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BULLETIN

OF THE

RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOL. 3.

FEBRUARY, 1930

No. 2



LITTLE COMPTON'S NEW LIBRARY

The new Brownell Library, situated to the East of the Commons, Little Compton, opened to the public January 9. It was given through the generosity of the late Pardon C. Brownell and is situated on land adjoining the Brownell homestead. In the library are some 1200 volumes which were purchased from funds left by Mr. Brownell while some were donated by interested individuals.

Charles G. Loring of Boston was the architect of the building which consists of a main reading room, a children's room and a stack where books are kept. Book shelves adorn the walls in the reading room where there is also an inviting fireplace and a portrait of the donor of the library.

Mrs. Nancy Almy is the librarian and she will be assisted by Mrs. Alice C. Bullock.

Miss Elizabeth B. Tyler of New York catalogued the books and has organized the library.

The library will be maintained by a trust fund created by the late Mr. Brownell.

BULLETIN
OF THE
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Published every now and then, and designed to be of interest to librarians of Rhode Island.

R. I. L. A. BULLETIN COMMITTEE
HARRIET M. BRIGGS, WATCHEMOKET
PUBLIC LIBRARY, EAST PROVIDENCE
SALLIE E. COY WESTERLY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MARIAN F. BONNER PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Vol. 3. February 1930. No. 2

The Presidents of the New England States and New Jersey and New York met in Boston February 8, to arrange a program for the Northeastern Library Convention which will be held June 13-18, at the New Ocean House, Swampscott, Mass.

The general plan adopted is to devote the mornings to Round Table discussions, led by thoroughly competent specialists in the various problems of library work, the afternoon sessions to two good addresses by outstanding speakers, the afternoon sessions to close at 4 p. m. thus leaving time for recreation until dinner time. The evening sessions, until 9.30, will be devoted to one good address after which time will be free for various kinds of recreation—bridge dancing, etc.

The aim of this meeting is to make it a delightful event in the lives of busy librarians as well as to offer practical ideas and suggestions helpful to those of our profession. A hostess was appointed who will arrange recreational features and with her assistants serve as a hospitality committee.

The full program will be announced later, as well as travel arrangements and hotel rates, by means of an especially printed bulletin, a copy of which will be sent to every member of the Association in time to make arrangements for attending the meeting.

Judging from the list of speakers proposed and the general plans, it is safe to state that this meeting will be well worth investing in from every standpoint, and I earnestly hope that Rhode Island will send a large representation.

It seems, judging from the present state of our treasury, wiser to merge our usual spring meeting with that at Swampscott, as several of the other New England States are planning to do. So everybody who possibly can, please remember the dates June 13-18, and make a determined effort to invest in the Northeastern Library Convention which is guaranteed to yield large returns.

The February 15 issue of the Library

Journal will contain detailed travel announcements about the A. L. A. Convention in Los Angeles.

Sara E. Sherman.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the R. I. L. A. the following business was transacted: A Committee on Censorship was appointed as follows: Mr. Clarence E. Sherman, chairman; Miss Grace F. Leonard Mr. Herbert O. Brigham, Mr. Henry B. Van Hoesen. The purpose of this Committee is to safeguard the interests of the libraries of Rhode Island against the possibility of unwise censorship by persons in authority, as well as to cooperate with our neighbor state Massachusetts, in her struggle with the Censorship problem.

Mr. Henry B. Van Hoesen who was invited to fill in the vacant place on our list of officers by serving as second vice president, has kindly accepted this appointment.

WANTED.

All Rhode Islanders who are in any way connected with libraries to become members of the Rhode Island Library Association.

The membership committee would like to report at the annual meeting in June that every library in the state is represented and with a 100% membership in the R. I. L. A.

On the last count the membership was about 300. We have 24 individual life members, 5 institutional members and 26 libraries have 100% membership.

100% means that all the library force who have regular hours of work are members. The library force may consist of one.

Will each librarian who is not already a member consider that he or she is urgently invited to join and send her name with 75 cents to Miss Gertrude E. Brown, Treasurer, Providence Public Library?

Will each librarian invite her assistants to become members and make her library a 100% library?

Will each librarian invite each of her trustees to become members?

Will each librarian try to interest these same trustees to make their library an institutional life member? This may be done by sending to Miss Gertrude E. Brown \$15.00.

Any librarian who may decide to invest \$10.00 in the R. I. L. A. may become a life member.

We trust that the postman may be able to handle the mail for Miss Brown for the week following the receipt of this Bulletin.

Alice W. Morse,
Chairman, Membership Committee.

A GREAT LIBRARIAN RETIRES.

The present month sees the close of one of the greatest as well as one of the longest careers in the history of American librarianship. William Eaton Foster has not, indeed, severed his connection with the Providence Public Library but has become its Librarian Emeritus. He will still act as counsellor and will continue to edit that publication so welcome to the patrons of the library, "Books for All."

Beginning his work in 1877 with 13,000 volumes, Mr. Foster now turns over to his successor a collection thirty times as large. It is to the lasting advantage of the Providence Public Library that Mr. Foster has had the building up of the library, that the books on its crowded shelves represent his choice, and equally is it to the advantage of its service to the public that he has built up its traditions of careful selection and generous administration. By his early "Reference Lists" he made the contents of his library available to thoughtful readers. His aim was to have its books used, and used to the best advantage of the public. As fast as his means permitted he extended the library's facilities of service. For a long time his work was confined to the central library and schools. Now, counting branches, sub-branches, school rooms, factories and stores, many more than a hundred outside contacts are made with the resources of the library. Within its walls he has established an art department, an industrial department and a foreign department, all in active use.

This work has not gone on unnoticed by those in charge of other American libraries. In fact Mr. Foster has been a pioneer in some of the most important undertakings now common to our progressive libraries. His work has been watched and has afforded both an inspiration and a pattern to other librarians. It would be instructive, were it possible, for the Providence public to see Mr. Foster as he is seen by the librarians of the country. There is no man in the list who stands higher than he and, while he would be the last to admit the fact of all the great librarians who met at the Centennial in Philadelphia to form the present American Library Association no one has won a more enviable fame. Their careers, like their contributions, have been very different but to none did it befall as to Mr. Foster to take a library from its scanty beginnings and administer it through more than half a century, keeping it always abreast of library progress and himself making a large contribution to that progress.

Though the Providence Public Library will always remain first in Mr. Foster's thoughts, one thinks of him

with satisfaction as now having more time for that which he has so long bountifully provided for others, the opportunity to enjoy the world's great books. We picture him at home in his study, surrounded by his favorite authors, reading, annotating, corresponding with other book lovers and still adding to the number of his treasured volumes. Now he is free without conflicting obligations to give his hours to this room, about which he must often in the midst of his toils have murmured, in the words of his beloved Horace, "That nook is to me the most delightful of all on earth".

*Ille terrarum mihi praeter omnes
Angulus ridet.*

—Prov. Journal

Miss Bess McCrea of the Cincinnati Public Library has been appointed Assistant Librarian with the following responsibilities: supervision of circulation and reference service to adult readers throughout the library system; direction of the training class; direction of the staff schedule and the substitute force. In the absence of the Associate Librarian, Miss McCrea will be in charge of general administration. She will assume her duties March 3, 1930.

Mr. Lawrence Shaw has been appointed Assistant Librarian. In addition to his present duties, he will supervise binding and book repairs, the multi-graphing and supplies.

By the appointment of Mrs. Sonia Hudobenko to the position of Acting Librarian of the Foreign Department, definite steps have been taken to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Miss Ruth Cowgill, Foreign Department Librarian, in July. Mrs. Hudobenko received her education in Moscow, Russia; in the public schools of Newark, N. Y. and at the State Normal School of New Jersey. She reads, writes and speaks Russian, German, Polish, Slavic, Bohemian and Servian. She also reads French and is familiar with the literature of all these languages.

For nearly ten years she has been a member of the Staff of the Detroit Public Library and, for the greater part of that period, has been connected with the Foreign Division.

WORK WITH THE CHILDREN.

Educators now agree that school should not be made up of one long tedious task after another. Teachers must plan their work so that the day's lesson will appeal to the interest and imagination of the child, just so, we librarians must hold the child's attention by new and unusual features. These might be in the form of a doll's story-hour for next Saturday, or of a poetry-hour, a talk on illustrators of children's books,

or a new club to be formed, motion pictures like "Alice in Wonderland", "Robin Hood," etc., or above all, a play to be presented. How eagerly the children look forward to these occasions.

A great many small libraries are handicapped when they attempt play production by the fact that they have no auditorium, or if they have one, it is equipped with only a small speaker's platform lacking footlights, dressing-rooms and exits. This makes play presentation inconvenient but not impossible, for if a careful search is made a play can be found which requires very simple stage setting and no change of scenery. If there is no auditorium, the same type of play can be presented very successfully by using one end of the children's room as a stage.

What child will not walk a long way to visit a library if he knows that he will see his old friends, Alice in Wonderland, Little Black Sambo, the brownies and Dr. Doolittle come to life and walk out from the pages of their book? Four years ago we put on our first Book Week play and that is just what the children did see. A huge book stood at the back of the stage forming a stage entrance, and while little Nan sat dreaming, one after another of her book friends stepped out from the pages of her story book. Some of them told her their story, some of them sang and others danced. This play was greeted with great enthusiasm and the interest in reading was noticeable.

Our most important play of the year is naturally the Book Week play which is a full afternoon performance, but for other celebrations during the year we usually arrange a short play to follow the Saturday story hour. A very simple pageant requiring little rehearsing was put on at Christmas time showing Mary kneeling beside the manger and softly singing Luther's "Cradle Hymn". Then down the aisle came two shepherds singing, "While shepherds watched their flocks by night" and knelt before the sleeping child. "We Three kings of Orient are" was chorused as the three kings came bringing gold, frankincense and myrrh which they placed before the manger. The robes and girdles for the kings and shepherds were easily borrowed. The shepherd's crocks were made from the window sticks wire and crepe paper and the kings' crowns from gilt paper. Another simple and pleasing Christmas play adapted for our use was "The King's Choice" taken from "Child Life" for December 1925 which cost only \$1.32 for the crepe paper costumes, etc.

"The Enchanted Garden" from Mackay's "House of the Hearts" followed the May-Day story hour. This play required only a simple garden setting which was achieved by arranging

potted ferns and other plants across the front of the platform. The time of performance was only twenty minutes, but extra songs and dances were very easily added. The author's suggestions for costuming we felt were to elaborate for such a short play so we simply made large paper petals which were fastened about the necks of the children in such a way that their faces looked like the centers of huge roses, irises, poppies, lilies, hollyhocks or sweet peas. Long green leaves extended to the hem of their short white dresses. There were eight children in the cast and the total costuming was ninety cents.

All the children are eager to act in these plays but we try to pick children for their resemblance to the character as well as for their dramatic ability. We usually give room for special features and introduce singing, toe or clog dancing whenever we find children who are gifted along special lines.

Crepe paper sewed upon cheese cloth makes very pretty costumes and is usually advisable as it is inexpensive. But, if possible, make a few of the costumes entirely of cloth for they can then be used over and over again. We have three white outing flannel costumes which were originally made to represent sheep in a Christmas play. Later, they were used as costumes for the "Three Little Kittens that lost their Mittens" and again as a costume for the "Velveteen Rabbit". The only changes necessary were the lengthening and shortening of the tail and ears. Other costumes may also be adapted, so, we find it wise to keep the costumes for future productions.

The Dennison Mfg. Co. publishes each year, very helpful books called "Parties" which may be bought for twenty-five cents, by writing the company. The books give very practical suggestions about costume making from crepe paper.

We have found the following books very helpful in our play presentations:

Atchinson: Story terrace. Wilson; Beagle; Book revue. Wilson; Crampton: Folk dance book. Barnes; Flyeman: Eight little plays for children. Doran; Hope: Friends in bookland. Macmillan; Jagendorf: One-act plays for young folks. Brentano; Kirk: Rhythmic games and dances for children. Longmans; Lane: Lad and other story-plays. Woman's press; Mackay: House of the heart. Holt; Mackay: Silver thread. Holt; Olcott: World friendship plays. Dodd; Smith: Action poems and plays for children. Crowell; Syrett; Robin Goodfellow and other fairy plays. Lane.

Margaret M. Reid,
Children's Librarian,
Elmwood Public Library.

**A PICTURE COLLECTION
AT A MINIMUM COST.**

Once upon a time, I might say a long time ago, for it was during my first days in Newport, someone asked for a picture of Queen Louise of Prussia.

A simple request. Yet neither books nor magazines on the shelves at the time could fill it. And so the search began.

Somewhere in a mass of unsorted pictures clipped from various sources, I had a vague recollection of that charming person. Hastily we rooted in boxes; frantically we searched envelopes. We delved into old book cases in unused rooms, and there more pictures revealed themselves, and still more, but never the queen descending those marble stairs.

In the end we had amassed a pile, I hesitate to say how high, but it covered a table four by ten feet and we promptly set to work.

All summer we sorted, we classified, we made envelopes, and incidentally we acquired more facts and dates of history, of geography, of art, than some of us had ever thought of knowing. For a liberal education, as well as a fascinating job, I heartily recommend the organizing of a picture collection!

Of course, when it was too late, out of her proper niche in her proper history envelope, still with her stately air, stepped Queen Louise, not once, but at least four times over!

Perhaps there is nothing, even in a small library, which will offer so great a return on so small an investment as a picture collection. Except for that first concentrated effort, which netted us several hundred subjects, we have spent but a small amount of time, and our expenditures for pictures have been practically nil.

Old magazines, magazine covers discarded books and advertisements (especially publishers') make a collection in themselves. From the Geographic Magazine, and the Literary Digest covers alone may be culled pictures for special days, views for the geography and history class, birds and animals for nature study, the world's best art, costumes of every country. A record of subjects asked for is useful for future reference in building up the collection.

Our one and only initial expense was that for our filing boxes, and that a comparatively small one. We did not feel justified in spending a large amount for the ordinary filing cases, yet we knew that, to be of service, the pictures must be kept in a manner to make them easily available. So we ordered from the Standard Paper Box Corporation, Pawtucket, at a dollar and half each, four heavy cardboard boxes, covered with an imitation leather cloth, opening at the top and measuring eight-

een inches high, fourteen inches wide, and twenty-five inches long. These have proved so satisfactory that they are still in use after seven years.

In classifying our collection, we not only followed the example of the Newark Library, filing the pictures alphabetically by subject, but we made use of their list of subject headings, checking our subjects in one of their picture collection pamphlets. In this way, no catalog is needed. Pictures can be readily found, and at the same time we have a printed list which shows at a glance what subjects the library has.

These subject headings are entered on the upper left hand corner of both our mounted pictures and on the envelopes containing the unmounted ones. All necessary cross-references are entered on the latter. Mounted and unmounted pictures may be filed in separate boxes, but perhaps the better method is to file them together.

For unmounted pictures we have made manilla envelopes, 13x17½ inches opening on the short end. Our envelopes close with a flap, but I would suggest the simpler open ones of the Providence Public Library. Simpler still, though requiring a little more paper, is the Newark folder, made without any pasting.

Whether it is wiser to use mounts of equal size, and of what size, must be determined by the individual library according to its collection and its use. Our pictures are mounted on a pulp board, Number 80, cut 13x17½ inches, which we buy locally and which costs us about two and a half cents a mount. Much more attractive and more lasting, though costing for this size about three and a quarter cents a mount, is that used by the Westerly Public Library. It is a Hammermill cover, antique finish double, purchased from the R. L. Greene Paper Co., Providence.

A useful suggestion taken from the Newark Library is the measuring card used in mounting pictures. This is as long as the width of the mount and as wide as the space to be left at the top of the mount (in our case 13x2½ inches). Five heavy lines are drawn across it; one in the middle, the others 1¼ and 3½ inches from each end. By placing this flush with the top of the mount, it is a quick and simple matter to mount all pictures the same distance from the top, keeping the proper space on each side.

Perhaps I can offer no better advice than to recommend the invaluable picture collection pamphlet of the Newark Public Library, issued by the H. W. Wilson Co., New York for ninety cents.

Included among every other piece of information is a splendid list of places from which material may be bought, as

well as the list of subject headings mentioned above.

A picture collection is easily within the reach of every library, however small and will be found one of its most valuable assets. May V. Cranshaw, People's Library, Newport.

"1929 AND THE BOOKS FOR CHILDREN"

It is always well to go back and survey what has been published during any one year for children. We are apt to forget in the rush of fall books many of the worth while things that appeared earlier in the year.

Perhaps the most useful contribution of the year is Miss Mahony's "Realms of Gold in Children's Books". The more one uses this fine and original bibliography the more one finds in it, both in the way of refreshment and suggestion.

"Hitty" by Rachel Field is the one book of the year that I smile quietly over, and want to go back to. Only a wooden doll, but one with charm and personality. Through all the many vicissitudes of her wide-spread travels, you feel a keen regret that you could not have known her personally. Incidentally one gets a very good picture of American life before and after the Civil War. This is a book for the small girl and for everybody else.

In comparison with "Hitty" other titles seem slight. But there are two for the younger children (those nine or ten) which make a contribution. "Olaf, Lofoten fisherman" by Schram, gives the boys a good picture of Norway and the cod fishing; while Elizabeth Jacobi's "Adventures of Andris", tells of the life of two children on an Hungarian farm.

For the older girls, one thinks of Jeanette Eaton's "Daughter of the Seine", a life of Madame Roland; of Helen Ferris's fine collection of stories, "Love comes riding"; and also of "Beckoning Road" by Caroline Snedeker. "Courageous Companions" by Charles Finger is an inspiring story for the older boys. And to meet the constant demand of this group for war and aviation stories, there is "Falcons of France" by Nordhoff and Hall. This is a truly worth while book as well as a thoroughly satisfying one to the boys.

The field of travel and geography has several interesting books to its credit. Hillyer's "Child's geography of the world" is almost mis-named as it is a family book, in which a rather uninteresting subject is presented with life and humor. While of special appeal to Boy Scouts, Palle Huld's "Boy Scout around the world" and "Hobnails and Heather" by Clifton Lisle, offer much to all the older children. Anne Merriam Peck's "Story-book Europe" has a charm all its own and the drawings in the book

are a delight.

While there was much in the field of juvenile literature in 1929 that was trivial, one feels that we ended the year with several books that are well worth while and will continue to be so.

Mary R. Lucas,
Supervisor of Young People's Reading
Providence Public Library.

FIRST CHOICE FOR THE LIMITED BUDGET

Suggested Basic Reference Collection.
Compiled by Barbara H. Smith,

Librarian, Levi Heywood Memorial
Library, Gardiner, Mass.

One Encyclopedia (choice to be guided by funds available)

Encyclopedia Britannica 14th ed. 24v.
Ency. Brit. 1929. \$129.50.

New International encyclopedia. 2nd ed.
25v. Dodd, 1922. \$168.00.

World book. Rev. and enl. 12v. Quarrie. 1930. \$59.40.

Lincoln library of essential information. 1v. Frontier Press. 1929. \$15.50.

Century cyclopedia of names. Century 1911. o. p.

Children's catalog of 4100 titles. Wilson, 1925. \$12.00.

Gayley. Classic myths. Ginn 1911. \$1.92.

Granger. Index to poetry and recitations. McClurg. 1919. \$10.00.

Hoyt. New cyclopedia of practical quotations. Funk. 1922. \$7.50.

Logassa. Index to one-act plays. Faxon 1924. \$6.00.

Patterson. American educational directory. Amer. Educ. Co. Annual. \$6.

Pratt. New encyclopedia of music and musicians. Macm. 1924. \$6.00.

Readers' guide to periodical literature. Wilson. Service basis.

Reinach. Apollo. Scribner. 1924. \$2.00.

Silk. Index to dramatic readings. Faxon. 1925. \$5.00.

Stevenson. Home book of verse. Holt. 1918. \$15.00.

Times survey atlas of the world. Selfridge (London) 1920. \$8.00.

U. S. Bur. of Commerce. U. S. statistical Abstract Govt. Print. Off. Annual \$1.00.

U. S. Post Office Dept. U. S. postal guide. Govt. Print. Office. Annual \$1.00.

Webster. New international dictionary. Merriam. 1927. \$16.00.

Who's Who. Macmillan. Annual \$16.00

Who's Who in America. Marquis, Biennial. \$7.75.

World almanac (resewed). N. Y. World Annual \$1.10.

We wish to call the attention of librarians throughout the state to the very practical help contained in the Wilson Bulletin which is issued monthly except July and August, by the H. W. Wilson Company, 958-972 University Ave., New York, N. Y. It is mailed (free), on request, to librarians, teacher-librarians and booksellers. Subscrip-

tions for persons in unrelated professions \$1.00 per year, single copy 20c.

**MATERIAL TO BE OBTAINED FREE
OR AT SMALL COST**

Recent Bibliographies:

The Junior Staff of the Newark, N. J., Public Library has recently completed a series of six brief reading lists intended for intermediate readers. The size is 2x5 and each list contains fifty books. The same library has issued a reading list on "Islands of the Pacific". Today and tomorrow Series. Haverhill (Mass.) Public Library Bulletin, February 1930; Massachusetts Bay Colony. Somerville, (Mass.) Public Library Book Bulletin, January, 1930; America seen through foreign eyes. Detroit (Mich.) Public Library Service, January, 1930. Books on child study, Ten, Fifteen and Twenty-five dollar libraries. South Dakota Free Library Commission (Pierre, S. D.) South Dakota Library Bulletin, December 1929. A suggestive list of books on Vergil has been published by the Classical League of America, Prof. Ralph V. Magoffin, president, New York University. Free.

Pamphlets, etc, home canning, National school of pressure cooking, Eau Claire, (Wis.) Free; Child Welfare, February, 1930, p. 321, lists posters which are free or with a small charge. Posters for Parent-Teachers Associations. The following have been received from the Rhode Island State College, Kingston, (R. I.) Extension Work; "Poultry Notes"; "Fruit Notes"; "What the good dairy ration should contain"; "Soy Beans"; Suits for the small boy, a series of attractive leaflets, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, (D. C.) Leaflet No. 52; Free Play suits for winter, Illustrated. United States Department of Agriculture, Leaflet No. 54-L. Free; "Methods and equipment for home laundering," United States Department of Agriculture, Farmer's Bulletin, No. 1497; "In behalf of mothers and children", a booklet giving a complete picture of the work of United States Children's Bureau, 25 cents, National League of Women Voters, 532 17th street, N. W. Washington, (D. C.) "Infant Care," United States Children's Bureau; "The sky at night," Cornell Rural School Leaflet, January, 1930. Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; "Library Notes," a department of "The Home Office," a publication of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 1 Madison Avenue, New York. In the October issue is a group of reviews of books on international understanding; Florence Nightingale, Life, by T. Hallock and C. E. Turner. Health Heroes Series, Pamphlet No. 5, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. Five copies to each teacher will be sent on request from

superintendents or principals; Charts on Nutrition and Growth. A series of nine charts with pictures showing the effects of different diets on laboratory animals, together with groups of common foods that supply the factors under discussion. Dr. Hazel E. Munsell, Bureau of Home Economics, 50 cents. (Stamps not to be sent). Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, (D. C.); American School of the Air Radio Programs will begin in February over the Columbia Broadcasting System. Miss Effie Powers, chairman of the Section for Library work with Children, is responsible for the reading lists used in connection with this program. Her lists will appear in the fortnightly "The Voice of the Air". Free upon request to libraries, 4600 Diversey Ave., Chicago; International Books News Radio Numbers. Free. World Peace Foundation, 40 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, (Mass.) Better Homes and Gardens, March p. 74 and 93 lists gardening leaflets which can be obtained for 2 cents. Dept. L. Des Moines, Iowa. Have you seen these?

South Dakota Free Library Commission, (Pierre, S. D.) South Dakota Library Bulletin, (Dec. issue) has an article on "Book Selection for Public Libraries", it contains a list of book selection aids; Illinois Library Extension Division (Springfield, Ohio), Illinois Libraries, Supplement, October, 1929, contains many articles, among which are the following: "A reading experiment with adult books for adolescents" by Mrs. Lucile Pannell; "Poetry and the early teens" by Mary Ayers; "Building local historical collections"; "Pamphlets"; Wisconsin Free Library Commission, "Madison, (Wis.) Wisconsin Library Bulletin, October, 1929, "Methods of encouraging young people to read good literature"; "What the school needs from the library in geography" 3rd-4th grades. Leavelva Bradbury (Simple geography stories). The same bulletin prints in its November issue. "Significant books of the fall," by Mary Reely; The New England Bureau of Public Service Information. 24 Milk street, Boston, (Mass.) publishes a one page news sheet free. Weekly list of selected United States publications, issued by the Superintendent of Documents. Free on request. Year round book selling news. National Association of Book Publishers, 347 Fifth Avenue, New York (N. Y.) Sent free. Retail Bookshelf, trade news for the book buyer. Baker and Taylor Company, New York City. Free. Subscription Books Bulletin, published by the A. L. A. \$1.00 a year, quarterly. "Not only to help librarians, teachers and parents to select good sets, but to avoid the poor ones." Cunarder, a travel magazine,

Cunard S. S. Co. 25 Broadway, New York city; Library Occurrent, issued by the Library Division of the Indiana Library and Historical Department, (Indianapolis, (Ind.) Oct.-Dec. 1929 contains the following articles: A brief note on free pamphlet material; "Basic technical books for general use"; "New and old in aviation"; "Old age pensions", material free or at small cost; "Antiques"; "List of World Peace organization."

Miss Marian F. Bonner.

COMMUNITY WORK AS A PHASE OF LIBRARY EXTENSION.

John Cotton Dand, says, "A public library can be the center of the activities in a city that make for social efficiency. It can do more to bind the people of a city into one civic whole, than any other institution yet established". Every librarian aims to make her own library just such a force in its community. And to my mind it is the librarian of the small library who has the enviable opportunity of accomplishing the most in developing community activities.

Basing my deductions upon our own experiences at Wanskuck Branch, the first requisite for such development lies in the personal attitude of the whole library staff, whether it numbers one or a dozen. To give a friendly greeting or exchange a word or two with readers will not interfere with anyone's routine. A successful librarian, it seems to me, must take a genuine interest in the people and the events taking place in her community. We must know the type of people in it, the proportion of foreign born, the existing organizations, religious bodies, educational and social institutions, kinds of industries and recreational opportunities. Not until she does can she have a clear idea of the kind of community work acceptable in her community.

At Wanskuck Branch our first direct attempt at community work was in organizing a Woman's Reading Club and it grew out of the chance remark of a reader, "You do so much for the children, why don't you do something for us grown people." Cards were mailed to 20 women and from that a club of 17 members was started with the librarian as chairman of the program-committee. This club has now entered its sixth season with a present membership of over 70 women and gets out a printed programme each year with outside speakers study-courses and social events.

As Wanskuck has three textile mills within a mile radius of the library, our next attempt was directed towards the textile workers. First the mill superintendents were interviewed and all of them found very willing to post notices

in the mills announcing a meeting at the library but not one of them could be persuaded to attend and speak a few words. At the meeting there was a comprehensive exhibit of textile books and magazines and the library offered to present a digest of noteworthy magazine articles on textile subjects at each meeting in case the men decided to organize and to furnish books on any phase of the work under discussion or to help in any way desired. The speaker of the evening was the secretary of the Rhode Island Textile Association. As an outcome, the men organized and held meetings for two seasons until with the death of one of the leaders, interest gradually died out. This experience showed us how slight the chances are of sustaining interest without a competent leader and how difficult it is to find a man of mature years able and willing to devote the necessary time to such a project.

Next we organized two clubs of young people from 16 to 20 years of age, one a Debating and the other a Dramatic Society; and these are now in their 5th season. The numerous public debates and entertainments given by these young people have contributed much towards making the Branch a real community library; the mayor and prominent residents of the district have acted as judges at the debates and the audiences have invariably outnumbered the seating capacity. It is a question, however, just how much library time is justified in spending on such clubs. But often, a librarian who is in touch with her community, knows persons who could be persuaded to take the directorship.

Book talks for adults as well as story hours for children and Americanization classes for the foreign born are other means employed at Wanskuck to bring the community to the library.

All these community activities require a community room. As is the case with many small libraries, Wanskuck Branch had no auditorium in its old quarters. So we looked around for an available idle room in the neighborhood and after much negotiation and delay secured the use of one nearby. True, it was only a make shift, bare, poorly-heated and without a platform, but at least it furnished a place in which to meet and became known as "Library Hall" in the community.

Since November 1928, the Branch has occupied its new modern library building which has an attractive community room. This is used not only for library affairs but is open to civic and educational organizations of the district as well.

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