANT (Cheltenham Ladies' College) said her work at Cheltenham was concerned mostly in teaching girls to use books so as to get the greatest amount of information out of them. That side of library work, she thought, could best be done in the school itself. She firmly supported Mr. Sayers's contention that there was a very great need for trained librarians in secondary schools.

Miss LINDA A. EASTMAN (Librarian, Cleveland Public Library, Ohio) read a paper.

SOME PHASES OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND WORK OF ONE AMERICAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

By LINDA A. EASTMAN, *Librarian, Cleveland Public Library.*

IT is with much diffidence that I present an account of the work of the Cleveland Public Library, in which I have endeavoured to indicate how it has become what it is, and why it is doing some things which perhaps are not in the routine of all public libraries. The invitation to "read a paper" has been accepted literally.

Cleveland, the fifth city of the United States in size, has been called "the experimental station of the nation." It is also known as "the city of goodwill" and is said to be outstanding for having developed an unusual spirit of co-operation among its citizens and its institutions. Some of those who have laboured for years to give books to its people have evidence that its Public Library has played a very real part toward developing an intelligent, tolerant, broad-minded citizenry out of a heterogeneous population, containing many unpromising elements.

Although this library was opened in 1869, it was, according to accounts, a rather miserable little affair during most of its earlier years. When Mr. William Howard Brett became librarian in 1884, he began introducing progressive methods, and in spite of many discouraging cuts in income and other hampering conditions it has grown and waxed strong in the years which have followed.

Until two years ago, one of its greatest handicaps was the lack of a central library building. For fifty-six years it occupied temporary quarters, rented or loaned, and during that period it was moved seven times, each time a task of greater magnitude as the library grew in size. Over-crowding, bad ventilation, lack of many conveniences and facilities for readers and for staff, lack of funds to rectify these conditions, these were obstacles to be overcome. It is undoubtedly true that the delay in the permanent housing of the Main Library led to an earlier development of a quite comprehensive system of branches, school libraries, stations and smaller agencies, as a means of giving library service to all parts of the city. Many of the branches began

in rented store-rooms. Mr. Carnegie made gifts amounting to \$610,000, which provided fifteen branch buildings. Eighteen of the twenty-six general branches are now housed in permanent library buildings, two buildings are under construction at present, and sites have been acquired for two more.

Public funds were voted in 1912 for a central building in the civic Group Plan, but by the time the site was available, war conditions brought further delay, and made necessary a second campaign for funds in 1921. The building was completed and occupied in 1925, at a total cost of \$5,000,000.

The campaigns for the two bond issues furnished most thorough-going advertising for the library ; and the members of the staff who participated in them learned much through their experience to apply in general library publicity work. Many new readers were registered, and another result has been that probably more of the citizens have a sense of proud ownership in that building than in any other structure in the city.

No live organization can remain static. We librarians are gradually learning that not only classification schemes and filing systems, but all methods which can be permanently effective for a growing library, must stand the tests of minute specification and continuous expansion. So, in this library, as old methods have become ineffective for increased volume of work, or better methods were discovered, processes of reorganization have been under way almost continuously for years. To give more complete and satisfactory service, new departments, divisions, branches, stations and other agencies have been established, and specialists have been developed, until a highly organized administration has resulted.

During the greater part of its history, the book funds of the library were so meagre that they were almost entirely absorbed for books in current demand and those for which the need was most outstanding, but quite recently it has become possible to set aside a portion of each year's book appropriation for the rounding out and building up of the collections ; a systematic plan is in operation for constantly enriching them, and it is a satisfaction to note the increasing number of scholarly and research workers who find there the works they have been seeking, for we note that wherever the resources of the library have been strengthened a high quality of reference work has been done. Care is being exercised not to duplicate unduly those expensive and less used books which are already in other local libraries.

The value of a sufficient number of open shelves, at which readers can browse at will, seems no longer controvertible ; interest in reading, development of literary taste, and intellectual alertness are fostered by exposure to good books. In Cleveland all branches are open shelf libraries. Careful planning was given to the Main Library building, to fit it to the divisional arrangement which gives such great satisfaction to so many readers. The books are shelved in wall cases in the sixteen light, attractive reading-rooms and in the stacks adjoining each. As these stacks become filled, books seldom used will be retired to accessible storage stacks above or below them, thus keeping the " live stock " always close at hand.

In the main entrance corridor the library hostess at the information desk is an experienced librarian competent to direct inquirers graciously to the division containing the material they are seeking. One important qualification for this assistant, as well as for others meeting the public, is that human attribute which someone described as an approachable look. The General Reference Division does the general and ready reference work and co-ordinates the reference work of the other divisions. In these latter are found both reference and circulating books on their subjects, thus bringing all available material together so far as practicable, and permitting the use of circulating and reference books interchangeably. Each division has its own trained staff, specializing in acquaintance with the literature of the subjects in that division. Librarians know that even highly intelligent people, if untrained in research methods, are often vague and hazy when investigating a subject, and assistants must be skilful in appraising and clarifying inquiries, and in assembling the correct information or material. A high school instructor preparing for a new course, recently voiced a daily occurrence when he said, " I did not know what I wanted until I saw what I got." Assistants learn that it is necessary to " put yourself in his place " in order to interpret the reader's requests rightly, and it is equally necessary to know the literature of the subject in order to aid him to select that which best meets his needs.

The library has a four-fold function in making books and other forms of recorded thought and information available, for purposes of education, vocation, recreation and inspiration. We sometimes think of the library as a great kaleidoscopic treasury, from which each of the million people we serve

may sort out, and freely use those intellectual riches for which he has need or desire. One function of the staff is to turn the facets of this kaleidoscope so that they can all be seen, and so that each facet may attract those for whom it has interest.

The work of the Cleveland Library is based on the premises that it should serve the whole community, and that to do this it must integrate itself into the life of the community. It must grow with the community. It must have the best books and other printed matter on all subjects of interest or concern to the community. It must not only let it be known that the library has such material, it must make the various kinds of books and material known and available to those groups and individuals whose particular interests they will serve.

The staff which carries out a programme based on such premises can lead no cloistered life, and the staff of this library has learned that participation in local community activities can lead both to personal development and to that very integration of the work of the library with the life of the community for which it is striving. The librarian recently had occasion to list fourteen Cleveland organizations of which she is a more or less active member, serving at present on the directing boards of eight of these having educational, civic, social or philanthropic objectives. Thus, through membership of those on its own staff, the library is kept in touch with such organizations as the Conference for Educational Co-operation, Education Extension Council, Welfare Federation, Engineering Society, art and musical associations, Men's and Women's City Clubs, Rowfant Club (the well-known book club), Polyglot Club, various other clubs and societies, the museums and the university, and, of course, the different churches. Friendly relations are established with many other organizations. "We should have the Public Library represented," said the President of one of the important organizations when making up its committees, "because it has so much to contribute." Professional zeal, which is not laid aside because one happens to be "off duty," is constantly making new and valuable contacts for the library through these relationships, and opening up new avenues of service for it. It should not be necessary to state that in all its work the library is non-partisan in political matters, impartial on religious questions, and endeavours to have all sides of controversial subjects represented.

Branch librarians make surveys of their districts, and keep card lists, revised to date, of school principals, clergymen, business men's and other organizations and their officials, social workers, civic and other leaders in the district, who should be kept informed concerning library resources and who may be helpful in making its services known. Invitations to speak to groups or assemblies about books and reading, or about the library and what it has to offer, are accepted whenever possible. Such invitations, which formerly had to be courted, now pour in ; the library was thus brought to the attention of over three thousand groups during 1926. Many readers are introduced to the library through attending meetings in library club rooms and auditoriums, which are free for cultural and civic purposes, and the library itself sponsors many free lectures and book talks.

"How," asks Dr. Meiklejohn, "can 100,000,000 people be educated, and how then can they be educated to think together?" And he answers: "A people can be a democracy if it learns to read."

"We have more Jews in America than there are in Palestine, more Turks than in Bagdad, more Italians than in Rome, more Germans than in Berlin, almost as many Norwegians as there are in Norway." Cleveland has its full share of all of these, and many other nationalities. In the hundred and thirty-one years since its first settlement, it has grown to a city of a million souls, a cosmopolitan population, about seventy-five per cent of whom are foreign born or of foreign parentage, representing the widest range of countries of origin and of social status. Book collections in twenty-seven different foreign languages are one of the resultant library complexities of this mixed population, the books in the mother tongue often serving as a bridge to the reading of English. In common with other northern cities, it has also had another problem in recent years, for since the war migration from the South has increased its negro population from 8,000 to nearly 70,000. These and many of the foreign readers come from bookless homes, and the desire for books must be developed, under difficult urban conditions. Modern apartment-house life does not foster the growth of family libraries even among the more cultured, and the native born, while with the masses, the cheapest sensational newspapers and magazines are rivals to be supplanted.

Work with the children therefore assumes a prodigious importance. Each branch has its children's room, with comfortable low tables and chairs,

inviting window seats, and colourful pictures above the low book shelves. Trained and enthusiastic children's librarians, with the best juvenile literature at their command, make alluring places of these rooms, with story hours and reading clubs as added attractions. Teen age readers also need careful guidance, and a number of special alcoves or rooms of selected books for young people are in charge of trained women who are giving sympathetic study to the understanding of adolescent youth. At the Main Library, we have named our children's room the Lewis Carroll Room, and the young people's room, the Stevenson Room, the latter name being decided upon as a result of suggestions from the high school boys and girls themselves.

Co-operation, an important keynote of success, is most fully exemplified in the work with the schools, public, private and parochial. Service is rendered the schools by every department and branch. Also thirty-five school libraries are administered for the Board of Education by school librarians in touch with the newer trends in education, and about a thousand small collections of books are sent annually to individual class rooms.

Strachey says in his *American Soundings* : " So long as you have a good library and the instinct for reading, those two things will save your soul alive, however much your education was neglected." The public library is pre-eminently fitted to promote adult education. Besides general help given throughout the system, there are three specialized forms of service in this field : an information bureau for adult education opportunities ; library service to organized groups and classes of adults ; and advisory service to individuals who wish guidance in systematic reading or study. In addition to the many reading courses made out for individuals and groups, and great numbers of A.L.A. and other printed courses loaned, the library sold at cost during last year, over four thousand of the A.L.A. reading courses. Many interesting types of individuals are coming for guidance, ranging from the young woman doing monotonous office work, who has been led from a steady diet of casual light novels and magazines to some acquaintance with historical fiction, history, biography and poetry, to the bacteriologist whose college work had been largely scientific and who is now following a course in Greek literature.

Over a hundred library stations supply books to employees of factories, department stores, telephone exchanges, fire-engine houses ; station service is

also given the university, museums and several other institutions and organizations, to supplement their own libraries ; in hospitals where weekly ward service is given, books brought to their bedsides mean much to the patients, often having visible therapeutic effects. The Municipal Reference Branch in the City Hall contributes its share toward good city government. The County Department has extended library service to 50,000 county residents who were without it until three years ago.

In 1926, over 6,900,000 volumes were loaned from 1,150 distributing agencies in the city ; in addition 383,000 volumes were issued to residents of the county. Over 5,052,000 visits were recorded, of those reading or doing reference work in the libraries.

As open shelves foster interest in and acquaintance with books, so do display racks of selected books indirectly guide many readers ; a great variety of such displays are constantly used at Main Library and branches. Exhibit cases are used for books on topics of current interest, rare books, illustrations, loans of art and scientific objects from museums and private collections, with related books ; frequently changed, these are a source of attraction.

Bulletin boards carry book posters, and the paper book-jackets saved from the new books do double duty in advertising. Radio broadcasting is frequently done. Library news items are furnished to newspapers, club and school publications and house organs, while of making book lists there is no end. There has developed a real technique in list making and distributing. With a very simple printing equipment the library itself publishes many short lists which stimulate good reading, but it gets free printing and added distribution for even greater numbers of book-mark lists which it prepares for good plays at the theatres, the better films in the movies, the symphony concerts, various expositions, and civic and commercial enterprises. These go out each month by thousands, each with a different list of books, which are thus called to the attention of potential readers at the moment when their interest is centred on the subject of the list.

Librarianship has recently been defined as "the art of bringing books and people together." In endeavouring to fit its books to its readers, this library finds that it is dealing constantly and intimately with human problems, interests and desires, as well as some which may go far afield. The library

through its service is helping to build homes and to conduct business, to prepare sermons and lectures, to write prize essays, master's and doctor's theses and books involving much research. To our knowledge, a good many books were largely written or compiled in quiet corners of the library during the past year, and a large number of articles and pamphlets. A photostatic copy of a newspaper item, reproduced in six minutes while the Court waited, furnished the necessary evidence to decide a case ; a bibliography on Federal Aid to the States, prepared for a member of the state legislature, and one on Child Labour, for the League of Women Voters, may each affect future legislation, as may the books assembled ready for his use at a stated time for a member of Congress of the United States. The bibliography on Financial Frauds prepared for the Better Business Bureau was sent by the latter to forty-four similar bureaux throughout the country. Books have been loaned from the White collection to sixteen universities recently, and research workers have come from some distance to work here on material not found elsewhere in America.

Our Travel Service is making for international understanding as well as meeting individual inquiries such as that of the woman who asks : " How much shall I tip the porter ? " and the air pilot who wants to know the physical and economic features of Honduras, and " whether to follow the advice of a friend and take two Colt 46's." For a student of biology, planning to do research work in Vienna and wishing to know living conditions and costs in that capital, the library's information in print was supplemented by an introduction to the local consular service and to the Austrian consul in Chicago.

" Ford owns a new flivver every minute, but we own a new story almost every minute," comments the hostess at the information desk. The following are a few items from the record at that desk, sandwiched between all manner of questions on books and subjects, questions erudite, practical or merely popular :—

From a callow youth : " I want a book to show how a young man can keep in society."

A man in working clothes : " I'm not dressed up, but I'd like to look at some radio books. "

From a young wife, a request for books to keep her husband happy.

A husband : " My wife never read a *good* book in her life. Can't you pick out something that will teach her to read and interest her at the same time ? "

A worried looking mother : " I have to work, you know ; is there any place where I can leave my son while I am gone ? He is a good boy and likes to read."

Haggard young man : " Can you suggest a good book to a man whose nerves have got the best of him ? "

A newcomer to our shores : " Lady, please you tell me wer I can get a gude book to make me a gude American citizen ? "

One from Massachusetts : " We are moving to Cleveland, and I want to know what part of Cleveland is most desirable to live in when one has children of high school age. Also, what are the average rents for houses accommodating seven people."

A gentleman told of a lad highly talented in music, but with no means for study. Where might he obtain good instruction for little money ? Told of the Music School Settlement, he returned several weeks later to report the boy happily at work with his music.

Interesting young man : " Where can I find Henley's poem, ' Echoes ' ? I heard a man repeat part of it in the Gobi desert, and ever since I have wanted to know the rest of it. You are practically the first white woman I have talked to in three years. I have just returned from Manchuria, and you have no idea how lost I feel among my own people."

Hurry call from the Bar Association : " We are entertaining a Canadian to-night and need a Canadian flag. Do you have one that we can borrow ? " We supplied the flag.

Such appeals can be paralleled by equally diverse and interesting ones in nearly every division and branch of the library, and it is at the branches especially that we come into most intimate relations with our neighbours, as this note from the day book of one branch children's room shows :—

Feb. 10. Spoke at Gordon School Parents and Teachers Association.

Feb. 16. Some results from talk at Gordon : A woman with two little girls came to register. Another brought her boy, who had never read a book through. One lady came for ideas for making toys for the school bazaar. Still another came in and took slips from the vine in our children's room.

Are not the social implications in the work of the modern public library inescapable? Book knowledge and technical skill, though prime essentials, are not the only qualifications for library workers; sympathy and understanding often lead back to the wealth of the book world through devious paths, and blest beyond most mortals are we whose work is that of human helpfulness through the medium of books. Dr. Guppy in his inspiring talk to our staff last year, said: "One always starts with books and ends with human relations." We in the public libraries, find that we must often start with human relations and end with books.

We have a horrible word for which there seems to be no exact, but less objectionable synonym—the word slogan. Barring the name, slogans themselves are often very useful, and the Cleveland Public Library a few years ago adopted one which has proved so; it appears so regularly on all library publications that we hope it may eventually register automatically on every Clevelander's brain whenever the name, Cleveland Public Library is seen or heard: Books—Information—Service. If we may be permitted to paraphrase: Books, information, service, but the greatest of these is service—greatest, as it is through service that books and information are made available; and there is joy in the service.

Mr. G. T. SHAW (Liverpool) said that what Miss Eastman had told them about Cleveland being the experimental station of the nation was quite true. If anyone had doubts he had only to pay a visit to the Library and he would see the possibility of the accomplishment of everything Miss Eastman had referred to. She had stated that there had been developed an unusual spirit of understanding co-operation between citizens and institutions. The result of that co-operation was a fine and splendidly equipped building that was the envy of all British librarians. He wished to draw attention to one point, which applied, indeed, to American libraries generally rather than to Cleveland particularly, and that was the supply of funds forthcoming from special endowments. The giving of endowments was a practice which he would like to see developed in England. (Hear, hear.) He would appeal to those who had money and who desired to perpetuate the memory of those dear to them, to give—not necessarily in large sums—to an investment fund, of which the interest would yield moneys that could be spent in the purchase of expensive books. They could not possibly do anything that would be more practically useful, both at the moment, and for ever. It would be at once a memorial to a loved one, and a means to enable students and scholars to get the books they needed in their researches and so help to benefit humanity at large. He also wished to know

more about the system, referred to by Miss Eastman, of issuing bonds in order to obtain money to erect great library buildings. That had been done at Cleveland, but it was something quite new to English librarians. The next point concerned the numerous reading-rooms in Cleveland Public Library. He would like to know if Miss Eastman considered that the division of a great library was justified and if, supposing she were rebuilding Cleveland Library, she would plan her library in the same way again; it was a point of great interest to those who were planning new libraries. On one point he had to differ sharply from Miss Eastman's practice. He had seen it stated that Cleveland Public Library had been able to bring the newspaper reader into the main building; he himself, about the same time, had been congratulating himself that he had been able to get rid of the newspaper reader! If Miss Eastman had been as happy as he had been over his achievement, she had indeed been happy!

Miss EASTMAN, in reply, said that, as regarded bond issues, a definite State law made it possible for certain institutions to ask for a vote of the people for a bond issue. The library staff had nothing to do with the selling of them. In reply to the second question, she said that, so far as Cleveland Public Library was concerned, she would repeat the divisional arrangement; but she thought that such an arrangement was possible only for large libraries.

Mr. MILTON J. FERGUSON (State Librarian, California State Library, Sacramento) read a paper.

DO BOOKS BELONG IN THE COUNTRY?

By MILTON J. FERGUSON, *Librarian, California State Library.*

IT is with some trepidation that I venture to appear before the Library Association of the British Isles on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

You, the elders in the English-speaking family, have long made a saw of the folly of taking coals to Newcastle; while we, the juniors, are no less conscious that there is little call for transporting automobiles to Detroit. From your shores there shines out deathlessly the beacon light of Burns and Scott. Yours is the kingdom of Chaucer and Shakespeare, of Milton, Fielding, Keats, Meredith and Hardy, together with a great throng of other men and women who have used our common heritage, the English tongue, to tell fine tales, to recount great adventures, to sing songs, sweet and stirring. Were we not brothers of a craft, it might be held presumptuous in me, coming from the very van of those who have followed the beckoning sun from old lands to new until the last frontier has been reached, to attempt to tell you how books should be circulated among readers, how the joy of

reading may be nurtured. But you will not forget, I know, that it is as a friend I come, aye, as one whose name and blood found beginning in this land of heather ; and that from my far distant home upon the shores of the mighty Pacific I bring you remembrances of Francis Drake who unafraid guided the *Golden Hind* into our uncharted waters, of R. L. S., whom we held for a season and love for all time, of John Muir, whom you gave us to open our eyes to the majesty of Yosemite and the glory of the High Sierra.

Someone has characterized my America as a land of short cuts, of machines, of trade ; and perhaps the description is apt enough. We may be so bent upon speed as to miss the inspiration of hills and forest and streams, which in more leisurely going would be unfolded before us. We may be content with the heat brought to our homes in the form of electrical energy, and lose the poetry and the comfort and the nostril-satisfying odour of the open fire-place with its wide hearth, hospitable to man and paradise to companionable dog. We are forgetting that milk does not originate in glass bottles, but comes warm and life giving from a "friendly cow all red and white." We have turned old Dobbin out to pasture—or sold his poor carcass to the poultryman—while we till the soil, carry our bales and goods, and make our journeys with iron steeds shod with rubber. No one can say that the lines of a "Ford" give us the joy secured to the breeder of fine stock with its glossy coat and its splendid curves. And few would deny that the artificiality of it all is sometimes disheartening ; but it is a part of the age and the world in which we live. It divorces us from old customs which are a portion of our racial endowment ; but it does bring the ends of the earth closer together and may in time make friends of those once widely separated. A boy in a plane has been known to succeed where diplomats and statescraft have failed.

But if mechanical devices have released us from the old tasks of the hand and set all the world upon the highway, swiftly going to some place without, perhaps, definite destination or object when once we arrive, may they not at the same time have ushered in that day of leisure, if we will, when we are to enjoy the things of mind and soul ? The same inanimate machine which transports oranges and sugar beets and raisins to market may on its homeward journey bear pictures and magazines and books ; and thus in

some measure the balance of sanity and right living may be maintained. After the day's work is done the modern rancher no longer yawns the evening away over last week's issue of a country newspaper and so early to bed ; he reads to-day's paper ; he may drive forty miles to the city to enjoy a show ; he may seek exercise by going to a dance after sitting all day behind the wheel of the machines which do his work ; or if he prefers he may tune in on the world's news, learn who has flown what ocean, how the market has suffered under the ministration of bears and bulls, or refresh himself with music. Into a life so busy, so, as it were, exposed in the show window of the world, what appeal can a mute book have ; and how may its silent eloquence, its undemonstrative wisdom gain a hearing when the machine speaks with such metallic insistence ? It is for us who know something of books and their value to find the answer, and fearlessly bring it to the attention of a public unfamiliar with the treasures we hold in store.

Libraries have existed from the beginning of civilization. In earlier times they were the pride of wealth and of learned institutions, closely guarded from the defiling hands of the proletariat, and not infrequently sacrificed in the fires of the fanatic. Only in comparatively recent times was it held a worthy expenditure of public funds for a city to offer its citizens books freely and without price. Perhaps there are still those individuals who secretly look upon this practice as akin to the custom of free gladiatorial combats adopted by Rome in her decline to keep the populace amused. Booksellers, without vision, with their circulating libraries have been known to object to the expenditure of municipal funds for the wares offered over their counters. But in recent years it has become a settled policy for cities to build libraries, maintain a staff, buy books and make them available to the citizenry within their borders.

In America, this newer branch of popular education and recreation has had a development quite dissimilar from the life story of the older division, the public school. Our Government, like your own, based upon principles of personal freedom—theoretically at least—and dependent upon a rather high degree of popular intelligence for its continuity and success, very early encouraged, supported and finally insisted upon the establishment of public schools which should take upon themselves the training of all children within certain age limits. As a result of this state recognition our

educational units are functioning not only in populous cities with their thousands of pupils, but likewise in rural areas with a minimum so low that not infrequently one family may furnish all the pupils of a little school house lost among the distant hills. To be sure, in these days of hard-surfaced highways and fast school buses—chars-à-bancs in Anglo-Saxon speech—the union system has displaced the isolated small school. With us a city or a district which does not unhesitatingly, almost unthinkingly, vote bonds or approve tax levies for school building purposes is looked upon as quite antediluvian by the real estate boosters, the business go-getters, and Marco Polos generally. The library is not so fortunate. It is newer; and for all the attention directed toward it during recent years it receives only about one dollar to fifty expended in school support.

Several reasons may be advanced to account for the spirit of favouritism shown by the maternal state toward her creatures. Education has been looked upon as a process confined to certain youthful years during which it is completed and may ever after be forgot. Only comparatively recently, and not by the way wholly through the insistence of the schoolmaster, has the consciousness been aroused that perhaps education is a matter which vitally concerns the individual throughout his lifetime, that it is never finished, that its benefits are largely dissipated by his failure to continue to learn after classrooms are no longer frequented, in fact, that the formal part of education is only a sort of vestibule leading into the mansion of culture. The democratic public library would seem to be the hope of learning for the joy of learning of the future.

In the development of library service at public expense the larger cities offered the most easily cultivated and the most fertile fields. Their users were concentrated within rather definite and narrow limits; and could, consequently, be reached through a central building, with the possible addition of branches and distributing stations in the more distant sections. Their taxable properties were so considerable that more or less adequate funds might be raised at very low rates; and low rates are essential, for the average property owner will bellow louder over a dollar contribution to the support of his public library for a whole year than he will over the six to ten dollars required for a pair of tickets to see one show. It is a matter of education, perhaps, or a habit of democracy to express its resentment of

tax levies in general. But unfortunately for library purposes less than half of the population lives in metropolitan areas. To be sure, towns and even villages tried to follow the example of the cities and maintain libraries through inadequate tax supplemented by gifts from public spirited citizens and other funds laboriously raised by suppers, fêtes and sales. In one of our American states every town "boasts" of a library; if service alone were accurately measured the boast would instantly become abject apology. But as a living organization capable of contributing to the public weal a library so supported has been found wanting, and ever will. And as for the folk scattered over the plains and the mountains, on the farms, at the mines, in hamlets, they are utterly helpless under any scheme of individual management; and must content themselves in their leisure hours with a newspaper, the *Saturday Evening Post*—and gossip about the neighbours.

Then in the course of events came a new agency which promised to put a book in the hands of every individual. It was a travelling library, made up by someone at a distant centre attempting to select reading matter for men, women and children, whose habits, likes and dislikes, were as unknown as the brand of tooth powder used by the man in the moon. These packages could never with any assurance of success provide other than recreational books. As an institution the travelling library flourished for a season; but it is rapidly giving place to more efficient methods.

In an age when the consolidation of business concerns into large corporations became so common that government took cognizance thereof and questioned; when small schools were unionized, thereby securing better instruction and gaining, for student and teacher alike, the inspiration of numbers, it would have been strange indeed if a larger unit for library work were not sought. In the most of my country and in your islands it was found in the county, a division of government already existing; but unfortunately in the New England states and in Canada such a division is not governmentally emphasized or else does not exist at all. In those sections, therefore, the problem is decidedly more difficult of solution. It is about the county type of library work that I address myself in the remainder of this paper.

My own commonwealth of California holds the proud distinction of being the American state in which this newer kind of library organization

has had its most successful development. You note I have qualified my statement by limiting the comparison to my own continent ; for in these islands you have made remarkable progress toward covering your field. I have at times regretted the necessity of choosing the name county library as a designation of the thing we are attempting to do ; because in the minds of most laymen and of many librarians it is taken to be something altogether strange and distinct from the public library. The difference is merely in degree, not kind. We claim no originality in the idea of the county as a unit, nor indeed to the scheme to cover the whole of a state, county by county. Our only bid for glory lies in the fact that we secured the necessary legislation and then set about as vigorously as possible to transfer the system from the pages of a book of statutes into a living, serving instrumentality.

Every system of this sort will vary in its details according to local conditions, customs and obstacles. I surely would not be rash enough to propose that all librarians and users of libraries try to find comfort in the Procrustean couch which fits California's ideal figure and artistic curves ; but perhaps she may be taken as something from which to start discussion. To begin with I consider it a great boon to be able to organize, to create a county library without the necessity of circulating petitions, or of an election. The power to put the system in motion should be lodged with the board or body charged with the management of county affairs, and particularly empowered to levy taxes. I would not advocate a special library board, because it cannot, in most states, be given the final word as to funds. No fear need be felt in dispensing with an election ; for the governing body will not act precipitately, it will move only when the sentiment of the people is strongly pro-library.

Since the greatest handicap of the public library, and especially those of small or medium size, is untrained and unskilled professional direction, I would make it legally necessary for candidates for the post of county librarian to hold a certificate of eligibility, granted after a thorough examination covering not only technical subjects but so far as may be personal fitness and adaptability. We no longer permit doctors without proper training to practise upon our bodies. We insist that teachers charged with the training of our minds know the rules of their craft. We ought to be equally careful about librarians who are expected to give us inspiration and

information from our first step out of the cradle to the second last step into the grave. A system such as I speak of should have headquarters at the county seat, depending for its size and appointments upon the area and the population served. In any event it should be well stocked with the bread and butter—and even the jam—of library service. Branches or distributing points should be rather thickly strewn over the whole of the county. Towns with sufficient population should have what to all appearances, in building, book stocks and assistants, would approximate a well-organized public library, with the difference that they would enjoy close contact with the county headquarters in professional direction and book resources.

It is not enough to provide headquarters, books, branches and trained workers. The librarian must possess sufficient genius to secure a high degree of efficiency and teamwork from her staff scattered over wide areas ; and she must also catch the interest of the people, convince them that the library is a paying investment and cultivate in them a desire to read whatever may be the distractions and counter-attractions in this twentieth century world. The assistants ought to be frequently visited by the librarian or a chief deputy ; and they should be brought together at headquarters annually, semi-annually, or even quarterly for friendly discussions, advice and—luncheons. They may profitably be given the chance to exchange place for a day or two with one of their fellow workers in a distant part of the county or at headquarters, thus extending their acquaintance and developing their powers to cope with new situations. Intensive schools of instruction may well be opened for the untrained staff members. Some sort of weekly or monthly letter or bulletin should be issued. And regular reports sent in from the branches will place in the librarian's hands threads by means of which she may hold her organization together. As for the people who are served, if they get what they want when they want it, and if they are made to realize that the librarian and her helpers are awake to their interests it will not be long before they rejoice to see the item for the library on their tax bill.

Any system of this kind which proves successful must devote much thought and energy to the service of the schools, particularly those of elementary grades. In my own state the county school districts have long taxed

themselves for the support of libraries. The money was so poorly expended until the county library came into being that it was wasted. In the aggregate it totaled hundreds of thousands of dollars. Now, this fund may, upon decision of the school trustees, be paid over to the county library which thereafter is responsible for the book service, provides maps, globes and music records, keeps the school library in presentable condition, and in general forms a working alliance with teacher and pupils. Here, as elsewhere in county library service, the pooling of funds and the great fluidity of book stocks enable the librarian to accomplish results otherwise quite impossible. No longer are there dead books in any of these schools ; good books that have been read are quickly replaced by others that have not been read. The results are plain : a great saving of funds through their proper expenditure, a fine stimulus to the day by day life of the pupils through fresh material on their studies, recreational books and information about this great busy world of ours, and the cultivation of right reading habits which may reasonably be expected to survive the period spent in classrooms, and may even simplify the adult education problems of professional kind in the coming generations. Another result not to be too lightly weighed is the effect upon parents and adults of the books brought into the home by the children, a sort of infiltration method of converting the elders to the use of libraries.

I have stressed visiting as an essential feature of a well-arranged library scheme. It is quite as necessary for the books themselves to be on the wing. No volume should merely occupy space on the shelves of a branch. When finished with—that is, when not active—it should go back to headquarters, and its place taken by some book that will work. With us all means of transportation are freely used : automobiles, railways (steam and electric), horse-drawn vehicles, pack mules, boats of all kinds, and even aerial trams ; but motor transit is quicker and more convenient in most counties. In a state with thousands of miles of highway, and a *per capita* circulation quite the highest in America, we do not have a single “book wagon,” so called. The great weakness of this feature, which so easily gets itself written up in the newspapers, is that it smacks of false advertising, in giving the people the impression that, like the salt mill in the fairy tale, it somehow grinds out the books as it goes merrily along. Small communities have the idea that if they can get a book wagon their problem is solved. I would use

automobiles and trucks to supply the distributing stations which must be fixed points easily accessible to the whole population.

The plan I have in mind would be weak if the several county units were isolated organizations working ahead on their own problems, unmindful of the existence of their neighbours. The great handicap of the average small and medium sized public library has long been its lack of connection with others of its or a better kind. An efficient system, therefore, means a state in which the units are articulated, in which the various librarians are neighbourly, and among which lending of books easily and freely takes place. Why should county A pay \$5.00 for a volume which is standing unused on the shelf at county B headquarters? Why is it not better business to borrow that book and use the money thus saved to buy something which in time may save B's needs as well as its own? A union catalogue at the state centre greatly facilitates and simplifies the freest lending and borrowing of the books of a whole commonwealth. This indispensable instrument, in the only instance I am able to cite, has as its structural backbone a set of the Library of Congress printed catalogue cards, but its muscle and fibre consist of entries for the books in most of the libraries of the state. It is easy, therefore, for the operator at the state library to put distant libraries in touch with their neighbours who have books asked for and which for the moment may not be otherwise obtainable. Under such conditions casting one's bread upon the waters becomes more than a biblical example for citation in Sunday sermons.

The ideal system which I am trying to picture will not reach its high level as long as it operates merely as a confederation without a head, or, if you will, a heart. A central, in this case, state body or institution must supply what the units may not secure for themselves, and must create and keep alive an influence binding the whole together. Professional visits and advice by the state executive or his deputy will do much toward making the local librarian's task easier. And the state centre should build up a strong collection of books on all important subjects and should lend them, not to individuals, but to units. It is almost inconceivable the saving of funds possible under such a plan through the elimination of needless duplication; and funds thus saved may be invested in richer and more varied book stocks.

The scheme I hold up to you is highly co-operative, if one may employ a term so frequently abused in its present-day usage. It is an attempt to give the library something of the cohesion of the school system without destroying its informality and its individuality. We would gather to it some of the strength of our Federal reserve banks wherein each unit is left, within certain broad limits, to manage its own affairs but which may receive help when help is needed, and which need not worry over plethoric funds earning no interest during the seasons of slack demand. The first reaction of the small library to the proposal that it become a part of a system is that it will lose its identity—a result in many cases which would be sought, if the local mirror reflected truthfully ; but always when the change is made this plea is forgotten in the experience that nothing worth while is taken away, and that everything desirable is added thereto. The library of the next generation is potentially vastly more powerful and useful than is our present organization. Whether that glory will be attained depends upon the skill and faith and vision of the librarians now in the harness.

You who know fairly well the library system of California will readily see that I have had no vision of strange and untried works. What I have described is point by point what we have practised in increasing degree for sixteen years. To-day forty-six of our fifty-eight counties are in operation. They all have their dissimilarities but they are all alike ; they adapt their practice to local conditions, so that book and user meet at the right time and place. Two of the smaller counties have attached themselves to their stronger neighbours ; four receive service through contract with the public libraries at their county seat. They maintain about 4,200 branches and stations, 2,400 of which are in school districts. And they are supported at an annual cost of about \$1,500,000. We are pleased with this development, but we shall not be satisfied until the remaining twelve counties are organized.

I bring to you of the Library Association the congratulations and best wishes of your friends and kinfolk on the American Pacific Coast. Out there we have recently held a joint convention, which in its professional harmony quite wiped out state and national border lines. Indications are clear that all librarians, whatever their tongue, may be equally happy. But especially should there be a bond of sympathy between you, of the land

which has given so magnificent a body of literature, and us who have so long used it as our own. We in the Far West live under favouring conditions—fruitfulness, natural beauty of great variability. It would be strange if in some manner we were unable in time to repay a part of the debt we owe older lands and older civilizations. Toward that end we strive.

Miss A. S. COOKE (County Librarian, Kent) said the system of library work in operation in California was an ideal one. The invidious distinctions between borough and county, which existed in England, were there non-existent. Library work was a complete co-operation; and the Library at Sacramento was made magnificently useful by a union catalogue.

On Thursday afternoon, Lt.-Col. LUXMOORE NEWCOMBE (Librarian, Central Library for Students) read a paper.

THE FUTURE OF THE CENTRAL LIBRARY FOR STUDENTS

By LUXMOORE NEWCOMBE, *Librarian of the Central Library for Students.*

OBJECT OF PAPER.

THE object of this paper is to seek the co-operation of librarians throughout the country in framing the future policy of the Library.

In order to facilitate this the Secretaries of the Conference have kindly had the paper circulated, so that the short time at our disposal may be devoted to a discussion of the suggestions made.

In view of the very important recommendations made by the Public Libraries Committee, the Trustees and the Committee of the Central Library are considering on October 19th the whole question of the future policy of the Library. Arising out of this meeting, it is probable that the Board of Education will be approached in reference to certain of the recommendations contained in their Report. The consideration of this question—one of vital importance to the Central Library itself and, one

ventures to suggest, to all the libraries of the country—has purposely been postponed to a late date in order that the members of this Conference may have an opportunity of assisting in the reconstruction of the present small Central Library for Students into a great national library capable of rendering efficient service to all types of libraries.

The policy of the Central Library for Students has always been to provide, so far as its means have allowed, just that assistance which the libraries have asked for. If this policy is to be maintained—and it is the wish of the Committee that it should be—it is first necessary to ascertain the probable future needs of the libraries. It is hoped, therefore, that all librarians and other persons interested in libraries will give the Committee the benefit of their suggestions and advice—and criticism, too, if they have any—either during the discussion of this paper, or, if that is not possible, verbally or in writing, before October 19th. In helping the Central Library in this way we shall be doing a great deal to help one another.

HISTORICAL NOTE.

The August, 1913, number of the *Contemporary Review* contained an article entitled "Our Public Libraries," by "Some London Librarians." This article suggested that a way to meet "the need for greater facilities of access to research literature" was by instituting a "Central Library Authority" which would act as a distributing agency or library clearing office for all the Copyright Libraries (including those whose copyright privilege had been commuted) with the exception of the British Museum; the idea being that these libraries should be prepared to lend their books through the Central Library Authority (which would possess a union catalogue of all the libraries) to the public and other libraries throughout the country. A hope was also expressed that the endowed and professional libraries might eventually come into the scheme.

In the following October, *The Library* published an article entitled "A National Lending Library for Students," strongly approving the suggestion contained in the *Contemporary Review*, but expressing disagreement with the proposal that the Copyright Libraries should be expected to lend their books. It also pointed out a possible danger arising from the free loan of a few copyright copies of the type of book which in any case

could hope for only a limited sale. The sale might be so reduced in this way that it would become impossible to publish such books. The solution suggested was summed up as follows : “ (1) mutual loans, (2) co-operative purchasing, and (3) gratuitous storage (in a National Loan Collection) for not wanted books, without complete cessation of ownership.”

But it was not until 1916 that anything in the nature of an organized national lending library came into existence. Even then it was more or less accidental, as none of the founders of the modest Central Library for Students—a library primarily to supply books to the students attending adult education classes—realized that in the short space of eleven years the library would rise to the high place it now occupies among the libraries of the country.

It is mainly to that great pioneer in the adult education movement, Dr. Albert Mansbridge, that the Central Library for Students owes its existence. He was the prime mover in following up the suggestion made by Professor Adams in his “ Report on Library Provision and Policy ” that “ a central lending library, common to the Workers’ Educational Association, the Adult School Movement, and all other organizations of working men and women which are carrying on systematic study work, would be an institution of great public utility.” A generous grant from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees enabled the promoters of the new library to take over and expand the small library which had been established in 1914 by the Workers’ Educational Association at Toynbee Hall, and on October 1st, 1916, the first book was issued from the new Library at 20 Tavistock Square.

But this library was to do something more than supply books to students attending classes. In their first report the Committee stated that “ the purpose of the library is not only to ensure that all *bona fide* students coming under its notice shall be helped in their studies if they are unable to obtain the use of the necessary books elsewhere, but also to stimulate and develop higher study on the part of those, for the most part isolated students, who, owing to the lack of book facilities and book guidance, have been content with a lower level of knowledge than they are capable of acquiring.”

The extent to which students and readers outside the classes have gradually availed themselves of this wider service is shown in the following table :—

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	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19	1919-20	1920-21	1921-22	1922-23	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27
NUMBER OF BORROWERS :											
Urban Libraries	—	3	10	27	90	120	160	198	212	235	298
County Libraries	—	—	—	—	16	22	19	22	32	47	54
University Libraries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	11	16	10
Other Libraries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	9	15	20
Adult Classes	77	170	192	434	428	412	335	360	327	357	345
Individual Borrowers.	93	392	835	1,294	1,693	1,758	1,439	1,243	681	432	201
VOLUMES ISSUED :											
Urban Libraries	—	20	77	181	968	1,303	2,674	5,754	8,148	11,160	11,908
County Libraries	—	—	—	—	732	1,003	1,495	3,026	6,966	12,124	16,401
University Libraries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	595	874	700	454
Other Libraries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,542	410	645	690
Adult Classes	1,750	3,676	7,720	8,174	7,758	12,602	11,239	13,670	14,123	15,205	12,889
Individual Borrowers.	255	1,583	3,540	6,663	9,586	13,060	13,711	14,471	6,184	4,302	2,662
	2,005	5,279	11,337	15,018	19,044	27,968	29,119	39,058	36,705	44,196	45,004

These figures do not include the issues for the Scottish and the Irish Central Libraries.

The Third Interim Report of the Adult Education Committee, issued in 1919, contained important proposals for the development of the Central Library for Students. The Committee were of opinion that the Library should “supplement the book collections of local libraries by supplying on loan local demands for larger and more expensive works than public libraries can provide, and for books of a more specialized character than local libraries are justified in obtaining.” They also suggested that the Central Library should “meet the needs of individuals for whom no other provision is available” and that it should “also be a source of supply where, for purposes of group study, many copies of certain books were needed, but that it should be no part of its function to supply quantities of cheap text-books, and it should not supply books prescribed for examinations.” A further recommendation was that “the resources of the existing libraries should be pooled. . . . The existing libraries would thus be more fully used, unnecessary duplication of books would be avoided, and funds set free for fresh purchases. This proposal implies a general catalogue, which it would be the duty of the Central Library, acting as a clearing house, to compile and keep up to date.”

WHAT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY IS NOW DOING.

Before we discuss developments it may be useful to consider for a moment the work the Central Library is now doing.

In the year 1926-27, 45,004 volumes were issued through the following channels :—

	<i>Volumes</i>
298 Urban Libraries	11,908
54 County Libraries	16,401
10 University Libraries	454
20 other Libraries	690
Total Issues to 382 Libraries	29,453
345 Adult Classes	12,889
201 Individuals direct	2,662
	<hr/>
	45,004

In addition to the books issued by the Central Library in London, the following volumes, making a total of 59,046, were issued by the Scottish and the Irish Central Libraries :—

Scottish Central Library for Students.

	<i>Volumes</i>
Urban Libraries	2,359
County Libraries	5,082
Other Libraries	25
Adult Classes	1,978
Individuals direct	525
	<hr/>
	9,969

Irish Central Library for Students.

	<i>Volumes</i>
Urban Libraries	24
County Libraries	2,246
University Libraries	56
Other Libraries	7
Individuals direct	1,740
	<hr/>
	4,073

In connection with these figures it might be explained that the three Central Libraries in London, Dunfermline and Dublin work in the closest co-operation and are able to help one another in many ways. The total stock in these three libraries is some 45,000 volumes, of which about 33,000 are in London and 10,000 in Dunfermline. The Scottish and the Irish libraries are not under the control of the Committee of the London library, but are administered and financed by the Carnegie Trustees, though the general policy of the libraries is the same. Each library has its own librarian.

METHOD OF SUPPLY AND TYPE OF BOOK SUPPLIED.

The function of the Central Library is to supply those books which the local library is unable to buy, either because it cannot afford them, or because the probable demand for them would not justify the expense. The Central Library does not issue books direct to individuals, but only through the local library to which the individual has access. In other words, the Central Library only steps in when the local library fails. This is necessary, not only to avoid the wasteful duplication of books which the reader could equally well obtain from the local library, but also in order that the local librarian may know the needs of his readers and, so far as possible, meet them.

The Central Library will not supply any modern book costing less than six shillings. It will, however, try to supply a copy of any out-of-print book or pamphlet, whatever the published price may have been. There is no fixed maximum, but naturally the purchase of very expensive books has to be kept within reasonable limits. Again, ordinary modern fiction is not supplied, nor will the text-books required for examinations be issued. Reference books, such as dictionaries, encyclopædias, atlases, or annuals like Whitaker or "Who's Who," are not, ordinarily, supplied. Modern biographies of a personal or popular character cannot be obtained, but biographies containing matter of historical or other value may be issued. In this connection it may be mentioned that the library has a copy of the Dictionary of National Biography for loan to those libraries which cannot afford to buy their own copy of this invaluable work. Modern books of local interest, including books on local industries, which should be in the possession of the local library, are not, normally, supplied. Such books, however, would be issued to libraries outside the locality concerned. Finally,

books which the local library—bearing in mind the size and income of each particular library—could reasonably be expected to buy for itself will not be issued by the Central Library. In other words, the local library must pull its weight.

With the above exceptions the Central Library will do its best to supply any book. The local librarian who is in touch with the reader asking for the book is often in a better position to know the readers' actual needs than the librarian of the Central Library can be, so it is always open to the local librarian to query a decision if he has reason to disagree with it. The Central Library has no hard and fast rules, and will willingly reconsider any book which it may have refused.

No book is bought for the Library until it is actually asked for: the result is that, although the stock is at present small, it is a very live one.

FUTURE POLICY OF THE CENTRAL LIBRARY.

Having dealt with the past and present of the Central Library we now come to the really important part of the paper—consideration of the future policy of the Library. It is here that we need the help and advice of all our friends. In this connection we will consider recommendations 40 to 46 of the Public Libraries Committee. It is of the utmost importance that we should be quite clear as to whether these recommendations are sound and are likely to give us that service which we hope to get from a fully organized central library and clearing house.

We might, to start with, ignore the financial difficulties which are likely to hamper the full development of the Library for, at any rate, some years. Unfortunately, however, these will have to be considered before the paper is closed.

THE SCIENCE LIBRARY.

The exact lines on which the Central Library should be developed depend to a large extent on the assistance that can be supplied by other libraries, such as the Science Library and the Outlier Libraries.

Paragraph 394 of the Report of the Public Libraries Committee outlines the method by which the valuable books and periodicals in the Science Library (which is already a national library) might be made available to readers through any library in the country. It is suggested that the

application for a book should reach the Central Library through the usual channels, that is, through the public or other local library, and the "Regional Library," if one should exist. The Central Library would then "meet out of its own resources applications for works of a general and non-specialized character, but would send on to the Science Library any requests for literature required for advanced research and study." Volumes of periodicals and certain other books which it would be difficult to replace would only be issued for reference in the local library. This is a necessary precaution, as should such a book be lost it would be very expensive—often impossible—to replace it. In many cases it would mean that a complete set of the periodical would have to be purchased to obtain the missing volume. For the last twelve months an experimental scheme on these lines has been in force, to the entire satisfaction of both the Central Library and the Science Library.

The Public Libraries Committee recommend that an additional grant of £3,500 a year (£2,500 for periodicals and £1,000 for books) be made to the Science Library, to enable it to obtain a copy of every periodical publishing scientific research. It is much to be hoped that such a grant may be made in the near future. The value of this library behind the Central Library cannot be over estimated, as many of its books, and especially the periodicals, are unobtainable elsewhere.

THE OUTLIER LIBRARIES.

In 1923, the Carnegie Trustees introduced the "Outlier" Library scheme. An Outlier Library is a library which undertakes to lend its books to any responsible reader in any part of Great Britain or Ireland. In the early days these libraries received a substantial grant from the Carnegie Trustees in return for the service they were prepared to give, but recently a number of important special libraries have come in as voluntary Outlier Libraries, though grants are still given in certain special cases.

The twenty-nine libraries at present co-operating in this way with the Central Library are :—

- *Animal Diseases Research Association, Edinburgh.
- *British Drama League.
- *British Institute of Adult Education.

* Those libraries marked with an asterisk (*) contribute to the Union Catalogue, for details of which see page 185.

- British Optical Association.
- College of Nursing.
- Co-operative Reference Library.
Agricultural Economics.
Education Guild of Great Britain and Ireland.
French Hospital.
Huguenot literature, including the library of the Huguenot Society of London.
- Geographical Association, Aberystwyth.
- King's College for Women.
- League of Nations Union.
- Leplay House.
Social problems, housing, rural life, regional work, town planning, civics, geography, topography.
- Linnean Society.
- London and National Society for Women's Service.
Books on political and economic questions of importance to women, such as occupations, wages, housing, public health, national and local government, education, etc. Also biographies of eminent women, and a unique historical section on the Women's Movement.
London School of Economics.
- Manchester Library for Deaf Education.
- Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society.
- Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden.
Agriculture.
Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen.
Animal and human nutrition.
- Royal Aeronautical Society.
- Royal Anthropological Institute.
- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.
- Royal Colonial Institute.
- Royal Institute of International Affairs.
- Royal Scottish Society of Arts, Edinburgh.
Scottish Marine Biological Association, Millport, Bute.
Society of Antiquaries.

Those libraries marked with an asterisk (*) contribute to the Union Catalogue, for details of which see page 185.

*Solon Ceramic Library, Stoke-on-Trent.

Theosophical Society.

Last year, 719 volumes were borrowed from 16 of these Outlier Libraries, but in considering these figures it should be borne in mind that a large percentage of the volumes represented is books—such as periodicals, volumes forming part of expensive sets, and books published in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries—which the reader could not otherwise have obtained. These books are issued through the Central Library in the ordinary way.

Several other libraries which have not yet undertaken the obligations of the Outlier Libraries have rendered valuable assistance by lending books which could not be obtained in any other way, by giving information, or by allowing readers to consult books in their libraries. Dr. Williams' Library has also lent many books, mostly theological.

There are enormous possibilities in the fuller development of this system of co-operating libraries. This matter will be dealt with more fully when we are considering the Library as a bureau of exchange.

THE LIBRARIES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

How far will it be possible for the Central Library to draw on the valuable collections in the libraries of the Government Departments? Probably all librarians will agree that the British Museum should be excluded from any system involving the loan of books. The Patent Office library is also essentially a reference library and is, therefore, rightly excluded. One of the most important national libraries—the Science Library—is already co-operating with the Central Library, and so is the National Library of Wales so far as its duplicate books are concerned. But there are many other valuable government libraries, a few of which, such as the Ministry of Agriculture Library, are prepared to lend books. It is to be hoped that most of these libraries may also be prepared to lend books in exceptional circumstances even if they are unable to make the whole of their stocks available. Many of these departmental libraries are essentially reference collections, and clearly each case will have to be considered on its own merits. The governing bodies of each of these libraries will be approached by the Central Library to

Those libraries marked with an asterisk (*) contribute to the Union Catalogue, for details of which see page 185.

see how far, if at all, they may be able to contribute to the national book reserve.

THE STOCK OF THE CENTRAL LIBRARY.

As has already been mentioned, the present stock of the Central Library is only some 33,000 volumes. The percentage of "dead" material in this stock is, however, small, mainly because nearly every book has been bought in recent years to meet a specific demand. It is not easy to estimate how large the stock should be if it is to meet most of the reasonable demands that are likely to be made on it when the Library is more fully developed. Taking the issues for last year (45,000 volumes) and ignoring the volumes borrowed from the Outlier and other co-operating libraries, it is instructive to note that about 90 per cent of the books supplied were already in stock, the remaining 10 per cent having to be purchased. Of course, some books within the scope of the Library were asked for and not supplied because they could not be obtained or were too expensive to be bought out of the funds available. There are no figures to show the exact number of books in this category, but it is doubtful if it would exceed 5 or 6 per cent.

This would seem to indicate that a large stock is unnecessary, as had its income been sufficiently large, the library would have been able to buy most of the books not supplied without seriously increasing the size of its stock. It should be remembered also that a certain amount of very careful weeding can be done each year. This applies mainly to old editions of books, of which the latest edition only is wanted, and some of the copies of books which were once in large demand but are now rarely wanted.

Again, in considering the size of the Central Library's own stock, one must bear in mind the possible enormous expansion of the Outlier Library system. One looks forward—perhaps rather a long way—to the day when every special library of any importance—and there are few special libraries that are not important—is linked up with the Central Library. This will mean that it will be necessary for the Central Library to buy few books more than twenty-five years old and hardly any over a hundred years old. It will also mean that it will be almost entirely relieved of the expense of buying periodical literature, though, as will be indicated presently, it may be necessary to house such books.

So, one way and another, it is possible that it may be some few years before the ordinary stock of the Library—that is, books bought in response to demand—exceeds 100,000 volumes. But there are other books which most certainly should be in a properly equipped national lending library; books which are asked for now and are amongst those that have to be refused. These may be divided into two main groups. The first of these is the expensive modern book, often published in a limited edition. One has only to look at the catalogues of such publishers as Benn or Batsford to realize how many of those books are published every year, and to realize also how important it is that it should be possible for readers to consult such books. And yet how many local libraries can afford them, or how many would be justified in buying them if they could afford them? The second group contains the publications (other than the publications in the nature of journals) of numerous societies and publishing bodies. The Library should be able to lend any volume of the Early English Text Society, the Hakluyt Society, the Tudor Facsimile Texts, or a hundred and more similar English and Foreign publications; all far beyond the means of the average public library. It should also have a copy of the best—not necessarily the most expensive—editions of the English and Foreign classics.

A point that will have to be considered carefully is the relative cost of housing a rarely wanted book in the Central Library and of borrowing it from an associated library. It may be possible to obtain many such books by gift, bequest, or transfer from other libraries. These may in time increase the stock of the Library to a high figure.

THE POOLING OF "DEAD" REFERENCE BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

The author is indebted to Mr. Gordon, the City Librarian of Leeds, for the following useful suggestion. Many of the older and larger public libraries—the same applies to many non-public libraries for that matter—have long bound sets of the old reviews and similar publications, and old reference and other books which are rarely consulted and yet which occupy a great deal of valuable—and, don't let us forget, expensive—shelving. A complete set of the same review or the same book may be in a dozen or more libraries. Might it not be a help to these overcrowded libraries if

these journals and books were transferred to the Central Library as soon as it has room to house them? The others could then be discarded.

It is probable that the Central Library is the natural home for the Subject Index collection of periodicals. It has already been arranged that these should be taken over as a temporary measure, should it no longer be possible for the National Library of Wales to house them.

THE SUPPLY OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Public Libraries Committee make certain recommendations (par. 600) as to the distribution of government publications. Among these, they include a free grant to the Central Library. At present the Central Library, not being a public library maintained out of the rates, has to pay full price for any government publication, the result being that it rarely buys any.

If the full recommendations of the committee on this point are accepted by the Government, the demand for current government publications from the Central Library is likely to be small, as any public library would have the right to requisition a free copy of any publication within a year of its issue. But there would always be some current publications which a library might not wish to add to its permanent stock, if it could borrow them from the Central Library. This would be to the advantage of the Stationery Office as it would reduce the number of requisitions for free copies.

It is, however, to meet the demand for the older government publications that the Central Library should be in a position to lend any volume required. Several such applications have been unsuccessful during the past year because the Central Library has been unable to borrow the volumes from any Outlier or other library. There are two ways in which this demand could be met. A set as complete as possible of all government publications ever issued could be given to the Central Library, or the Central Library could be given the right to borrow from the Stationery Office, much in the way that it does from an Outlier Library. The advantage of the latter method would be that the Central Library would not have to provide a large quantity of shelving to house the books, nor would it be responsible for the binding. There might, however, be equally weighty advantages in the other alternative. For instance, should a fire destroy the sets of the

publications at the Stationery Office, it might be a good thing to have a reserve set housed elsewhere.

There are certain sets of "Stationery Office Publications," as distinct from "Government Publications," which should most certainly be in the Central Library. These include the Calendars of State Papers, the Public Records Office publications, the Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, the publications of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and many others. The Central Library should undoubtedly be given complete sets of all these.

It would be helpful to know whether it would also be desirable that the Patent Office Specifications should be available through the Central Library, or is the free supply now made to twenty-three libraries sufficient, and are these libraries willing to lend to other libraries in their "regional area"?

THE CENTRAL LIBRARY AS A BUREAU OF EXCHANGE.

We have already seen how the Outlier and other associated libraries are able to help the Central Library. We might now consider how the Central Library may be more fully developed as a bureau of exchange.

Already, many of the Outlier Libraries are taking advantage of the exchange service offered by the Central Library, and members of those libraries are obtaining books which they could not otherwise have had. No subject, however highly specialized, is so watertight that its literature does not overlap with at least one other subject. Specialists are beginning to realize this and to appreciate the enormous value of being able to draw on other special libraries or even on the stock of the Central Library. It is just this necessity for wandering further afield from time to time, that makes one so hopeful that before long the majority of the special libraries will have linked up with the Central Library. There is little doubt that they will reap much benefit by so doing. The larger the number of libraries co-operating, the greater will be the benefit derived by each.

But the advantages offered by a bureau of exchange must not be limited to the Outlier and the special libraries. Any library that has material which it may be difficult to obtain elsewhere should be assisting in, and benefiting from, the service offered. Not only must the university and college libraries come into the scheme, but a great many of the urban libraries also.

In the Metropolitan Borough Libraries alone there are no less than twenty-seven special collections that might well be made available to readers in other libraries. These include collections on furniture, art metal work, watch and clock making, leather and leather trades, and costume and ornament; any one of which might be of the greatest assistance to the specialist who has the misfortune to live outside the area containing the particular collection he wishes to use. Throughout the country there are equally important special collections, often contained in some of the smaller and less known libraries.

THE SUPPLY OF BOOKS TO ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES.

Among all the momentous developments connected with the Central Library, care must be taken that we do not forget one side of its work, a side which is not only one of its most important but one for which it was very largely founded—the supply of books to adult classes. The limits of a paper already far too long necessitate very brief treatment of a subject that could well fill a paper itself. Fortunately, a Committee, composed of persons who are closely connected with the work, is now sitting with a view to forwarding its recommendations to the Committee of the Central Library before October 19th. We will, therefore, consider only those points that particularly concern the urban and county libraries.

The Public Libraries Committee devote a whole chapter (chapter vi) to this question, and cover the ground so fully and admirably that it is only necessary to endorse their general recommendation that the Central Library should be approached only after the local library has done what it can to help. Many of the county libraries and several of the urban libraries are now doing this, and it is hoped that others will soon realize, as the Committee point out (paragraph 525), that “the growth of adult education has already stimulated the local library system, partly through the direct demands of the classes and partly through the individual demands of past members of such classes now merged in the general body of readers.”

It is probable that the special Committee mentioned above will recommend that as a matter of procedure the book lists be first sent to the Supervising Body, when that body possesses a library, and that the balance of

the list be then sent to the Central Library. The Central Library will send it to the librarian of the appropriate urban or county library with a request that he will return it after he has marked the books he can supply. The Central Library will then do its best to supply the balance. The advantages of this method are that the local librarian is put in touch with the needs of his readers (often the class tutor or secretary does not now approach the local library) and duplication and gaps are likely to be avoided.

ASSISTANCE TO THE SEAFARERS' EDUCATION SERVICE.

It is suggested in the Report of the Public Libraries Committee (paragraph 417) that the responsibility for the supply of books to ships "should be met by co-operation between the companies, the men, and the seaport library authorities, supported by the Central Library as representing the national interests."

It is obviously reasonable that books in a national lending library should be available equally to members of the public on land or on sea, but unfortunately it is not possible for the Central Library to help the sailor to the same extent as it can the landsman. This is due mainly to the long period for which the book would have to be lent, a period that precludes the issue of books from Outlier or other co-operating libraries. But there are many other ways in which the library can help, and there are many books in its own stock that might be used to supplement the library of the Seafarers' Education Service, as in fact they do now.

AN INFORMATION DEPARTMENT.

We have now dealt, very briefly, with the work of the Central Library so far as the actual supply of books is concerned. But the Public Libraries Committee rightly assigns other duties to it. Some of these may now be considered.

The success of the Enquiry Office established at Birmingham University by the Joint Standing Committee on Library Co-operation, has demonstrated the value of an office whose duty it is to trace the whereabouts of scarce books and periodicals. The Joint Standing Committee are transferring the work of this office to the Central Library directly the latter is in the financial position to start a properly organized and equipped Information

Department. Moreover, they are prepared to make a substantial annual grant, for, at any rate, three years, towards the cost of the department.

The function of a fully organized Information Department should not be limited to the tracing of scarce books : it should be capable of supplying bibliographical information of all descriptions, what one might describe as practical bibliography rather than information about such points as the actual printing of early books. It should endeavour to give the publisher and price of any modern book which a librarian is unable to trace through his bookseller, and it should be able to supply details of the most suitable book on any subject and the best edition of any author. It would not be the business of the Department to supply the detailed information on any subject, but only to give assistance in finding where that information may be obtained.

A UNION CATALOGUE.

Closely connected with the Bureau of Exchange and the Information Department is the provision of a union catalogue of all the libraries associated with the Central Library, because on such a catalogue will depend the success in tracing with speed and economy any book required.

A small start has already been made in the collection of material to form the nucleus of a union catalogue. In addition to duplicate cards from the Scottish and the Irish Central Libraries, copies of the author cards of all accessions from January 1st, 1927, are being supplied by twenty-two of the Outlier Libraries (for lists see pages 176-178). The assistance given by these libraries is making it possible to begin, in a very small way, a piece of work which should grow into one of the most valuable bibliographical tools in the country. It is hoped that many other libraries, including some urban libraries so far as their special collections are concerned, may be able to assist in this great work as soon as the Central Library is in a position to deal with the material supplied.

But valuable as this voluntary assistance is, a union catalogue will never be built up without a special staff to assist in the compilation and in the "editing" of the cards as they are received. The latter work is essential and requires a considerable amount of knowledge and experience. Given even a small trained staff a union catalogue of quite useful proportions might be built up in a comparatively short time. After all, such a catalogue

is merely a finding list, and it is not necessary that the cards should contain any bibliographical details. All that is necessary is (1) author's full name, (2) short title, (3) number of edition if not the first, (4) date. It is estimated that each cataloguer could abbreviate and copy 100,000 entries in a year, so that quite a small staff of cataloguers, with an editor at headquarters to deal with the cards as they came in, would soon build up a very serviceable catalogue. It is probable that it would be best to start on the periodicals, anyway those not included in the "World List of Scientific Periodicals." These entries would take considerably longer to make.

THE ISSUES OF BOOK SELECTION GUIDES.

The Public Libraries Committee state (paragraph 480) that "One common need, as to which we have received much evidence, is the preparation of select bibliographies, to assist both librarians and readers in their choice of books. Such a service could well be performed by the Central Library, which would be in touch with the needs of all; while valuable assistance in their preparation could be derived from close association with the British Museum."

The author of this paper dealt with this point at the last County Library Conference.* Many of the County Librarians have since expressed a strong hope that such bibliographies may be provided. The following is an extract from the County Conference paper:—

"What would be of far greater value than class lists of books in the Central Library would be carefully compiled lists of the best modern books on various subjects. Once such lists were issued they should be kept up to date by annual supplements, or possibly by supplements issued at more frequent intervals. Each list must be compiled, or at any rate, edited, by an expert in that particular subject, and to be really useful it must be annotated. . . Its [the guide's] benefit to the public at large would be enormous, because it would give them in their libraries a selection of the best books on various subjects, and it would also be of great assistance to students in need of guidance in their reading. . . . Another point in favour of the guide would be that it would have quite a big sale, as every library of any importance would have to subscribe to at least one copy, and no doubt many would be sold to individuals."

*Report of the Proceedings of the County Library Conference, 1926, pp. 96-98.

Whether or not the Central Library is allotted the task of issuing these bibliographies, it is much to be hoped that they will be provided by some responsible body free from any trade bias.

THE CENTRAL LIBRARY AS A DEPARTMENT OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

As the highly important recommendation of the Public Libraries Committee that the Central Library for Students should be reconstituted as a special department of the British Museum, with separate functions and a separate constitution, has not yet been considered by the Trustees of the British Museum or the Committee of the Central Library for Students, it would, perhaps, be premature to go into details on this point. The recommendation is dealt with fully in paragraphs 473-482 and recommendations 41-43 of the Report of the Committee, and it may be sufficient here to express strong approval of all that is suggested there.

This recommendation, however, is one on which the opinion of librarians would be both welcome and helpful. It has already been suggested to the writer of this article that if the proposal were adopted the Central Library for Students would lose its freedom and with its freedom a great deal of its usefulness. It is doubtful if there is any solid foundation for this fear, but it is desirable that all sides of the question should be carefully considered.

THE CENTRAL LIBRARY AS A NATIONAL LIBRARY CENTRE.

An institution that is likely to do more for the library movement—apart from the supply of books—than any existing agency is a central headquarters in which all bodies interested in the welfare of libraries or librarianship may have their offices, and not only their offices, but a joint hall, council chamber, club room, and reference library. Resolutions in favour of such a headquarters have already been passed by all the bodies concerned, and a joint committee is now sitting to consider the possibilities of the scheme. This Committee, with Mr. Gorrie as Chairman and Colonel Mitchell as secretary, is composed of two representatives of each of the following bodies: Library Association, Association of Assistant Librarians, Bibliographical Society, Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux, Joint Standing Committee on Library Co-operation, Seafarers' Education Service, and the Central Library for Students.

This subject is introduced here to emphasize the desirability of any such joint headquarters being closely associated with the Central Library. If the Central Library is to be the source for the supply of otherwise unobtainable books, for information about books, and for guidance as to the best books to buy, what more appropriate place could be chosen for the housing of other bodies doing work along similar lines? The Central Library should become the natural centre to which the librarians of the country should come when they are in London, and in the proposed club room they would meet other librarians and the members of bodies interested in special branches of their work. They would also have access to the great bibliographical reference library that would be such an important feature of the Information Department of the Central Library.

THE COST, AND HOW IS IT TO BE MET?

Well, so much for what the Central Library should be able to do. There remains only one other point to be considered—what is it all going to cost and how is that cost to be met? Upon the answer to these questions depends the possibility of obtaining the service we have outlined.

The ordinary income of the Library last year was £5,314, being £257 less than the ordinary expenditure, of which £2,471 was spent in the purchase and binding of books. The bulk of the income comes from the Carnegie Trustees, but their annual grant of £3,000 ceases in two years' time, and there is no justification for assuming that it will be renewed. Since the foundation of the Library the Carnegie Trustees have given no less than £26,561 towards its upkeep, and a further £6,000 has been promised during the next two years.

The reliable income for the current year, assuming that the libraries subscribe the same amounts as they did last year, is £5,297, and the estimated expenditure, if books are to be bought throughout the year on the scale on which they are now supplied, is in the neighbourhood of £7,000. Fortunately there are special funds available to meet this estimated deficit of £1,703, but next year there will be no such funds to fall back on, and we shall have to depend on the receipt of the suggested grant of £5,000 from the Government. If that fails and money is not forthcoming from some other source, the book supply, at any rate so far as new books is concerned, will have to

be curtailed, and there will be no possibility of any extension of the work of the library. It is as well that these facts should be faced now.

What are the possibilities of a Government grant being made next year? In view of the very moderate sum asked for and of the statement made in the House of Commons on July 26th* by the President of the Board of Education that the "grants for the Central Library and the Science Library . . . will be considered with the estimates for next year, and when that time comes we will give them the most favourable consideration that the finances of the moment may make possible," the prospects look hopeful, but they are by no means assured. The suggestion has even been made that the Government may wait until it has received the report of the new Royal Commission on Museums, but it is to be hoped that there is no ground for this suggestion. If there is, we may have to wait a couple of years before any assistance is received, and in the meantime how are we going to buy our books?

Many of the urban and county libraries can, and it is believed that many will, increase their contributions, which last year reached a total of only £814, being an increase of £192 on the previous year. This source of income should be worth £2,000 a year, and the Treasurer of the Central Library will not be satisfied until it reaches that figure. It is hoped that every librarian and library committee will do all they can to assist in this direction.

CONCLUSION.

It is to be feared that this paper has greatly exceeded the limits that would necessarily have been placed on it had it not been possible to take it as read, but the subject is one that so closely concerns all the librarians of the country that no apology is made for its length, but only for its inefficiency. Nothing said here must be taken to be an expression of the opinion of the Trustees, the Committee, or the Council of the Central Library for Students. The paper merely states certain facts and expresses the author's own views on some of the possible developments of the Library, if it, fortunately, obtains the funds necessary to do the work which a great reservoir library and clearing house should be able to do.

*Parliamentary Debates, House of Commons, 26th July, 1927, 1154.

The regional libraries suggested by the Public Libraries Committee have been considered to be outside the scope and the space of this paper ; so have some of the more advanced suggestions made in recommendation 44 of the Report, but that does not mean that the value of these suggestions—especially those regarding the regional libraries—is not fully appreciated.

Finally, it would again be said that, at this critical stage of the Library's development, the advice of all librarians will be highly valued by all concerned.

Mr. W. R. B. PRIDEAUX (Reform Club, London) congratulated Colonel Newcombe on his paper. He said that the question of a Central Library was one of primary importance for librarians, to whom it was of the greatest moment to know whether they had this great reserve behind them or not. If they could count on the aid of a well-stocked library such as had been outlined in the Report, it was clear that they could be of greater help to their readers. He wanted to lay particular stress on the third purpose of such a library, namely the gratuitous storage of not-wanted books, without complete cessation of ownership. Libraries, particularly in London, were, many of them, coming to the end of their available space, and were being faced with the difficulty of storage. While they were always ready to discard rubbish, there were certain long sets to which additions had to be made every year. They wanted some place to keep, if not the whole of these sets, at any rate the earlier portions. It would be a great boon, if such sets could be placed in some central library, where they would be properly housed and cared for and available when required, and, he wanted to stress, without complete cessation of ownership. At present there were only two London libraries which served in any way for this purpose : the London Library, which was a most wonderful institution with a reserve for lending purposes, and the London University Library in South Kensington. The latter was beginning to serve this very purpose of keeping a reserve supply of books for lending purposes, but it was obvious that the public it touched was not large enough.

Mr. STEPHEN K. JONES (Librarian, Dr. Williams's Library, London) said he thought they needed, in addition to a repository for reference books and books that were really needed, a repository for "rubbish" or what might appear to them, at any time, to be rubbish. They might have, not in London, but in some place where land was cheap, a sort of semi-detached villa, of which one half should be a mausoleum and the other a crematorium. To this place every librarian should be allowed to send a copy of a book which he had in his library and which appeared to him to be "rubbish" on the understanding that the custodian of the place would keep it, if he did not already possess a copy of that particular edition of that particular book. Otherwise he could cremate it or dispose of it for the benefit of the institution. In this way there would always be a copy of the book available, and every librarian would be able to lay his hand on it, though he could not, as he took Mr. Prideaux

to mean, claim ownership of it. As long as there were minute bibliographers amongst them, who were interested in thirty-seventh and thirty-ninth editions, he thought that, though, as individual librarians, they could not be expected to house such books, as a nation they ought to have some lending institution in addition to the British Museum, in which all such books could be preserved.

The PRESIDENT then read the following resolution which had been handed to him :—" That in the opinion of the Fiftieth Annual Conference of the Library Association, assembled in Edinburgh, the Central Library, as proposed in recommendations 39 to 46 of the Report of the Public Libraries Committee, is both desirable and necessary in the interests of an effective library provision in England, and it expresses a hope that His Majesty's Government will be able to provide a reasonable measure of financial support in the immediate future. Further, the Library Association pledges itself to do all in its power to assist in the development of such a Central Library."

Mr. L. STANLEY JAST (Manchester) said he had much pleasure in moving the resolution. He did not think it was necessary to say anything in support of the resolution, for it had been made quite clear at that Conference, and at other conferences where the Central Library had been under discussion, that it had, in the measure of its opportunities up to the present, done an extraordinarily useful service to the whole public library movement of this country. He had had the pleasure of being a member of the Committee of the Central Library from the beginning, and he could look back on the early years of that institution, which was founded during the war. Those had been very difficult years, and there was the natural and almost inevitable feeling among many librarians that the Central Library was in some respects a sort of competitive institution to the public library. That was an entirely wrong idea, and he thought they had lived it down. There was, however, one danger, not an immediate danger, but one that was always present to the Committee. It was simply that a public library might apply to the Central Library for a book which that applying library ought to have, as, in fact, had occurred in the past, when a large reference library had applied to the Central Library for the loan of a book which no decent reference library in the country should be without. It was, of course, not the business of the Central Library to supply such books. There would be very definite limitations to the resources of the Central Library. If the Central Library obtained a Government grant it would still have to husband its resources pretty carefully, and it would not have an unlimited supply of money for staff or books or shelving or building. Consequently he very much questioned the wisdom of making the Central Library, at this stage, a repository for dead reference books, which was the suggestion made in the Report. He very much questioned whether the Central Library for a long time to come would be justified in putting books on its shelves on the off chance that they might be wanted, although the Central Library would have a Reference Library of live books. The same remarks applied to the question of "rubbish." The proper place to store "rubbish" was the British Museum—(laughter)—and not the Central Library. The Central Library would also be well advised not to stock patent specifications, at any rate until it was obliged to take them by the pressure of the demand. That had, in fact, been the policy up to the present of the Central Library, and it was only in that way, with its limited funds, that it had been able to do the work it had done. It had spent its money on books which gave an immediate rather than a prospective return. There was one very necessary

service which some time or other, he thought, the Central Library might very well perform. That service was to act as intermediary for the exchange of books. Every library received gifts of books which it already had and which would be doing a useful service elsewhere. It would be an advantage if libraries could exchange such books for others which they did not possess. It was not necessary, as he had said, to make any defence of the resolution, and he heartily moved it.

The Rev. P. R. LANDRETH (Perth) said he would like to second the resolution provided it were made to include Scotland. As a Scotsman he was particularly interested in what had been said applying to Scotland. Was it meant to include Scotland?

The CHAIRMAN said the motion was based on the Report, which only dealt with England and Wales.

Colonel NEWCOMBE said that although this resolution could not include Scotland directly, as the resolution was based on the Report of the Public Libraries Committee, it did so indirectly, for there were Central Libraries for Students in Scotland, which made use of the stock of the Central Library in London. In that way, they covered the whole of Great Britain and Ireland.

Mr. LANDRETH, continuing, said he had been indebted to the Central Library for several works. It could not be too widely known that students and readers throughout Scotland, who were tackling serious problems, could obtain the best books on their subjects simply by paying the postal carriage. The idea of a crematorium for books was a most excellent one provided they were not books of value; he submitted that books of literary, historical, or scientific value should be preserved, but that other books such as railway time-tables and local directories should be ruthlessly cremated. (Cries of "No! No!") Many libraries were not libraries of living books at all, and Lord Rosebery had been right when he referred to some libraries as cemeteries. Experience in their Public Library in Perth had also shown that it would be very desirable to have an information department in the Central Library.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the word "Britain" should be substituted for "England" in the resolution.

Mr. TAPLEY-SOPER (Exeter) said he thought it unfortunate that the last speaker should have referred to that exceedingly unfortunate pleasantry of Lord Rosebery's. He thought that that phrase had done more harm than any popular phrase, or any phrase that had become popular, within the last half century. Colonel Newcombe's suggestion about the storage and lending of Government publications was a noteworthy one. He felt sure that the Central Library for Students would have no difficulty in collecting sets of these publications from small libraries to which small collections had from time to time been presented. Very few libraries indeed had a complete collection, and it had become almost impossible to make up a complete set. The Central Library for Students would, therefore, be doing very great service to those engaged in research work if they could make up a set of these publications and lend them to libraries where they would be used. An analytical catalogue of these publications—if that were also possible—would confer another great benefit on everyone engaged in research work. He did not know if the Central Library was in touch with the Bureau of Exchange organized in connection with the Universities. Those two organizations should, in some way, be amalgamated. Regarding the question of discarding books, it was exceedingly difficult to know whether a book was likely to be useful or not. His practice at

Exeter was to consult the professors or lecturers in the University, and to get their advice. Their advice very frequently surprised him. It was also desirable, although this work had been done to some extent by the Bureau of Special Libraries, that they should have a list to refer to of towns or libraries which contained special collections. Some of the small special collections would never, he thought, get into the list which had now been compiled.

Mr. H. D. ROBERTS, M.B.E. (Brighton) said that if this resolution were passed—and he hoped it would be—they were pledged to do something. Colonel Newcombe and his committee wanted more money. Could they not, as a definite attempt to carry out their pledge, induce their committees to increase their contributions? Colonel Newcombe and his staff, he took it, were not so much interested in having a collection of books under their own roof as in knowing where they could get any particular book. A union catalogue was an ideal which some of their grandchildren might see accomplished, but in the meantime there was a practical step which might be taken: as there was no library which had not got one or more special collections, would it not be possible for libraries to send to Colonel Newcombe definite information about them. If it could be made possible for the Central Library to know that they could apply to a particular library for a book or books on certain subjects, he was quite sure it was a step in the right direction. He knew for a fact that Colonel Newcombe would be delighted to receive such information. He wanted, finally, to prick a lance with the reverend gentleman from Perth. His generalizations were splendid, but he committed the unfortunate mistake of giving an instance—(laughter)—because if there was one thing in this world that it was their duty to keep, it was local directories. (Applause.)

Mr. LANDRETH: I quite admit that. I withdraw.

Mr. GEORGE F. VALE (President of the Association of Assistant Librarians) said their Association had watched with great interest the work Colonel Newcombe had done in the Central Library for Students, and he congratulated him on the wonderful changes he had brought about. Undoubtedly, the Central Library was a valuable institution; it was the keystone of the whole library movement of Great Britain.

The Rev. JOCELYN PERKINS, M.A. (Westminster) said the facilities offered by the Central Library ought to be within the reach of every boy and girl in the land, and he would be very glad to give Colonel Newcombe a pledge that he would do his level best to get his Committee to increase its support.

Dr. HENRY GUPPY (Manchester) said he rose to make an offer which might be an inducement to other librarians and other library committees to make a similar offer. They, in the John Rylands Library, could not offer to increase their subscription, because their income was such at the present moment that it was only by the exercise of economy that they were able to make ends meet. They had, however, a number of duplicates which had come to them, not by donation but through the purchase of large collections. As soon as he got back he would have these duplicates gone through, and he would send Colonel Newcombe a list of any he thought suitable for the Central Library; and, if he could accept them, they would be able to make their contribution to the work this library was doing. He supported the resolution in every detail, and he hoped they would rise to the occasion and help by every means at their disposal to develop the library, which was going to be so great a help to students who were unable to get access to the

very expensive text-books which they needed. In the future, they would endeavour to help forward this valuable piece of work which was being done in London under the auspices of the Carnegie Trust, which was already doing so much. England and the Public Library movement during the last twenty-five years owed everything to the enlightened administration of that Trust under the direction of their Chairman, the President, and they hoped to see it go on from success to success. (Applause.)

Miss MARIAN FROST (Worthing) publicly thanked the Central Library for Students for the great help they in the smaller towns got. Every member of her Committee knew how very valuable the Central Library had been to them. She would suggest that their small subscription should be doubled.

Mr. JAMES DOUTHWAITE (London) said that it would be useful to know from Colonel Newcombe whether he would prefer to have useful books or facilities to borrow them when the need arose. Otherwise he (Col. Newcombe) might occasionally be in some difficulty about refusing books which he did not want to house, but which he might wish to borrow on occasion.

Mr. JOHN WARNER (Newport) said he represented the municipal library of a city of one hundred thousand inhabitants, to which the Central Library would be important. He wished to suggest once more that the Central Library should develop extensively the policy of becoming a clearing-house for books. He thought that the work of the Central Library would be facilitated if librarians, when they borrowed a book, would examine it to decide whether they should buy it for themselves. He hoped the Central Library would be able to help with out-of-print books.

Mr. V. S. FAGO (Rome), on behalf of the International Co-ordination of Students, suggested that libraries in Great Britain should be supplied by the Central Library for Students with a larger number of foreign technical reference books. He wished that the conception of the Central Library for Students might be adopted by representatives of the foreign countries who were present at that conference, so that in continental Europe students might be helped in their work.

Lt.-Col. NEWCOMBE, replying to the discussion, said he would like to thank all who had taken part in it for the help they had given him and his Committee. He had made a note of the suggestions, and they would be brought to the notice of his Committee and would be carefully considered by them. In reply to Mr. Douthwaite's question, as far as he could see then, they would rather have the books, but that depended entirely on the number of sets the Central Library had. These were, however, all suggestions which they would consider.

The resolution was then put to the Conference, and was unanimously adopted with the substitution of the word "Britain" for "England."

Miss KATE E. PIERCE (Librarian, Public Library, Kettering) read a paper.

THE SMALL LIBRARY MADE EFFECTIVE

By KATE E. PIERCE, *Librarian, Kettering Public Library, Hon. Secretary of the North-Midland Library Association.*

THE title of this paper should have been "Making the best of things," or "Cutting your coat according to your cloth." Therefore I fear it is entirely out of place in this august assembly, where we have gathered together the aristocracy of the library world, but please do not blame me, I am only obeying orders. You remember that Malvolio says: "Some are born great, some attain greatness, some have greatness thrust upon them," the latter is my position at the present moment, and I shall be greatly relieved when I can retire to my accustomed modest obscurity.

I do not propose to deal with the inadequacy of the income of many libraries, it is a hard fact that there are many libraries in England to-day which would do much better to co-ordinate with the county schemes; then we have a number of libraries whose incomes range from £1,000 to £2,000 per annum, in towns which are just too large for the county scheme, but whose incomes are to a great extent expended in establishment and fabric charges, with the result that no adequate supply of new books is available. It is with libraries of this type and size that I am particularly concerned. It may be said that with no rate limit there is no reason for this state of things, but alas, the ghost of that old rate limitation is still with us, the industrial situation has been exceedingly difficult, and committees have been loathe to add to the already heavy burden borne by the ratepayers. These smaller places are levying a rate quite up to that levied in the richer towns and boroughs, but the rateable value being so much less, the income produced is less in proportion also than that produced by the same rate in larger and richer towns. Another difficulty for this type of library is caused by the overhead charges. In this the smaller libraries are like smaller businesses, the cost of upkeep is unavoidably heavier in proportion to the income, than in the larger libraries.

These are hard everyday facts, and "facts are stubborn things" from which we cannot get away. The question that evolves is, are we doing the best with our opportunities, under our present circumstances?

It appears to me that there is a great divergence in the efficiency of different libraries with similar incomes. In some opportunities are not only seized but made, that the work of the library may be furthered, while in others the fact of a small and inadequate income has such a depressing effect, that those responsible have hopelessly given in to a state of inertia, and in response to inquiries as to what they are doing in this, that, or the other branch of activities, reply "we have no money to do it with," and leave it at that.

I think that first of all small libraries should be run on some definite policy as to what can be done, and what cannot or should not be attempted. To try to copy the large city libraries is to ask for trouble. We must formulate a policy to suit our own case.

With regard to the selection of books, the first thing to do is to survey our ground, and to see how best to meet the demands made or likely to be made upon us. There is or should be a definite sum allocated for book purchases, which should be as a minimum about 20 per cent of the total library income, for books and binding. This has to provide books for the reference, lending and children's departments.

Now certain books are essential to every reference library however small, such are encyclopædias, dictionaries, English and foreign, atlases, road maps, biographical dictionaries, Whitaker's Almanack and others of like category, known as quick reference books. Composite histories, such as the Cambridge Modern History, etc., and encyclopædias and histories of literature, music, art, etc. There should be some good standard books on natural history, and well illustrated books on birds, butterflies, botany, etc. The standard books dealing with the chief industries of the town, supplemented by others in the lending department. With regard to local books, the histories of the county, and books and pamphlets relating to the town and immediate neighbourhood should be collected, but apart from these the general collection of books relating to the county, should be left to the principal town in the county. If some notable person is connected with the town, all literature relating to that person should be collected; for this purpose it is advisable to obtain the help of interested people, and if possible form a special fund. With these as a nucleus the needs of the general reference department can be met to a large extent. Editions de

luxe, bibliographical treasures, and expensive illustrated books, with others of the same type, can only be indulged in if one has some special outside fund to draw upon, and we must reconcile ourselves to the fact that to provide for the specialist is, however desirable, outside our scope.

We now come to the lending department. Let us begin with the oft debated question of fiction. I have no hesitation in saying that the users of our public libraries have a perfectly legitimate right to demand an adequate supply of novels—libraries are for those seeking recreation as well as for the students and others seeking informative reading. On the other hand, if a borrower grumbles because he or she is unable to obtain a constant supply of the latest novels, whether good or bad, I tell them that we do not profess to supply them, and the proper place to obtain them is a circulating library. It is our duty to provide the better class novels, and in sufficient numbers to meet the reasonable demands of our borrowers—also, as we can only afford a limited number, let us take especial care to see that those purchased are desirable.

The non-fiction classes should be built up in much the same way as the reference department. Make a good foundation with the best standard works in each class, and then build upon them. In libraries of this kind, do not be too highbrow, remember that the majority of our readers are not either highly educated or highly intellectual. On the other hand, and particularly in small industrial towns, there are many keenly intelligent people who are anxious to improve their education, and want to read something more solid than the average novel, but are not equipped to digest a heavy intellectual diet—neither have they the time to devote to the perusal of the larger and more comprehensive books. They need books of a more concise type, attractive and up-to-date, and by providing them with the intellectual food which they can appreciate and digest we educate them for better things. While no libraries, however small, should be without standard works in history, geography, and travel, to ignore the necessity for a supply of the lesser and up-to-date works of a popular type would be a very short-sighted policy, and what applies to this class applies equally to every other class of book.

So far, speaking personally, I have never been able to keep up an adequate supply of children's books, or at least not a supply that I consider adequate.

For one thing children come in crowds, and they keep on coming when they leave school. I put this down to the fact that we do not have school libraries. We supply the schools with borrowers' forms for the children, but if the children want to use them they must bring them to the Library themselves. Supply catalogues, lists of additions, and anything you like to the schools, but let the children grow up with the feeling that they use the library of their own free will, and exercise their own choice. If the teacher will interest them in books, and also take an interest in what they are reading, we shall not in future years have to complain that the adolescent does not use the library ; at present he or she does not do so, because the habit has not been acquired.

Books located in the different departments should be interchangeable, there should be no water-tight compartments in a library. The books located in the lending department should be available for use in the reference room, and vice versâ. There are, of course, certain quick reference books which cannot be loaned, as they are constantly in use, but apart from those I would much rather lend a reference book for home reading, and risk someone wanting it for reference, than have it standing idly on the shelves simply because it is a reference book, or a book located in the reference department. The same with the children. If they desire to borrow books from the adult section of the library, by all means let them do so. The thing to aim at is to get the books used. Small libraries are not storehouses for books, they are, or should be, exchange stations.

The care of books is important. Dirty, delapidated, and untidy books are fearfully dreary and depressing. With the small incomes at our disposal it is not possible to discard books and get fresh copies as often as one would desire. The next best thing is to keep them mended and dusted, and tidy on the shelves. Leaves get torn and plates get loose, but a paste pot and brush, if skilfully used, go a long way towards remedying some of these defects.

The staff of a small library presents problems, and work therein has both advantages and disadvantages in comparison with the large libraries. I think that it is easier to get a good type of assistant in a small place, for one thing there are fewer openings for boys and girls leaving school. Girls from a secondary school provide good material for training, and make excellent assistants. The salaries are small, but the girls can usually afford to take a

small salary, for the sake of the training. Also in small libraries they see all phases of the work, and they become accustomed to responsibility earlier than would be needful or possible with a large staff. When it is impossible to afford an adequate staff, it is possible to take in assistants who, having had some theoretical training, desire to acquire practical experience in the work; this is very well worth while doing, the experience they gain and the help they give make a fairly equitable exchange. In whatever capacity they come, there should be no differentiation made between them and the general staff as regards duties, they must do their fair share in both pleasant and unpleasant duties. One last word about the staff, avoid an official manner, and adopt a pleasant one. Manner maketh man, and it certainly goes far in making a library assistant. In a small library the assistants get to know individual borrowers to a greater degree than in a large library, and a friendly attitude goes far towards gaining the confidence of the borrowers. Be friendly with all, but don't be especially friendly with any. "Honey catches more flies than vinegar."

So far I have said nothing about co-operation, and in speaking of the purchase of books, I may have given the impression that I ignored the needs of the student and specialist. My reason for so doing is that I consider that the small library, not having the money to buy largely, must consider the general reader first. Years ago I should not have said this so emphatically, but then there was no Central Library for Students. This is certainly the greatest boon to the student that has ever been conceived in library service, and it is the saving grace for the smaller library. By its means it is possible to supply the needs of any student, and my experience is that the more one worries the staff of the Central Library for Students, and bombards them with requests for books, the better they like it. Placard your libraries with notices about the C.L.S., tell everyone who asks for books, that, if the stock in the library is insufficient, they can have further books. A new borrower, a stranger to our town, came in one day and asked for special books, which it was quite apparent he did not expect to get, while he was also quite prepared to rejoice in the inadequacy of the library service, and to go away and say it was only what he expected. He was pleasantly disappointed, for from our own stock and the C.L.S. we were able to supply all his wants. He has since proved an excellent friend to the library.

People who possess special collections of books may be prevailed upon to lend them to students through the library, and we are able to borrow some valuable scientific books in this way. We post a list of the books available, in the library, and we obtain them for students who ask for them.

Then there is the possibility of co-operation with the county library. Loan of books from special collections could be arranged through the county library. Villages near by might agree to borrow non-fiction books from the town library, for some fixed sum to be agreed upon between the two authorities. With a good nucleus of standard books, with the purchase of carefully selected up-to-date books to meet the needs of the general reader and co-operation with the C.L.S., the county library, and private libraries, even *small* town libraries with inadequate incomes can be made both effective and adequate.

The rules and regulations governing a small library should be simple and administered with common sense. Red tape should only be used to tie up papers, and not readers. Rules are made for a library, and not the library for rules. Don't crowd your building with unnecessary departments—ladies' rooms, for instance, are an anachronism at the present time. If you have books in your reference library that are never used, try putting them in the lending department.

There are ways of adding to the usefulness and attractiveness of a library, which cost extremely little in the way of money, but which are very well worth while doing.

In smaller towns it is often quite difficult to obtain information as to tourist facilities, either at home or abroad. To meet this we have for some years organized a display of tourist literature. The cost is nothing. All railways, shipping companies, tourist agencies, etc., will send their publications if asked to do so, and very excellent publications they are. We display some 500 or 600 guides and pamphlets on stands. They are roughly classified, those relating to individual places are arranged in alphabetical order on one stand, and others relating to tours are arranged on a second stand under various appropriate headings. Tourist information relating to Great Britain is broadly sub-divided under the headings North, South, East, West, Midlands, Scotland, Wales and so on. Foreign tours are classed together, likewise information as to travel facilities by sea. People can,

and do, browse amongst these freely, we only ask them not to remove any, but they can apply at the desk for duplicate copies which we give away. Each pamphlet is marked in such a way that they can be restored to order easily and quickly by an assistant. We also display particulars of cheap trains, excursions and so on, from the town. We find that this display brings people to the library, in fact it is quite a common occurrence for people to be sent from the railway station to the library to obtain this kind of information. This exhibition lasts from early spring to late autumn, in its entirety ; a smaller display is kept going all the year round. We do not keep any record of the number of the booklets used, neither do we add, to the statistics in our annual report, an estimated issue ; it is quite unnecessary ; the fact that this holiday literature is attracting people to the library and providing them with useful information, is all that we desire. At the end of the season we store the booklets that are not out of date, and the rest we give away to teachers who apply for them, as they find them useful in their school work.

In these days of easy and cheap travel, and with the present facilities for emigration to our colonies, there are many who are keenly interested in news and information about those far away parts of our great Empire, and while there are many admirable and informative books to be obtained, the everyday life and conditions of a country can best be pictured by the perusal of its newspapers and periodical literature. To supply this want I applied to various colonial offices, with the result that in several instances they agreed to supply free copies of a number of colonial papers and periodicals. These have proved useful, they supply a distinct need and help to fill a gap.

It is very desirable to keep in touch with the various local intellectual organizations, such as the Workers' Educational Association ; the Adult School movement ; the local Dramatic and Operatic Societies ; Guilds and Debating Societies. Find out what books are likely to be needed, and as far as in you lies, see that those books are available. Get into touch with the secretaries and let them know that you are out to help.

It is frequently impossible, owing to the lack of a suitable room, to hold lectures in small libraries, and even if the funds were available there still exists a ban on expenditure in this direction. It is, however, frequently possible to allow the use of a room for tutorial classes and small debating

societies. Failing all else, I allowed tutorial classes to be held in my own office which happens to be a fair size. I won't dwell upon the inconvenience it caused, but it had the effect of breaking the ice, and now we are getting to look upon it as a matter of course, and are using one of the public rooms for the purpose. Last winter two courses in literature were held at the library, consisting of forty-eight lectures. The special books belonging to the classes are kept at the library, and the library stock is available for the use of the class. It frequently happened that knotty points were solved during the discussions following the classes, by reference to books in the library. This has been quoted in *The Cambridge Extra-Mural Magazine* as an instance of the desirability of holding classes of this kind in a library. I see no reason why this should not be extended in other directions.

There are various ways in which the appearance of a library can be improved with little cost except of time and ingenuity. For instance, in the printing of directions, notices, guides. I have seen some splendid ones done by assistants in libraries, that have the spice of originality and the charm of handwork, which when well done is very attractive. In one library I admired the periodical covers, and found that they were made by the staff, at absolutely trifling cost.

The coloured paper jackets of new books can be utilized for a frieze which serves two purposes, it indicates what new books are available and serves as a decoration.

Collections of wild flowers can be made a pleasing feature of library work. Collecting the specimens proves the chief difficulty, but if there is a local Naturalists' Society, the members will probably undertake this and assist in arranging and naming the flowers. During June, July and August we have on exhibition some ninety specimens, these are changed twice a week. We aim not only to show botanical specimens, but to arrange them so that their beauty may be appreciated. The library staff print the appropriate labels and look after the flowers, which are named and arranged in classified order on three large tables. In this way some four to five hundred specimens are exhibited during the season. Lists of books bearing on the exhibition should be displayed, with the intimation that they can be obtained in the library.

A good deal of money is spent upon elaborate equipment in some libraries. Of course it is useful to have all the latest devices in equipment,

files, guides, and so on ; but it is not always necessary. One can often utilize something else which answers the same purpose. Every shilling saved means more books, for although one has to keep within one's estimate, a committee will usually agree to spend any surplus on more books.

Collections of illustrations culled from discarded books and periodicals can be formed. These mounted, filed and classified form, in course of time, a useful collection, which can be used in various ways.

Other ephemeral material, such as pamphlets, reports, trade catalogues, newspaper cuttings can be collected and filed, and are useful. A card catalogue of local information can be compiled, as for instance, addresses of the secretaries of local organizations of clubs and societies, and like information, which is often quite difficult to obtain in the ordinary way. Above all try and keep the information up to date.

Flowers and plants make a place look cheery. Again the question of cost arises, but one does not need choice flowers. If there is any land adjoining and belonging to the library, flowers can be grown. If not, wild flowers or branches of trees are very decorative. We grow our own flowers, and our caretaker has cultivated both them and the ubiquitous aspidistra, so that we are seldom without flowers, and the aspidistra is always with us.

The libraries in smaller towns are in many cases doing pioneer work. They are educating their inhabitants in the use of books and must adapt their methods to their circumstances, as all pioneers have had to do. They are not storehouses of books in the same way as the larger libraries. Their chief business is to circulate their stock, to discover what their people need and to provide it, to encourage the reading habit and by providing such literary food as may be suitable to their clients' intellectual digestion, lead them to that which is best in the great world of books. Let us make the best use of our opportunities, and the things of which we hope and dream shall be attained.

Miss MIZPAH GILBERT (Deputy Librarian, Brentford and Chiswick Public Libraries and Museums) said she disagreed with Miss Pierce that a small library had limitations. The small library on the contrary had infinite resources, and it was their duty to convince readers and councils alike that their resources were

infinitely greater than their size. Most libraries were effective in a way, but not as effective as they ought to be. That was the crux of the Departmental Committee's Report, particularly perhaps with regard to municipal libraries. The Report said, "It is the duty of a library authority not only to provide an adequate stock of books, but also to induce a substantial proportion of the local population to make use of them. Where this is not done, the money which has been spent on the library is not making an adequate return." There were several means open to them to make their libraries effective. No librarian should be content with less than a $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ or $3d.$ rate. It was his duty to teach the councillors what the library stood for and to show them an adequate return for money spent. The librarian should not only get the best books but see that they were used. The library ought to be the most brilliantly lighted place in the whole district, so as to attract the people. She also emphasized the importance of lectures in the library as a means of making it effective; it was helpful to have lecture booklets, with application forms for the library printed on the cover. She did not think any small library should neglect the children. The children's room ought to be the most charming in the whole building; and the interest of the children should be aroused both through the school-teachers and by holding children's competitions. At Chiswick, fifty-five per cent of the school children between the ages of 8 and 14 were active borrowers from the library.

Mr. THOMAS DUCKWORTH (Worcester) said that, to his mind, it was a tragedy that they should have to resort to so many shifts in order to get the results they desired. Library work in this country had to be regarded as an integral part of the public education. It was their duty, therefore, to see that the rate was increased. They were suffering from the penny rate idea, which indeed seemed to be a millstone round their necks.

Mr. LIONEL R. McCOLVIN (Ipswich) said there were many things they ought to do. They could return to the task of making the small library more effective. They could develop their reference libraries, which formed the least developed part of their work. And they could get into the Library Association the Association of Assistant Librarians.

Councillor W. H. SMITH (Leicester) said that the strictures laid upon elected representatives of the people by librarians would be unnecessary, if librarians made their profession so much alive that they could animate the general public. The general public would soon see that their representatives made the libraries more effective than they were at the present moment.

Councillor A. H. BARTON (Stockport) said committees were in the unhappy position of having to deal with the public. Librarians ought to go away from the Conference with the idea of imbuing their committees with the right spirit; it would then be up to the councils to put the right spirit into the public.

The Rev. JOCELYN PERKINS (Westminster) said he hoped librarians would go away from the Conference in good heart in spite of criticism, for there were some members of committees who appreciated the good work they were doing. (Applause.)

The HON. SECRETARY submitted, for the Council, this resolution:—

"The members of this Conference on Library Service in their last session assembled, desire to give expression to their appreciation of the warm welcome given to them by the City of Edinburgh. Special acknowledgments are due and are hereby duly conveyed to the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Council,

for their hospitable reception, to the Local Reception Committee with Sir George Macdonald as its Chairman. Also to the University authorities and Sir J. Alfred Ewing, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, who received and addressed the members on their visit. Further to the Trustees of the National Library, the Faculty of Advocates, the Societies of Writers to the Signet and Solicitors of the Supreme Courts.

The Town Council and the Carnegie Dunfermline Trustees have invited the Overseas Delegates together with members of the Council to visit Dunfermline on Saturday, October 1st. To both these bodies acknowledgments and cordial thanks are conveyed in advance.

No formal words could adequately express our sense of the hard work which has devolved upon the Hon. Local Secretaries (Messrs. A. Ogilvie and E. A. Savage), and the Hon. Local Treasurer (Mr. J. Minto), resulting in such a highly successful international conference."

The resolution was cordially adopted, and the Conference concluded.

Concurrently with this meeting, Col. Mitchell, Secretary of the Carnegie Trust, presided over a debate on the County Library Section of the Government Report.

Mr. E. SALTER DAVIES (Director of Education, Kent), who opened the debate, dealt with the various sections of the chapter in the Report dealing with county libraries, with the preparation of which he and Colonel Mitchell had had a good deal to do. He pointed out that the Report set out what was conceived to be the object of county library policy, which was to relieve the tedium of idle hours, quite irrespective of intellectual profit or educational gain. It was sufficient to satisfy that purpose, that the rural inhabitant should be rendered a happier, not necessarily a more learned man, by the provision made for him. He suggested that, while instructional reading had an important part in life, recreational reading was also of real and first-rate importance—the reading of literature that did not merely seek to add to their intellectual knowledge, but which did interest and arouse their emotions, and kindled and illuminated their imaginations. Another point was that it was not the business of librarians to enforce their own opinions and tastes on their readers, but to approximate to granting their demands. It was no good giving a person a book he did not want to read. Was not the whole essence of education in that principle? They talked sometimes of compulsory education. There was no such thing. There was compulsory schooling, and it was futile unless it led to the activity in which education began. The history of the last few years had been amazingly exciting and successful. He did not think that experience would be repeated. The pioneer work was to a great extent over. They had reached the stage now when they were not quite so sure of the direction which their course should take. He was conscious of the difficulties of some of the small areas where the amount raised from a halfpenny rate might be perhaps only £300. The only way out of that difficulty was by co-operation between urban areas and county authorities. But he was convinced that though the progress of the next few years might be different in kind from the amazing progress of the last few years, it would be no less real.

Discussion afterwards took place on various points of administration, and on the financial and technical difficulties of various county and small urban areas.

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The CHAIRMAN said co-operation was a difficult question. If there was a small village lying just outside a large town, were they to advise that village to join with the town or the county in library work? Colonel Mitchell also stated that the Secretary for Scotland had been approached with a view to getting a small committee appointed to investigate the question of the Scottish libraries.

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner of the Association was held at the North British Station Hotel on Thursday evening. The Earl of Elgin presided over a gathering of three hundred and eighty. The croupiers were:—Mr. W. Storrie Beveridge, Dr. C. A. Malcolm, Mr. John Minto, Mr. F. C. Nicholson, and Mr. Alfred Ogilvie.

The CHAIRMAN read a message of greeting from Japan. "Looking back," the message stated, "they could trace, in Japan, the beginning of what might be called the public library of the eighth century and follow it through the centuries in the monastic and circulating libraries. The former were aristocratic, and the latter commercial. While the public library in the new class was a modern thing, dating no more than thirty years back, the number of respectable libraries amounted to five hundred while there were about three thousand minor ones."

Mr. R. R. BOWKER (Brooklyn) proposed the toast of "The City and Royal Burgh of Edinburgh." He said that he was one of the few survivors, if not the only survivor, of the Conference of 1880, the first and, until then, the only conference held in Edinburgh. After referring to some of the leaders of the library movement, he said that the beginning of the second half century of its existence had been signalized by the issue of the remarkable Departmental Report, which had been so admirably discussed during the week. He wished to express his appreciation of the chairmanship which their President had shown during the Conference. (Applause.) He had not known a finer in fifty years international experience in library affairs. (Applause.) In the last few years the prophesy made in 1880 had been fulfilled; Edinburgh had obtained its National Library, through the generosity of the Faculty of Advocates and the munificence of Sir Alexander Grant, a citizen of their city, who had emulated the example of Mr. Carnegie. He referred to many outstanding features of Edinburgh and especially to the National Memorial. It was, he said, a perfect memorial, the finest of its kind in the world.

Bailie NASMYTH, who replied, expressed regret at the absence of the Lord Provost, who was, he said, temporarily indisposed. The Lord Provost wished him to say how much he regretted his inability to be present. It had been said that Scotsmen had "a guid conceit of themselves," but he thought they were entitled to have a "guid conceit" of the Capital of Scotland. To a very large extent the trade of Edinburgh was education and the making of books. They had had and still had a great reputation for the printing and publishing of books. (Applause.)

Dr. A. E. COWLEY proposed the toast of "Overseas Library Associations and Librarians." He said that they extended to them a very hearty welcome. He referred to outstanding representatives from the Continent, the United States and the Colonies, and spoke of the astonishing progress that had been made in the United States and in the Colonies since the 1877 Conference of librarians, which led to the formation of the Association. The work of librarians in the United States was a growing and splendid work of national importance

and of patriotic interest; he had to admit, however, that the librarians in this country could not always follow them in every respect. He had read of a library in the United States which was replete with smoking-room, bathroom, and, for anyone who was bold enough to look at a book, with a first-aid room. (Laughter.) The problems of librarians in the United States were different from those in this country, but at least they were at one with them in their enthusiasm and patriotic aims. He hoped that these international meetings would be continued, and that they would meet many times more in international conferences. They welcomed the overseas visitors and thanked them for their help and stimulus in making the Conference the great and signal success it had been. (Applause.)

Mr. CARL RODEN replied. He said that the visitors from overseas greatly appreciated the kindness, the hospitality and the welcome they had been given. The impression his American colleagues would carry away from their visit was that this country had nothing to learn from America in the way of librarianship. They all realized that libraries were not merely buildings and equipment, but that they consisted of books, together with the human spirit behind those books. (Applause.) They in America had much to learn from British librarians in dignity and scholarship and the majesty of tradition. As for the essence of librarianship, as they all professed it, the ladies and gentlemen of the Library Association had nothing whatever to learn. He went on to speak of the great fire in Chicago in 1871, which destroyed the whole of the centre of the city, including the library. He said that, six weeks after the fire, a gift of seven thousand books had come from England to replace the loss. Chicago had never forgotten that debt they owed to British Libraries, and he was charged with a message of acknowledgment from Chicago.

Dr. HUGO KRÜSS (Director-General, Prussian State Libraries), who replied on behalf of the Continental visitors, said that though, unlike their American colleagues, they were not bound to this country by the same language, they felt that they had a great deal in common with the nation that had given to the world Shakespeare and Walter Scott. For many of them there had been strong temptations to neglect their duty in the Conference Hall, and to wander in a city with so rich a past. But they had learned much from the Conference, and they felt encouraged to carry on their work to greater efficiency. They were convinced that their own interests called for a closer co-operation in the future, and he thought they might be sure that, before they parted, the foundation for such co-operative work would be laid. (Applause.) They wished with all their hearts that the Library Association, which had been so kind to them, would continue to prosper as it had prospered during the first half century of its admirable history. (Applause.)

Sir FREDERIC KENYON proposed "The Library Association." He said that he was proud to be allowed to propose the toast of the evening. He supposed that the human relations of the librarians fell under three heads: their relations with their governing bodies, their relations with their clients the public, and their relations with one another. They had heard during the Conference, that, so far as their relations with their governing bodies were concerned, there was a lack of sympathy on the part of the latter. Personally he had no such complaint to make. One of his masters, as a Trustee of the British Museum, was Lord Elgin, and his lordship had not given him a moment's trouble in that capacity all his life.

(Laughter.) As for relations with the public, in the British Museum's Act of Incorporation, its public was defined as: "all studious and curious persons." In a library they certainly came across some curious persons, as well as the studious ones. And finally, as to their relations among themselves, someone had asked at the Conference, what was meant by co-operation. Could he simplify the term by saying it meant, "the more we are together the merrier we shall be"? (Laughter.) As a result of the Conference they were more united as a profession and whatever their branch they were all ready to help one another. If they went forward in that spirit he felt that their successors, who celebrated the centenary of the Association, would look back on the first fifty years as a real step forward in the history of the library movement. He coupled the toast with the name of their President. (Applause.) The Association would always remember the debt which it had incurred to Lord Elgin for his presidency in this memorable year, and they would also remember that Lord Elgin was the Chairman of the Carnegie Trust to which the library movement owed so much. (Applause.) They regretted that Lady Elgin had been unable to accompany Lord Elgin to the meetings, and they would like to send through him a message to her of their sympathy. (Applause.) They wished also to thank Lady Veronica Bruce for taking her place, and for her kindness in attending the meetings. (Applause.)

Lord ELGIN, in reply, returned thanks for the personal message. He said that they wished to thank the Town Council and the other bodies for their receptions and for all they had done to help them, and they also wished to place on record their thanks to the Trustees of the Scottish National Library, the Faculty of Advocates, the Society of Writers to the Signet, and the Society of Solicitors to the Supreme Court for the use of their beautiful rooms for the reception, and for allowing them to look at the books which were treasured in their libraries. (Applause.) They had had a good summary of the history of the Association from their Secretary, Mr. Pacy. Mr. Pacy had said that the presidents had been varied; they were supposed to be great and good, but they had all been human. He hoped that when Mr. Pacy came to write of the centenary year, he would be as kind to the president of the fiftieth anniversary. He had ventured to mention at the outset that he spoke as one of the Carnegie Trustees. Sir Frederic had spoken of him as a Trustee of the British Museum; this, however, was not due to any work of his own for, since the gift to the nation of the Elgin Marbles by his great-grandfather, Earls of Elgin had been family trustees. He had spoken on Tuesday as an outsider; after the week's meetings he would not call himself an outsider any more.

At the conclusion of his speech Lord Elgin sang, "Scots wha' hae," and there followed a scene of great enthusiasm, the company rising to their feet and cheering.

Dr. THEODORE W. KOCH (Evanston, Illinois) proposed "The Local Reception Committee" in a speech enlivened with humorous stories. They greatly appreciated, he said, the arrangements made by that Committee for their entertainment. It was a great compliment to the Library Association and to the delegates from overseas that Sir George Macdonald had been willing to act as Chairman, and that so many ladies and gentlemen had been ready to serve on the Committee. That the work of the Committee had been done most effectively, they had had ample proof during the past few days. When they returned home they would cherish the remembrance of that week in Edinburgh.

Sir GEORGE MACDONALD, who responded, said that, from all accounts, that Conference had been the most successful in the history of the Association. Speaking on behalf of his colleagues and himself, it had been not a duty but a pleasure to serve on the Local Reception Committee. They had been more than repaid for the efforts they had made; it had been a great pleasure to have had the Library Association in Edinburgh, and to have been able to do something for their comfort.

The CHAIRMAN expressed the thanks of the Assembly to Mr. Charles Brown and Mr. John Mathewson, who had contributed to the entertainment and enjoyment of the evening, and the company then sang "Auld Lang Syne."

EXCURSIONS.

Three hundred and eighty of the delegates took part in the excursion to the Scott country on Friday. Starting at 9 a.m., the coaches ran through Eskbank, Middleton, Stow, Abbotsford, Galashiels, Dryburgh, Melrose, Leaderfoot, Earliston, Lauder and Dalkeith, visiting Dryburgh and Melrose Abbeys and Abbotsford House. Lunch and tea were taken at the Drill Hall in Galashiels. The weather was fine at the start of the excursion and remained so until about 5 p.m. when slight rain began to fall. The tour was found to be most enjoyable.

At the joint invitation of the Carnegie Dunfermline Trustees and the Town Council of Dunfermline, the overseas delegates and visitors to the Conference, along with the Council of the Library Association, visited Dunfermline on Saturday, October 1st.

Specially conducted visits were paid to the Carnegie Library, the Baths and Gymnasium, the College of Hygiene, the Women's Institute, and other institutions managed by the Dunfermline Trustees. The visitors were entertained to lunch, and afterwards driven in charrs-à-bancs to Lord Elgin's seat at Broomhall, where the President showed them various heirlooms, including Robert the Bruce's sword and helmet. On their return, an opportunity was afforded of visiting the Abbey and Pittencrieff Park and Glen, where they were entertained to tea. Lord Elgin afterwards accompanied his guests to the station, and saw them off.

Thus ended a memorable Conference.

APPENDIX I.

The following letters of thanks and appreciation have since been received from foreign delegates :—

From THE AMERICAN DELEGATES :

LONDON, *October 9th, 1927.*

To the BRITISH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION *and the* CARNEGIE UNITED KINGDOM TRUST.

The undersigned members of the group of American librarians who were privileged to participate in the beautiful and interesting journey through historic Britain from London to Edinburgh, to attend the inspiring conference of the

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Library Association of the United Kingdom and to share in its entertainments, desire, in this personal note, to record their deep appreciation of the hospitality tendered them by the Library Association and the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust and by the officials of both organizations, especially Colonel John M. Mitchell, the gracious leader of the tour, and the Right Honourable the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, who, in his dual capacity of chief of both organizations, bestowed many kindnesses and attentions upon the American visitors which they can never forget and for which they are sincerely grateful.

CHRISTINA L. GATES.
MARGARET L. BINGLEY.
ETTA M. ROBERTS.
ISABEL JACKSON.
ELIZABETH CLAYPOOL EARL.
L. ELSA LOEBER.
CORA M. DECKER.
ADELINE T. FAXON.
ANNA WEIBEZAHL.
ALICE L. ROSE.
MAY INGLES.
BONNIE KNISS.
DOROTHY D. KNISS.
FREDERICK W. FAXON.
MAY HOPPER.

HERMAN H. B. MEYER.
C. B. RODEN.
JOHN T. VANCE.
LYDIA G. ROBINSON.
SARA JORDAN KERNS.
MARY L. WATSON.
MARION RODEN.
MARGARET ROHRER.
ANNA R. DOUGHERTY.
CAROLINE B. PERKINS.
LORA H. RODEN.
MAME E. SEMLER.
H. MARY SPANGLER.
FANNY GOLDSTEIN.
RAY N. NEWELL.

From DR. ZDENĚK TOBOLKA :

ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE (BIBLIOTHÈQUE),

PRAGUE, TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE,

12th October, 1927.

MY DEAR PRESIDENT,

I have come back from the beautiful tour in your country and I hurry to thank you from all my heart for your uncommon hospitality. The days which I passed in your glorious native country will remain in my soul never to be forgotten. I think that our personal acquaintance will remain durable and will aid to cordial feelings, not only between us but also between the organizations of which we are presidents.—Once more my most hearty thanks, yours faithfully,

DR. ZDENEK TOBOLKA.

From M. HENRI LEMAÎTRE, *Paris* :

ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTHÉCAIRES FRANÇAIS.

PARIS, LE 6-OCTOBRE, 1927.

11 RUE GUÉNÉGAUD, 6.

MONSIEUR LE PRÉSIDENT,

Dès mon retour à Paris, je tiens à vous remercier personnellement comme au nom des Congressistes français pour l'accueil qui nous a été fait à la Conférence d'Edimbourg. Nous sommes tout particulièrement reconnaissants aux Secrétaires, Mr. Frank Pacy et Mr. E. A. Savage, qui ont su organiser si bien les réunions et

les excursions, et nous vous prions de vouloir bien leur transmettre le témoignage de notre gratitude. Nous avons été très touchés que vous nous avez si aimablement invités à vous visiter dans votre château de Broomhall ; nous avons emporté de cette belle résidence et de la réception que Lady Elgin et vous nous y avez faite un souvenir qui ne s'effacera pas.

Je ne veux pas manquer non plus de vous exprimer ma reconnaissance pour le tour organisé par le Carnegie U.K. Trust. Tous vos hôtes d'outre-mer se sont accordés pour louer ceux qui avaient assumé la direction de cette si belle excursion à travers l'Angleterre, et tout spécialement le Lt.-Col. J. M. Mitchell dont on sentait partout l'œil vigilant, Miss M. Wilkie, qui le secondait si bien, Mr. Thomas Gorrie, Mr. C. R. Sanderson et Mr. J. H. Quinn qui se trouvaient toujours à point nommé pour fournir les indications désirables.

La Conférence d'Edimbourg a été un grand succès ; les discussions ont été bien conduites ; les décisions d'ordre international qui y ont été prises auront, il faut l'espérer, des suites utiles. Vos hôtes ont également apprécié les beautés du pays que vous leur avez fait voir, les institutions sociales et les bibliothèques qu'ils ont visités ; chacun rapportera dans la région d'où il est venu la mémoire de ce voyage et en fera part aux Sociétés nationales. Mais ce qu'il sera difficile d'exprimer dans ces rapports ou dans ces lectures, c'est la gratitude qui restera d'une si parfaite hospitalité. Aussi je veux que ma lettre s'achève sur ce témoignage.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Président, l'assurance de mes sentiments très distingués.

HENRI LEMAÎTRE.

*Délégué par le Gouvernement français,
Trésorier de l'Association des bibliothécaires
français.*

From DR. W. MUNTHE, Oslo :

UNIVERSITETSBIBLIOTEKET,
OSLO, October 8th, 1927.

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, C.M.G.,
*President of the Library Association, Chairman of the Carnegie United
Kingdom Trust, Dunfermline.*

MY LORD,

Just returned to Norway from the interesting and successful Jubilee Conference of the Library Association in Edinburgh, I beg you, My Lord President, to accept my sincerest thanks for all the kindness and hospitality I was met with from both of the organizations over which you preside. Especially I wish to express my deepest sense of indebtedness for the generous invitation to participate in the pre-conference tour, which has given me a broader view both of the beautiful English countryside and of the intense work of the great town libraries.

The Jubilee Conference in Edinburgh I shall always bear in my mind as one of my most interesting experiences. I do not exactly know what I enjoyed most, being together with so many prominent English librarians, the addresses and the discussions, enlightened as they were by so many sparks of wit and humour, the receptions in the impressive surroundings of fine old libraries, each of which

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built in a refined style with a personal character, or, the strong impression of the British library force, marching consciously together against the great goal of a national library service.

I am sure that the Jubilee Conference will prove to be a lever of no little importance for the British library movement in the years to come, and I am glad I have had the opportunity of participating in it.

I beg you to convey my most grateful thanks over to the members of the Council both of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust and of the Library Association. I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship's very sincerely,

W. MUNTHE.

From DR. MATSUMOTO (*Director, Imperial Library of Japan*):

THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY OF JAPAN,

UYENO PARK, TOKYO, JAPAN.

January 11th, 1928.

ERNEST A. SAVAGE, ESQ., *Librarian*,

CENTRAL LIBRARY, GEORGE IV BRIDGE, EDINBURGH.

DEAR SIR,

I send you my hearty congratulation on the success of the Fiftieth Anniversary Meeting of the British Library Association held at Edinburgh last September, to which I had the honour of being invited, but was unable to accept. As I wrote you at that time, we arranged to despatch, as delegates from the Japanese Library Association, Dr. M. Sawayanagi, President of the Imperial Education Association, and Prof. K. Hamada. Unfortunately, Dr. Sawayanagi arrived at London from America in a somewhat seriously diseased condition, which made it necessary for him to leave London at once for home, without attending the Meeting. He got home, and was sent to hospital, where he died late last December. Because of this unhappy course of events, our gratitude to you for your kind invitation and our best wishes to the Conference seem to have had no occasion of being duly presented to you, while, on the other hand, we seem to have missed the opportunity of coming into helpful contact with the librarians of your country as well as with those from many other countries.

All this makes me feel obligatory to write to you again, to make clear to you these unhappy circumstances, thank once more for your cordial invitation, and wish further success of the British Library Association as well as of the International Co-operating body that is reported to have newly been born.—Yours sincerely,

R. MATSUMOTO, *Director*.

APPENDIX II.

MEMORANDUM ON THE USE OF THE INTERNATIONAL
EXCHANGE SERVICES.

Presented by DR. VINCENZO FAGO, *Director of the Italian Service of International Exchange.*

Following the suggestions adopted in Paris, April 4th-5th 1927, by the Committee of Experts appointed by the Sub-Commission on Bibliography of the

International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, and with the approval of the Director of the Institute, the following memorandum is presented for the consideration of my honoured colleagues of the Congress at Edinburgh.

In brief, it is a proposal for the greater use of an already existing agency, the International Exchange Service, for carrying out the projects of the proposed International Executive Library Committee of the International Federation of Library Associations, and for giving a closer connection between the International Institute for Intellectual Co-operation and the various national commissions in developing relations between the libraries and librarians of the different countries.

To carry out the purposes for which the International Library Committee is being formed, national units will have to be provided to handle the clerical and administrative work which would be necessary. This is particularly true in those countries where the national associations do not have adequate central staffs. Rather than to create new offices for this work, it would be much better to use or to expand those already in existence. The various International Exchange Services are already in operation, and are occupied with many of the questions which would come within the jurisdiction of the International Library Committee, and can very easily be expanded to care for the additional duties which would be laid out for them. As they are governmental offices in most cases they would bring state funds to the aid of the various projects. Such a move would also tend to enlarge the already existing number of such offices, one of the interests which the League of Nations has been fostering.

The International Library Committee, among other charges, will be interested in the development of international loans of books between libraries. The International Exchange Services are ideal for this purpose, for they are usually attached either to the Ministry of Public Instruction, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or the National Libraries. The Directors are aware of the resources of their own country, and of the great Libraries in other countries. They can decide when loans should be requested from outside their own borders; they can indicate where to apply, and if necessary they can take the proper steps to secure the works on loan. At the same time they can indicate which libraries in their own country can supply books for requests received from other countries. Under their direction lists of best books and bibliographies of special kinds can be prepared, not only for the benefit of their own country, but for the information of the other countries, as an aid to libraries, students, or investigators.

In short, the International Exchange Services would be constituted as an information bureau, which would not only keep the libraries of its own country informed of what material is to be had or where it is located, but it would serve as a channel for giving that information to all other countries.

As organs of State, the International Exchange Services have a close connection with the International Institute for Intellectual Co-operation at Paris, which is the international centre for State activities in such matters. It would then be understood that the International Library Committee could hold its meetings at Paris, under the hospitality of the Institute, to make rules, discuss plans, and propose methods of procedure for the carrying out of the future projects.

M. Luchaire, the zealous Director of the Institute, is not only willing to have his institute grant the Committee the courtesy of quarters for their regular meetings, but he is also willing to establish a special secretariat for work with the Committee to be established at Edinburgh.

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Learning, the domain of the mind, is international, and recognizes no national boundaries. The International Exchange Services have for a number of years been engaged in breaking down the national barriers to the diffusion of knowledge. The International Institute for Intellectual Co-operation is but a larger manifestation of that same purpose, while the International Library Committee wishes to approach the same problem from the point of view of our particular profession, librarianship.

Let us hope that this Congress will find some means of bringing about a closer and more intimate connection between these three important factors in the diffusion of knowledge throughout the world: The International Institute for Intellectual Co-operation, the International Exchange Services and the International library Committee.

I therefore propose for the consideration of my honoured colleagues the following proposal:—

That the International Library Committee, originally proposed at the Congress at Prague, discussed at the informal meeting of the American Library Association at Washington, and now being organized at Edinburgh, adopt the International Exchange Services as agents for the national units, and as its offices of information and collaboration in the development of international co-operation for the progress of humanity.

DR. VINCENZO FAGO,

*Director, Italian Service of International Exchange ;
National Secretary, Italian Library Association.*

ROME, September 12th, 1927.

APPENDIX III.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL COMMITTEE.

*Presented by the Interim Committee to the International Section
on September 29th, 1927.**

The Committee elected at the open meeting in Edinburgh, on September 26th 1927, has examined the report of the American Library Association, made subsequently to the resolution adopted at Washington, on October 23rd, 1926.

The following countries have, on the inquiry of the A.L.A., announced their readiness to join the project of forming an International Library and Bibliographical Committee, viz. :—Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Poland and Switzerland. At this Conference in Edinburgh the following countries have, through authorized delegates, verbally announced their approval of such a project :—Canada, Denmark, Holland, Sweden and the United States.

Your Committee submits the following proposal for the establishment of an International Library and Bibliographical Committee :—

* See above, p. 102, where the text, as amended, is printed in full.

Dr. ISAK COLLIJN, *Chairman*; Dr. VINCENZO FAGO; Dr. HENRY GUPPY; Dr. HUGO KRÜSS; M. HENRI LEMAÎTRE; Mr. CARL H. MILAM; Dr. ZDENĚK VACLÁV TOBOLKA.

We, the undersigned representatives of National Library Associations, in conference at Edinburgh, September 30th, 1927, adopt the following resolutions:—

1. *Resolved*—That we hereby establish the International Library and Bibliographical Committee.

2. The Committee shall consist of members selected by the National Library Associations which ratify this action. There shall be from each country only one designated member with the right to vote, but with him may be associated adjoint delegates.

3. The duties of the Committee shall be to select the time and place for international library conferences and, with the co-operation of local committees, to prepare programmes for such conferences, and to make investigations and recommendations concerning international relations between libraries, organizations of libraries and bibliographers, and other agencies.

4. International Library Conferences shall be held at least once in five years. The next conference shall be held in 1929 or 1930. Plenary sessions of the Committee must be held in connection with each International Library Conference. Other sessions may be held at the call of the Chairman, and must be held when requested by one-third of the Committee. The first plenary session of the Committee shall be held within one year from this date.

5. The Committee shall have power to appoint sub-committees from its own membership or from the membership of any of the co-operating National Library Associations.

6. The Officers of the International Library and Bibliographical Committee shall be a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen, and a Secretary. These, with four ordinary members, shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and ordinary members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Committee for a term ending December 31st, following the next ensuing conference. The Secretary shall be elected by the Committee, and shall serve at its pleasure. He may be, but need not be, a member of the Committee designated by some national association. He shall have the right to vote. Vacancies on the Executive Committee shall be filled by the Committee.

The Officers for the period ending December 31st after the first International Library Conference to be held shall be:—

Chairman, the delegate of Sweden;

First and second Vice-Chairmen, and four ordinary members of the Executive Committee, the delegates of Czecho-Slovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy and the United States. The first and second Vice-Chairmen for the first term shall be chosen by the Executive Committee

7. We do not think it necessary for the present to ask for any contributions from the national organizations. If contributions should later

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be needed, they shall be in a certain proportion to the number of members of each national association as determined by the Committee.

8. Neither this action nor any action which may hereafter be taken by the Committee shall be binding on any National Library Association until ratified by the Association.

(NOTE.—The word "Committee" in the above sections refers to the whole Committee, except when modified by the word "Executive.")