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THE CONFERENCE OF LIBRARIANS AT BOSTON.

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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

CONFERENCE OF LIBRARIANS, BOSTON, JUNE—JULY, 1879.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

BY JUSTIN WINSOR, LIBRARIAN OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:— Boston receives this association with quick sympathy. Three years ago we first gathered in Philadelphia, drawn to that city by the patriotic impulse then pervading the country. We were filled with a desire to signalize that Centennial year by an effort to put the library system of the country upon a basis of reciprocal endeavor, of united interests and of mutual understanding. While we recognized that libraries had always been powerful instruments of human enlightenment and of social progress, we could but feel that they were too often but types of stubborn conservatism. We came together at that time largely pervaded with the idea that a library was in essentials a missionary influence; that the power which belonged to it needed consolidating and directing, and that the first step in such work was for librarians to become acquainted with one another. To that end, and almost without any definite plan of coöperation, we first met; sealed our friendships; proclaimed our existence; measured our strength, and planned to set about our work. Exchange of sentiments among ourselves encouraged us. We put

forth some phrases of our purposes, and we found them kindly responded to. A journal was founded for us. Our example was followed in Europe; and some of us, after our meeting in New York, went to London and participated in that international conference of which you have had the record. We were received kindly, even affectionately, and gratifying tributes were paid to us for the lead we had taken. Thus has the ball been set in motion. After another interval we have met again, this time in Boston,—and, perhaps, it is no arrogance for me to say it,—the recognized centre of our American library interests. In no other city, certainly, is there so great a public library, thrown open without stint to multitudes, and with almost entire immunity from loss. In no other community is there a larger or more powerful associated library, accomplishing so much to render our American bibliography a credit to us all. Here, too, we have the pioneer of our historical libraries. In no other neighborhood is there so large and productive a college library.

I am not unmindful of the claims of the great commercial metropolis, and I well

know that through the richness of her private libraries, almost unsurpassed as a whole in any part of the world, that city has perhaps taken the lead from Boston in some of the most difficult fields of research. Her Lenox library, when it shall be thrown open to the public, will be found the richest mine of rare and recondite learning that the country possesses. With this exception, in a comparatively narrow sphere, New York must still be content, though not perhaps for long, to hold a secondary place for her *public* collections of books. In Philadelphia you know what new developments are going on.

We all look to Washington with a hopefulness that the long-delayed justice to the national library may in time arrive, when the treasures of that collection may be housed as they should be, and well filled shelves and a busy staff, adequate to its work, may make manifest the reason of its being, and disclose its inevitable leadership in the future, if legislators be but wise, and the example of its master-librarian be perennial. In the West we all know what has been accomplished, but rather as an earnest of what is to be.

If the outlook for our new library philosophy be an encouraging one, we must not fall into the error of over-estimating it. The old philosophy was not so bad. Great libraries have grown under it, and great librarians have stamped their individuality on their work in a way that our later coöperative methods, if perfected, may have a tendency, not altogether satisfactory, to repress. What we may do by organization, important as it will doubtless prove, must not lead us to forget that isolation of endeavor has its advantages also; and that the librarian who merges his action in a union of forces loses in some ways while he gains in others. Should we succeed in working out a symmetrical bibliothecal science, there will be

a tendency, in subscribing to its canons, to depart from that freedom of action which indicates character and accomplishes great ends. These results we must, then, aim to accomplish in spite of, rather than by virtue of, such science.

The time was ripe for this combining of ours. The changed conditions of our later social economy called for it. Schemes of coöperation, union of forces, barriers of distance overcome, all the new developments acting upon the daily life of communities, could not long be resisted. If libraries and their management are to fall into the line of progress—or change if you prefer so to call it—it is the part of wisdom to establish that control which gives power to intelligence, and maintain the circumspection that avoids pitfalls. I shall leave the Secretary in his report to trace the work in the new direction that the last year has added to its forerunners; and you will pardon me if, in the few remaining words I have to offer, I point out rather what, with all our enthusiasm, we may fail to do and what we may be inclined to overdo.

We claim—and it is not for me to gainsay it—that the libraries of the country are a great engine in our hands. It may be a commonplace of rhetoric to say that books, singly or in battalions, awakening responsive sensibilities in every kind of nature, at times marshalled, as it were, into aggressive ranks and assaulting strongholds of beliefs, are a power that may be both relied on and feared. A single library, adroitly managed, throws out its forces into a community with something of the discipline of an invading army, with its foraging parties, with its engineers to bridge streams and its pioneers to break the way. The generalship that directs all this may be humane, sacrificing some good in one direction for much gain in another; or demoralization may take the place of constancy, and what should be

our defenders may become our covert enemies. I will not discuss now—what you will have ample witnesses to in one of the sessions of another day—the power for good or evil of public libraries among the great masses of the people. It is a pet phrase with us, that the public library is the people's university; and it is a mooted question among economists and educators, whether it is wise for the people to instruct themselves out of the common purse much beyond the elementary stage. That it will be attempted, so far as libraries go, seems to be inevitable. But if there is evil to come of this widened scheme of education, in libraries at least, the danger is not in the use upon the higher, but upon the lower, plane of intelligence. There will always be a tendency to score large figures of circulation, and, in so far as it signifies sympathy with the people in the management of a library, it is commendable. But the true librarian will value this power of increment of use only as a force to be directed. He understands that he holds a brake upon it, working through the increase or diminution of popular prose fiction. He is not wise who applies the brake severely, nor yet he who lets it wholly off. The love of fiction, so ineradicable,—let us remember *that*,—is in a large measure the very power that renders a library a beneficence at all. Its very existence enables the librarian to work deep at the centre and to push wide through all the dark purlieus of city life. But it is at the same time a dangerous power, fruitful of evil, no doubt, under some circumstances—as every ordinary good is—but ductile under restraint, and capable of confinement in channels that lead to happiness.

We may disagree about the best ways of control, but let us not forget that abstinence in the readers of fiction, as in all else, loses all the moral beauty of temperance, and that all of life is not in-

struction, and that pastime is often the best nurse of virtue and promoter of health. There is a conservation of energy in saving the waste that comes of ten doing what one can do as well, and it augments power; but it may not be all gain. The photograph is inexorably common. The pencil sketch is vitalized with a spiritual life that only the human agency can give. It is futile to question their comparative value: each has its importance. If we are going to act widely, and render the *large* use of *many* books *inexpensive*, we must take our measure in the same inexorably common way; but we shall still have room enough for that individually alert, cunning and impulsive librarian, who gathers his books about him as his family, and who sends them out each almost in his own likeness. The time is not yet come for the racy, self-centred librarian to die. Coöperation will not kill him, fortunately.

But a few months ago word came to us of the loss of such a librarian, out of harness, to be sure, but to the last his was an influence shaping the character of many a follower. The world has perhaps never seen a greater librarian than Panizzi. He had to overcome stolid content, the hardest of tasks. He had to vivify virtues that were dormant, like the vital principle of the grain in mummies. But he did more. He made the respectable *well-enoughs* understand that there was a work to do; and *THEY* did it. While their national exchequer was shuddering at the cost of additional Bloomsbury lands, for their great museum library, he made the little sketch that dropped that magnificent dome from the skies, right amidst the pile, and showed how power evolves from its own centre! Upon this very table he sketched that historic plan; and this seat, so long the throne of ANTONIO PANIZZI, becomes to-day the *chair* of this transatlantic assemblage of librarians.

CLASSIFICATION IN DICTIONARY CATALOGUES.

BY FRED. B. PERKINS, BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THUS far, Bibliothetics has been empirical rather than scientific. A constructed science implies a great previous range of mixed failures and successes. In preparing this mixture, librarians have accomplished a magnificent success. Now it is time to synthesize upon our inductions; to construct our positive science. There is a free field. No free public library has yet been begun on a satisfactory plan, that is to say, with the threefold scheme all ready: of a liberal scale of means, a liberal scale of objects, and an adequate system. The two former, indeed, have existed. The third has not. By adequate system, I mean, in a proper building, with a competent staff, with a proper organization, correctly departmented within, and with complete methods for addressing and informing readers. Much has been done in all these lines, but in all of them, every student of the history of libraries will agree with me, we are just reaching the crystallizing, inductive, systematizing, scientific era. Never, perhaps it is not too much to say,—never, until within the last three or four years, until the organization of this professional body,—the only one in the world, indeed, I think in the solar system,—has it been possible to establish a science of libraries constructively and comprehensively.

In Bibliothetics, cataloguing is one department.

The present furthest advance of cataloguing is, I suppose, the system of Instructive or Informing or Educational cataloguing, which is peculiarly appropriate to the Free Public Library, inasmuch as the theory of that library is, that it is the Popular Post-Graduate University, always offering a further education than any of the school or college systems proper.

As cataloguing is one department of Bibliothetics, so classification entries are one of the three principal kinds of catalogue entries. They are the same as topical entries, or subject entries.

The present so-called Dictionary System, if properly completed, and especially if supplied with notes, is capable of furnishing not merely the old-fashioned list of books, but the educational catalogue which I have referred to; which shall itself guide the searcher after knowledge all over the library; and which is as much better than the old list of books, as a living spring is better than a cart-load of walnut shucks.

At present I suppose that it is hardly practicable to fill out a great catalogue with notes bearing any such relation to its stores as the notes of Mr. Winsor's History Catalogue, of 1873, bear to the books there entered.

But the plan which I am to advocate, of adding to the Dictionary Catalogue a complete Classification of Literature, would, as I believe, go as far towards filling the place of those notes, as library finances permit.

What is known as the Dictionary System of cataloguing does not, as I understand it, include the use of a fixed, completed, detailed, written-out, indexed classification of literature as a necessary part of the system, either in any code for the guidance of cataloguers, or as a portion of the catalogue itself, when ready for use.

As used at the library with which I am least unfamiliar, the Boston Public Library, the Dictionary System has no such constituent. Instead of it, dependence has been had for the most part upon the use of such words as were on the title-pages, and upon cross-references from one to the other of these. No system has guided, so far as I

know, the choice of these subject entries and cross-references, further than purely empirical rules, such as, to cross-refer from any important word on the title-page.

As naturally preceding the special thesis which I defend, let me state the general one which includes it. I shall argue for a certain definite, detailed, written rule or model of procedure in one part of cataloguing.

But I take it to be quite indispensable in any cataloguing system or undertaking worthy of the name, that it should, either from the very beginning or from the earliest possible point, be conducted under a full, detailed, written-out code of rules. If there be no such when the work is begun, it should be begun with the work, elaborated as the work goes on, and maintained as its outgrowth, regulator, and statutory code. I mean written out in full detail. I mean such a code that an entire stranger, being a man of fair education and intelligence, could be turned into the library alone, and, with moderate practice, continue the cataloguing correctly by means of the code.

I understand our respected President not to believe in this necessity. If this is so, while he is almost always right, yet in this particular I think the facts refute him. The cataloguing of the Boston Public Library has been conducted for twenty-five years without such a code, very largely by unwritten tradition, like the Kabbala of the Jewish Rabbins, which they were forbidden to communicate except to those who knew it already. And the consequence is, that that important catalogue is—well, I mean that in quite too many particulars— In short, the more you use it, the more fervidly you will assent to what I have not said. I should as soon have expected the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be administered by a set of traditions

and notions in the breasts of her successive chief justices, instead of the Revised Statutes and the Massachusetts Reports.

You cannot govern a State nor compile a great catalogue, as the old woman compiled her gingerbread, by "using her judgment." There must be laws. Not Parsons and Shaw and Gray could have freed the State from that necessity; not even Jewett and Wheeler and Whitney have saved the Public Library Catalogue from the consequences of the want of it. Now, this statement about a code is a general proposition, of which I am at this time to argue for one-third. It is the use of a fixed, completed, detailed, written-out, indexed classification of literature as a guide in cataloguing. I contend that it is constantly needed for deciding what subject entry shall be selected, and what cross-references shall or shall not be made; for avoiding synonymy, cross-classifying, mis-reference, and non-reference.

And further, its use will pervade the whole catalogue with such an arrangement of systematized subject heads and references as will guide the reader with promptness and certainty to all its books on any given subject; and it is this feature to which I was alluding when I spoke of supplying in some measure the sort of guidance given by Mr. Winsor's notes in his History Catalogue. Although it is a question of detail, I should explain why I say Classification of Literature, and not Classification of Knowledge. I am not contemplating a Classification of Knowledge,—that would be a metaphysical research,—nor a scheme for shelving books, but a plan for arranging titles in a catalogue.

For this purpose a Classification of Knowledge would be unscientific; the only classification that is scientific for this purpose is one partly by subjects and partly by forms of treatises.

Any one can see how unscientific it is to divide books into folios, romances, German books, and books bound in red morocco. One book may be all of them,—a German romance in folio bound in red morocco.

Equally unscientific, from one point of view, is it to class within the same system Polemic Theology and Sermons, Kindergarten system and Reports of State School Superintendents, Poems, and History of the United States. But this mixed method of subject and form is the true scientific method for cataloguing libraries.

The reason is obvious. The scientific method is always that best adapted to success. Success in a dictionary catalogue for general use is attained by making it such that people in general will use it with ease; and people in general will use with most ease a mixed classification by subject matter and by forms. Let it be remembered, however, that I am not finding fault with what has been done, nor with those who did it. The Boston Public Library catalogue is a vast mass of learned and careful labor, of immense value and merit. If I can suggest any improvements in it, that is no blame to those who preceded me, and no praise to me. In truth, it must be a poor creature indeed who cannot improve upon the science of those who lived before him.

Three cases I will now describe as samples of the state of things for which I can suggest a cure.

First. I wanted books on the Provençal language. In the first volume of the Bates Hall Catalogue, three titles relating to the subject are under Troubadours, and eight titles are under the formula Provençal—which, I say, is no word whatever. And in the second volume there are eleven titles under Troubadours, ten under Provençal—this time rightly spelled—and four under Romance languages. And I say that in each volume the two or three

sets of titles should have been together in some one place; or that, at least, cross-references from each should have pointed to all the others.

Second. I wished to find what books the library possessed on Hieroglyphics. I found (of course besides some others) 54 titles of books on Hieroglyphics. Of these, 25 were under Hieroglyphics; 12 under Egypt, sub-head Language; 6 under Egypt, sub-head Antiquities; 5 under Egypt, sub-head History; 1 under Egypt, sub-head Miscellaneous (miscellaneous! in Latin, *ignoramus*; in English, "I don't know"); 1 under Egyptian Language; 1 under Egyptian Obelisks; 4 under Inscriptions; 4 under Rosetta Stone.

But, I may be answered, the cross-references will trot you back and forth to all these names.

Cross-references indeed! Emphasize *cross*. They make me cross Bates Hall half a dozen times needlessly; nobody has considered the difference between turning the leaves of one volume while you sit still in your chair, and ambling all over a large public hall, 75 feet by 50, to get at different parts of the only copy in the world of the catalogue, and usually with an intelligent citizen already dipping his nose in every drawer that you want to use. Yes; and, besides making me cross the Hall, it makes me cross to have to look in nine places for what I ought to have found in one. Cross, indeed!

But the cross-references do not exist; the dictionary system has no means of adjusting its cross-references, for it has no written scheme by which to make them. And accordingly:

Hieroglyphics does not refer to Inscriptions, nor to Rosetta Stone. And although it does refer to Egypt, sub-head Literature, it does not refer to Egypt, sub-head Antiquities, nor History, nor Language, nor Miscellaneous; nor to Egyptian Language, nor to Egyptian Obelisks.

Inscriptions does not refer to Rosetta Stone; nor to Hieroglyphics; nor to Egypt.

Egypt does not refer to any of them; or if anybody says it does, let him go and search through all those 426 cards, for there is no one place to put the cross-references. And I am not very much afraid of being caught out in that way. It isn't everybody who has the means of consulting a card catalogue. Those means are not primarily, mind and eyes—they are primarily backbone and legs. Very likely you know enough, and can see well enough, and know how to read well enough, to peruse all these cards. But it is not nearly as likely that you can stand up, bent over with your nose in the drawer, while you read the whole 426. But this difficulty shows all the more clearly how needful is a prompt and ready guide along paths both complicated and wearisome to follow.

And under the entry Hieroglyphics, such books as Champollion's Grammar, his Dictionary, and his work on the Turin Museum, do not appear; nor do any of the writings of that other great early authority on Hieroglyphics, Thomas Young.

And I have left out the books on Coptic, and on the hieratic and demotic styles of writing, which I might fairly have added to the numerations I have given.

Third. And this is an instance that I have quoted before: I set out to find what books the Library possessed in the general department of Mental Philosophy, broadly considered. I searched first under Mental Philosophy; then under names of leading philosophical schools, as Alexandrian School, Neo-Platonism, etc.

Then under names of leading philosophers, as Aristotle; Plato, Kant, Schopenhauer, etc.

Then under the following subject titles:
1. Anthropology; 2. Certainty or Cer-

titude; 3. Classification of knowledge; 4. Emotion; 5. Error; 6. Ethics; 7. Free Will; 8. Idealism; 9. Ideology; 10. Imagination; 11. Inductive Philosophy; 12. Instinct; 13. Intellect; 14. Intellectual Science; 15. Kabbala; 16. Knowledge; 17. Logic; 18. Man; 19. Materialism; 20. Metaphysics; 21. Mind; 22. Moral Philosophy; 23. Necessity; 24. Nominalism; 25. Observing faculties; 26. Ontology; 27. Perception; 28. Philosophers, Philosophy; 29. Phrenology; 30. Pneumatology; 30. Positivism; 31. Psychology; 32. Radicalism; 33. Rationalism; 34. Realism; 35. Reason; 36. Scholasticism; 37. Science; 38. Self-consciousness; 39. Sensation, Senses; 40. Soul; 41. Spirit; 42. Systems; 43. Thinking; 44. Thought; 45. Transcendentalism; 46. Truth; 47. Understanding; 48. Will.

Cross-references!—In presence of this emergency, no words can do justice to the occasion.

Now a cataloguer is *ex officio* intrepid. He must be prepared—to use an expression of the late Charles [parenthesis, John Huffam] Dickens—he must be prepared for anything from a baby to a hippopotamus, but I look upon that list as a terrifying monument of imperfection.

If now some one should say, with reference to my set of mental philosophy headings, that the catalogue did in effect furnish the information I wanted, and that I therefore have no real cause of objection to the system, I say that it took hours of careful investigation by a systematic cataloguer and librarian of 20 years' experience to mine out the facts. Now the student ought not to be required to think out a whole nomenclature of his subject—to compile a whole lexicon of his specialty—before he can search up his materials in a catalogue professedly made on purpose to facilitate the communication of knowledge. This should be done, no doubt, but it should not be required over and over of

every student; it should be done once for all, and remain done for the use of those that come after. The cataloguer should do it. The first explorer should blaze his road through the forest and enable others to profit by his toil.

As the matter now stands, it requires at least all the cataloguer's knowledge to use a large dictionary catalogue. It requires a maximum of knowledge to investigate a subject; it should require a minimum. It makes the utmost possible trouble to the student; it should require the least. Indeed, the right doctrine of making a public library catalogue may be stated thus: It should be made, not from the scientific cataloguer's point of view, with a minimum of indulgence for ignoramuses, but from the ignoramus's point of view, with a minimum of indulgence for the scientific cataloguer.

What I mean is, that it is the person who does not know, and does not even know how to search, who should be provided for. And I am sure that even that meek and lowly definition will not make a public library catalogue too convenient, too lucid in arrangement, too informing in character, for practical usefulness.

This consideration of suiting the public is one extremely liable to be forgotten by a professional cataloguer. He is tempted to worship the Idols of the Den,—to use Lord Bacon's analysis of prepossessions,—and besides that to drift into an unconscious feeling that everybody knows everything that he knows. There was a good professor who quoted Arabic in a popular lecture. Somebody remonstrated. "Oh," said the modest old gentleman, "everybody knows a little Arabic."

Cataloguers are all modest. It never occurs to them but that everybody knows all they know; not only a little cataloguing, but the whole of it.

Enough of fault-finding; but I am justified in it, because I offer the remedy.

Mr. Cutter's Dictionary Catalogue, described at pages 547-8 of the Bureau of Education Special Report on Public Libraries, 1876, seems to me about what I want, especially in view of the scheme of classification which, he says, is to be put at the end of it, and in which, to use his words, "every heading in the catalogue is included and set down in its proper place."

But (in a subsequent moment of discouragement, perhaps) he has, it appears to me, like poor Mr. Freeman, down at Pocasset, exterminated his own baby. At page 49 of his Rules for a Dictionary Catalogue, he says: "87. Synoptical table of subjects. I mention its possibility here; I do not advise its construction, because there is little chance that the result would compensate for the immense labor."

Nobody need venture to differ from Mr. Cutter on a question of cataloguing, except upon strictly Crockett principles: "Be sure you are right; then go ahead." But I do not differ from him in selecting which of his two statements I will adhere to; so I say he is right in recommending the scheme of classification, and wrong in substantially saying it can't be done. He can do it himself—I dare say he has. After a fashion, I have done it. Brunet has done it in a wonderfully elaborate manner; and if nothing better were practicable, we could translate his classification, Americanize it, and use it. Brunet is dead; and there is no international copyright.

The chief object which it is claimed will be accomplished by the method to be proposed is: To lead the investigator of a subject, very likely at the first word he looks out, and with certainty by a track leading from that first word,—and very often at the second word to which he will be referred,—to a guide to all the books in the library upon his subject.

This will add to the Author entries and the Title entries of the Dictionary System,

the third element of Subject entries ; it will complete for the Dictionary System the Trinity of Cataloguing—Author, Title, Subject. And it will do so by rules as clear, precise and exhaustive as are used in either the Author department or the Title department of a cataloguing code.

The use of words from the title-page as subject entries does not accomplish this purpose, for the obvious reason that title-pages are not composed according to a fixed system of nomenclature;—I may say, indeed, that the requirements of the cataloguer are reprehensively neglected by the title-pager;—and two consequences follow: *First*. Books catalogued under the same name are liable to be found devoted to quite different subjects. The last instance of this kind that fell under my own observation had brought a city in the state of Florida under the name of a famous early father of the Christian Church, because each name happened to be St. Augustine. *Second*. Of course, books relating to the same subject will also be scattered about under different headings, as in the cases already quoted of Provençal, Hieroglyphics and Mental Philosophy.

The plan of operations which I propose is clear; and I believe its system can either be used from the beginning in a catalogue or can—of course with some disadvantage—be superimposed upon, or rather fused with, a catalogue already made. For instance: It can, I think, be worked into the Boston Public Library Card Catalogue without perceptibly adding to its bulk, or wasting work already done. Indeed, rather than not see it added to that Catalogue, I would guarantee to add it,—although doing so would not be quite the cleanest way to go to work, and would require additional cross-references,—but I would guarantee to add it to that catalogue without changing the present place of one single card in that catalogue.

What I say can be done is this:

First. Draw up a classification of literature.

Second. Sub-classify this into sub-divisions, so detailed that the smallest number practicable of titles of books shall be grouped under each ultimate topic (by topic I mean subject).

Third. Adjust the cross-references among the items.

Fourth. Make an alphabetical index of these topics. And into this fill in the synonyms for its words, with cross-references to those chosen as the standard ones.

Fifth. Explode this scheme into its atoms or topics, and put each topic in its proper alphabetical place in the Dictionary Catalogue. The individual works under each topic should be alphabetized by author's names.

Sixth. Use copies of the unexploded classification form on a sheet or on pages, and with the alphabet of its topics and synonyms attached, for constant guidance of the cataloguers in questions of subject synonymy and of classification generally.

This scheme would, I suppose, work with perfect success and ease if an original part of the cataloguing system. To apply it upon a catalogue already made would naturally require more or less modifications in the work, and would occasion more or less difficulty.

As to the details of a classification scheme, I should not be intolerant. After examining various schemes, I have settled, subject to my own as well as other people's improvements, upon an eightfold main division, with a threefold hierarchy or sub-classification. Putting my eight classes in the same succession as Brunet's five, they are:

Theology, Sociology, Science, Art, Philosophy, Literature, History, Biography.

Comparing his with these, they are as follows:

Brunet's Theology is mine; his Jurisprudence is my Sociology; his Science

and Arts includes my Science and Philosophy and Arts; his Belles Lettres is my Literature; his History is my History and Biography.

The order in which I have habitually used them is not Brunet's, but is thus: Theology, Philosophy, Sociology, Literature, History, Biography, Science, Arts.

Perhaps it would be more logical to set Literature last; and by so doing, the whole eight departments fall easily into that sort of natural succession of thoughts which is agreeable to many minds, thus:

Theology: God and his relations to man; Philosophy: Man, his reasonings from himself and the universe up towards God; Sociology: Man's relations to man; History: Man's record as a race; Biography: his record as an individual, and with History, are often found Geography and Travel (this being the point of transition from intelligence to matter); Geography and Travel deal with Earth's surface as man's abode; Science: the universe as to its qualities—including man as scientifically treated; Art: Man's work invested in the earth and its products; Literature: Man's utterance as instrument, and its record as form.

Whatever there is, I believe, will easily find a proper place in that scheme. But it is an old observation that generalities are easy, and the difficulty comes with the details.

Without undertaking any exposition in full, I may mention a few points:

A triple gradation of topics seems sufficient. That is:

First. By main departments of literature, being the above eight, which may be called *Classes*.

Second. By chief subdivisions, as practically found convenient; sometimes to cover such arrangements as the fusion of mental and moral science under one head, sometimes to correspond with the main divisions of the earth, or the chief depart-

ments of scientific study. These may be called *Chapters*.

Third. Ultimate units of division, being the recognized subdivisions under these Chapters, which may be called *Sections*.

Perhaps it may be found desirable to sub-classify further, and this will be perfectly easy.

The name of each Section is a topic or subject, and under it are to be entered the names of books relating to it, alphabeted by author's names.

Now to show, on one or two points, how to apply the system to cards in drawers:

At the alphabetical place of each of my eight Class names, I would put a directing Card, to name the Chapters under that Class. For instance: at the word Theology, I would have a "subdivision card," as follows:

"Theology. For subordinate topics, see: Bible and Biblical study; Christian polity; Collective religious works; Devotional and practical works; Religion, history of; Theology, systematic and polemical."

Again: to come down to the first Chapter of the Class. Under "Bible," the first entry should be this:

"Bible. For list of related subjects, see Theology."

Along with this first cross-reference should go all others, such as:

"For other sacred books, see names of religions. See also Inspiration of the Bible; Bible Societies."

Next after these cross-reference cards should come the "subdivision card" (and note, that these subdivisions are given not as the only possible ones, but merely as those which I have found sufficient thus far, but should expect to change in a very large or a very small library), as follows:

Bible. Subdivided thus: 1. Bible (text); 2. Old Testament (text); 3. New Testament (text); 4. Smaller parts (text); 5.

Apocrypha (text and comments); 6. Canon of Scripture; 7, 8, 9. Commentaries; 10. Encyclopædias; 11. History of the Bible; 12. Exegesis; 13. Antiquities; 14. Geography; 15. Natural History; 16. Concordance; 17. Other Biblical aids.

Now, to apply the proposed system to an existing catalogue, take for instance the three cases already cited of defective classification.

1. Provençal, etc. Let all the cards remain where they are. Under "Troubadours," say "See also Provençal; Provençal; Romance languages." And under each of the others of the four, refer in like manner to the remaining three. And under both "France" and "French language," I would put a reference to all four.

2 and 3. These cases need not be set forth in full. I would simply distribute full cross-references, on this same plan, to every title requiring it. In the important case of Mental Philosophy, covering one whole great department of literature out of eight, I suppose that forty or fifty cards, occupying about one inch of room in the catalogue drawers, would furnish a guide that would serve the turn. Suppose that three times as many are needed for each of the eight, this calls for say 1200 cards, which would occupy less than one drawer of the Public Library Catalogue; that is, it would add one two hundred and thirty-fifth part to the extent of the catalogue; just over two-fifths of one per cent.; as much in proportion as four mills is to a dollar.

This is no mere patching of one catalogue; it is a method which can be applied to any. But examples should be alive, and it is for that reason that I cite actual cases. Obviously the unrelated distributions I have narrated would have been prevented if a system of strict classifying had been used from the beginning.

Let it not be supposed that the number of topics is going to be very terrible.

There are 515 in the British Museum shelf classification. There are 789 in the New York Mercantile Library classification, as I have now revised it. But one sheet of ledger paper will make room for 3000 entries.

Any one desirous of following my scheme will find it in some measure worked out in the classification or second part of the New York Mercantile Library catalogue. This second part was originally arranged by Mr. S. Hastings Grant,—and, by the way, neither Mr. Houston nor Mr. Green, whom Mr. Cutter names as the authors of two of the catalogues of that Library, was the author (Mr. Cutter was misinformed),—and extended and modified by me; and it has been carried in the printed catalogues of that Library to the point where one more revision would bring the section heads to the right form for scattering into the alphabet as subject entries. I have not undertaken any extended presentation of details, for obvious reasons. But to show the results of not using such a plan, and how it can be applied to remedy those results, is a not less cogent argument for it than to merely set forth its merits affirmatively.

Without any formal ending, I will suggest a few of the numerous questions that arise within the department of classification entries, in order to show that it is a subject which will admit of investigation.

There are many of them, often interesting, still unsettled in many details. In controversial questions shall we distinguish the sides? I say, Yes. It would be a great convenience to the student of social science to find the arguments against woman suffrage together, and those for it together; to be able to examine all the protectionist authorities consecutively, and all the free-trade authorities consecutively; to trace the series of defences of Roman Catholicism and the series of assaults upon it.

Shall subjects such as Fine Arts, Religion, etc., be left in sections under the different countries, or shall they be collected together in subjects? I think it will be found that some will require one treatment, others the other. Fine Arts, however, ought to stand by itself, and ought not to have to be picked out in bits from under as many countries as are named in the catalogue.

Will you use English or Latin terms; Birds, or Ornithology; Names, or Patronomatology; Coins, or Numismatics; Gardening, or Horticulture?

Where will you place double subjects? Will you catalogue under both, or cross-

refer from one; and from which? This query refers to cases like these:

School Architecture, which belongs to both Architecture and Education; Cotton, which appears as a plant under Agriculture, as material under Manufactures, and as goods under Trade; Fish, which comes under Natural History, Commerce, and Amusements, as it is animal, merchandise or game; Mortality Statistics, which concern Medical Science, Public Health and Life Insurance.

But there are a great many, and I stop, only adding that I am so sure I am right that I am not afraid to undertake to answer questions on the subject.

CLASSIFICATION ON THE SHELVES:

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE NEW SCHEME PREPARED FOR THE
BOSTON ATHENÆUM.

BY C. A. CUTTER, LIBRARIAN OF THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM.

FORMERLY a book's place in a library was fixed on a certain shelf, where it remained (except when out) till the library was rearranged. Its mark might be something like 1254.30, which would mean that it was on the first floor, in the second room, in the fifth case in the room, on the fourth shelf in that case, and the thirtieth book on the shelf, counting from the left. The shelves were usually only half filled at first, to leave room for new-comers to be added in their proper place in the various classes. This worked well till some of the classes became full, which always happened irregularly, some shelves being soon crowded while others were hardly any fuller than when the library was first opened. Then came all the trouble of double rows, of books laid on top of others, and of books placed in another class because there was

no room in their own. At last the day arrived when a new building or a new room or at least some new cases had to be provided, and then one of four courses was adopted.

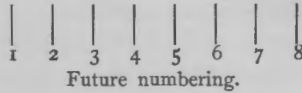
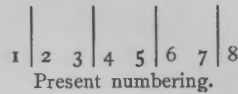
(1) One was to reclassify and rearrange the whole and alter all the shelf-marks in the books and again on the catalogs,—a long and tedious work, which experience shows to be peculiarly liable to error, and in which errors are peculiarly prejudicial to the library service. For a book mis-marked is a book lost, mortifying if it is not found, and wasting time whether found or not. This is the course which has been pursued again and again at the Boston Athenæum.

(2) A second method was to rearrange nothing; but, leaving the books where they were, to repeat the classification in another room or on another floor. This gives two

parallel libraries, and, after a time, three or four or more. It is the course pursued at the Boston Public Library, where Botany, for instance, runs up the side of the building like a vine, and to get from one part of a subject to another, one has to ascend a story besides making a considerable detour to find the stairs. And the newer books of course are in the upper alcoves and farthest from the delivery desk.

(3) The third way was to leave gaps in the numbering. If Class A was in Case 1, the next case, holding Class B, would be numbered not 2 but 101, and so on. Then when Class A needed two cases, Class B was moved into the next case beyond, which was then numbered 101, and the case which had been 101 became Case 2. Thus the comparatively small change of case numbering took the place of altering the book numbers, and the catalog and shelf-lists remained undisturbed; or if the cases themselves could be moved along the wall no change of numbers at all was necessary, a new Case 2 being simply put in between Case 1 and Case 101. This is the method of the British Museum. Its defect is that it comes to an end in time; the gaps are filled up, and one must either rearrange, as in the first case, or begin a second parallel library, as in the second. Moreover it does not allow minute subdivision.

(4) The fourth method is that employed at Harvard College Library. The new wing of that building consists of a perfectly uniform series of book stacks arranged like a gridiron, the faces numbered in order. When these stacks become full, the building will be lengthened by adding a similar stack, and the numbers moved along, somewhat as in the British Museum plan. 1 instead of being a face will then mark both faces of a stack, and 2 will mark the 2d stack, not the 2d face of the first stack.



This will double the book room in each class, and the process can be continued as long as there is room to extend the building. One weak point in this is that the same subdivisions will be on opposite sides of a stack. Thus, if before the enlargement, stack 1 contained History, and English history (c) was in the middle of it, after the change part of English history (c) would be at a considerable



distance from the rest (c'), on the other side of the stack.* Another difficulty will be that the classes will not grow evenly. One will need more than double space when another needs hardly any. This will be still more the case with the subdivisions, and it will certainly not be possible to maintain their regular contraposition in a new arrangement.

Of these methods the first attains its end most completely; it puts the books just where they are wanted. New subdivisions and whole new classes can be introduced wherever desired. But all this is done at an extravagant cost. The other methods are much less expensive but also much less satisfactory. There is, however, a plan which combines the cheapness of the

a	a'	* Mr. Winsor now proposes to obviate this objection by giving the numbers after the change not to the stack but to the alley, in which case the subdivisions will face one another.
b	b'	
1		
c	c'	
d	d'	
e	e'	

last three with the perfect classification of the first. In this plan the book numbers indicate not a given alcove and shelf but a given class and sub-class, and, if necessary, sub-sub-class, so that, as will be readily seen, a book number once correctly assigned remains unchanged forever, although the place of the book be changed a hundred times. Once marked always marked. Consequently the cost and loss of time and liability to mistakes inherent in the other plan, are done away with at once. For instance, it is plain that a History of England should always have the class number assigned to English histories, no matter in what part of the building or in what building that class may be placed. And any number of new works may come into that class; yet its subject number or letter will be unaltered. The former methods were called "fixed location," this "movable location." The former may be compared to the line in the directory which states that a man lives at 129 Grace Street; the latter to the army register, which says that he is captain of Company C, 5th Regiment, M. V. The street is immovable, but the regiment may be marched from one part of the country to another, yet the man easily found by his position in it. In the same way books may be found by their position in a certain class, although the class itself be moved from one alcove to another. If the man moves to a new street a new directory is needed; but the army register does not have to be altered just because the regiment has been quartered in a different town.

Some forms of this plan, apparently independently devised, have been used by several persons, but Mr. Dewey's movable decimal system, first used at Amherst, is the most widely known. I began to apply it to my library; but after a time became dissatisfied because minute classification led to very high figures, and

because it seemed to me that limiting the classes to ten and their divisions to ten each, had cramped the mind of the classifier and prevented his fully developing his subject. I was confirmed in this impression by seeing that others shared it, and especially by finding that even when I tried a much larger base (the 26 letters of the alphabet in place of the 10 numbers) I was occasionally cramped.* It then occurred to me to use the figures 0-9 in addition to the letters, appropriating the former to designate what may be called the "generals and preliminaries" of each class; that is to say, to the Dictionaries, Encyclopædias, Compendes, Tables, Periodicals, and publications of Societies, and to the books which treat of the Bibliography, History, Geography of the various subjects, which it is desirable to have in a uniform place under each class. This was ensured by giving each of these divisions a number which should be the same under every class (as 17 History of Philosophy, D7 History of Sociology, E7 History of Political science, N7 History of the Useful Arts). And the same figures were to be used without any letter prefixed for the general Encyclopædias, Periodicals, Societies, etc. While I was working this out, Mr. Dewey was devising something better still. He suggested using letters and numerals together indiscriminately, in such a way that we should have 35 classes numbered in order 1, 2, [to] 8, 9, a, b, [to] x, y, z, and 35 divisions of each class, and further 35 subdivisions of each division if we needed them.† For the full explanation of this, I refer to Mr. Dewey's articles in the LIBRARY JOURNAL, 4: 7-10, 75-78.

* And yet 26 allows 702 divisions with the use of only 2 characters to mark each, and 18,278 with the use of 3 characters.

† With this base, the use of two characters gives 1260 classes and divisions; the use of three gives 44,135.

Having chosen a notation, the next step was to select the thirty-five classes, and determine in what order they should succeed one another. I will not delay you with an account of some months of tribulation. After scores of schemes had been tried and rejected, I settled upon the general theory that the grouping of classes ought to bring together those which have a practical connection, so that when a reader is using any division of the library he would have on either hand the classes of books which he is most likely to wish to use at the same time. * The idea cannot always be carried out, because some classes have close relations to three or four others, but of course can stand between only two of them, so that the relation to all except those two must be disregarded. But it has had a strong shaping influence on my scheme, both in regard to the order of the main classes and of their divisions, being sometimes modified in the latter case by the usual practice of putting the most general subdivisions first and the special sections afterward.

The main classes are as follows :

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Historical sciences. | o | Generals.
Registers.
Encyclopædias.
Quotations.
Polygraphy.
Periodicals.
Societies. |
| | 1 | Filosofy, Mental and Moral. |
| | 2 | Religion (Natural), Religions, Mythology. |
| | 3 | Christian theology. |
| | 4 | Ecclesiastical history. |
| | 5 | Biography, Gen. and East. |
| | 6 | “ West. |
| | 7 | History (Gen.), Chronology, etc. |
| | 8 | “ Eastern Hemisphere. |
| | 9 | “ Western Hemisphere. |
| Historical sciences. | A | Geography, Gen. and East. |
| | B | “ West. |

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----|--|
| Social sciences. | C | Statistics,
Political economy,
Commerce. |
| | D | Sociology (Gen.), Poor, Public morality,
Education. |
| | E | Government and Politics, Law (Gen.). |
| | F | Law and Legislation, Eastern Hemisphere. |
| | G | “ Western Hemisphere. |
| Matter. | H | Natural sciences in general,
Mathematics, Mechanics,
Fysics (General, Fluids, Gases, Sound,
Light, Heat, Electricity, Magnetism),
Chemistry,
Astronomy. |
| Natural sciences. | I | Geology, Dynamical (Physical geography,
Fysiography),
Geology, Statical (Geol. proper), incl.
Mineralogy,
Biology,
Microscopy. |
| Life. | J | Palæontology (General),
Natural history (i. e. Botany and Zoölogy
together),
Fytology (Botany and Botanical palæon-
tology). |
| Useful. | J, | Zoölogy and Zoölogical palæontology, |
| | K, | Comparativ anatomy and fysiology, |
| | L | Anthropology and Ethnology. |
| | M | Medicin. |
| Arts. | N | Arts in general,
Extractiv arts (Mining, Agriculture, Ani-
maliculture), Chemical arts, and Do-
mestic arts. |
| | P | Constructiv arts (Bilding and Engineer-
ing), and Metric arts. |
| | Q | Fabricativ arts (Manufactures and Handi-
crafts) and Commercial arts. |
| | R | Combativ (Military and Naval) and Pre-
servativ arts, Ship-bilding and Naviga-
tion, Aeronautics. |
| Fine. | S | Recreativ arts. |
| | T | Music. |
| Literature and Language. | U | Art. |
| | V | Literature, Gen. and East. |
| | W | “ West. |
| | X | Book-arts (Authorship, Writing, Print-
ing, Book-trade, Reading, Libraries) and
Bibliography. |
| | Y | Language, Gen. and East. |
| | Z | “ West. |

How the classes glide into each other will be seen by any one who examines the scheme with reference to that matter. It would be still clearer if the subdivisions could be given here. I will only call

* See Mr. Garnett's paper on the arrangement of the British Museum, in LIB. JOURN., 2: 194-200.

attention to three points. *First*, the interposition of Ecclesiastical history—which belongs to both Theology and History—between those two classes. This I do not remember to have seen in any other scheme. *Second*, that in the Natural sciences we not only advance from matter to life in the classes, as is evident enough; but in the sub-arrangement of the biological part we follow the order of evolution, commencing Botany with the protofyta and ending with the polypetalæ, commencing Zoölogy with the monera and ending with the primates, which leads us naturally to Anthropology and Ethnology. The next class, Medicin, which by reason of Anatomy and Fysiologie, is a branch of Zoölogy, and by its division Practice belongs to the Arts, is the proper link between the two. The *third* point which I wished to mention is Class x. Bibliografy is properly one of the “generals”; it covers all of the six great divisions of the scheme. It was, therefore, at first numbered 03, and 3 was made the bibliografical number under each of the classes. It can still be put there by any one who desires. Its present place was preferred on account of its close connection with Literary history, and because x is more easily written than 03. Putting with Bibliografy all the arts which go to make up a book, though a departure from strict classification, finds its justification in an evident convenience.

To show how the details are carried out I will take part of the class Christian Theology, omitting a number of divisions for want of space.

- 3 Theology.
- 30 Generals and preliminaries.
- 31 Bible (Whole): Original texts, chronologically arranged.
- 310 Selections from the whole Bible in the original, chronol. arr.
- 311 Polyglots, chronol. arr.
- 3111 Polyglot selections, chronol. arr.

312 Translations, arranged alfabetically by language, the sub-arrangement to be chronological by the first issue of each version, and further by the year of issue of the particular copy, and noted by the date itself, omitting the thousand until we get to the year 2000, e. g.

- 312DA Danish versions.
- 312DU Dutch versions.
- 312E English versions.
- 312E²²⁰ Wycliffe's.
- 312E²²⁶ Coverdale's.
- 312E²⁶⁰ Geneva.
- 312E²⁶² Bishops'.
- 312E²¹¹ King James's.
- 312E²¹¹ King James's, an ed. published 1770.
- 312E^{211a} “ “ another ed. pub. in the same year.

[The mark is long, but this is not objectionable, because Bibles are consulted in most libraries with comparative infrequency, so that there is not often need to write the mark. Arbitrary letters or numbers might be used instead of the dates 220, 226, etc. I prefer the information given by the full mark. For the editions of Shakespeare arbitrary marks will be better, because they must be more often written.]

Some of the later divisions are :

- 313 Bibliografy.
- 314 Dictionaries.
- 31A Filosofy.
- 31D Biografy.
- 31M Criticism, etc., etc.
- 32 Old Testament.
- 320-32R The same subdivisions (Bibliografy, etc.) as under Bible.
- 32U Octateuch.
- 32V Pentateuch.
- 32W Ten Commandments.
- 32X Historical books.
- 32Y Poetical books.
- 32Z Profetical books.
- 330 Gen. [to] 33Z Malachi.
- 34 New Testament.
- 340-34R [As under Bible.]
- 350 Gospels-35U Apocrypha.
- 36 Fathers.
- 39 Later divines (collected works).
- 3A Evidences.
- 3B Dogmatic theology.
- 3C Creeds.
- 3D Catechisms.
- 3E Particular doctrines(alfabetically arranged).
- 3F “ sects (alf. arr.).
- 3G Practical theology.
- 3H Particular duties, faults, crimes (alfab.).

- 3I Duties of partic. classes of persons (alf.).
 3J Practices and practico-religious ideas of
 particular sects and nations (alf.).
 3K Ritual theology.
 3L Sacraments.
 3M Sabbath.
 3N Worship.
 3P Prayer.
 3Q Liturgies of particular churches.
 3R Hymns " " "
 3S Devotional works.
 3T Pastoral theology.
 3U Visiting, Parish work.
 3V Homiletics.
 3W Sermons.
 3X Ecclesiastical polity.
 3Y " " Particular churches.
 3Z " " Particular offices.

Of the advantage of having the same numbers in all the classes for dictionaries and periodicals and society publications, I have already spoken. There is another correspondence worthy of notice. Many subjects require a geographical subdivision,—History, Geografy and Biografy, of course, and Law, Literature, Language, Bibliografy, Ecclesiastical history, Natural history and Botany and Zoölogy for the local flora and fauna, and Geology and Palæontology, and a number of less important subjects. It is a great help to the memory if the same letters can be used to indicate a given country under each of these 14 classes. I find it is possible to divide the world into seventy parts of nearly equal importance. We have 35 characters. I assign them to the Eastern Hemisfere, and in four very important cases I have been able to make them mnemonic. E always stands in this country-list for England, F for France, G for Germany, and I for Italy. There are also a number of minor coincidences that I cannot stop to enumerate. The same list is used over again to mark the countries in the Western Hemisfere and Polynesia, in which, of course, every letter and figure has a different significance, E for example being Central America, F West Indies, G S. America, I Guiana. These letters, it

should be remembered, are to mark not classes, but the divisions of the different classes. Which country is intended is shown by the class letter that precedes. Thus A is Geografy of the Eastern Continent and B Geografy of the Western Continent. AE, then, is Geografy of England and BE is Geografy of Central America. In the same way 8F is History of France, 9F History of the West Indies. Of course there is not the slightest danger of confounding the two classes. And as some pains has been taken to use letters that naturally go together in pairs,—a, b; p, q; m, n; v, w; y, z—it is very easy for those who are using the list much—the librarian and assistants—to remember which of the two signifies the Eastern and which the Western Hemisfere. It is not expected that any one will remember the whole of the geographical list; but it can be remembered much more easily because the same list is used in so many subjects,* and actual trial has shown that a good part of it is committed to memory almost unconsciously by those who use it.

One of the objections always made to classification is that the enquirer has to acquaint himself with the system before he can get any good from it. That objection was almost entirely done away with by Mr. Dewey when he added to his Amherst table of classes an alphabetical index. A man does not know, for instance, where the classifier would put works on Annuities or on the Family.

* It will illustrate this point to follow England through the chief classes. 5E=English biografy, 8E English history, AE English geografy, C1E Statistics of England, DAAE Education in England, DSE English universities, D2AE English charities, E8E the English constitution, EAE English politics, E1E prisons in England, FE English law and legislation, JAUE English botany, JYE English zoölogy, N4AE English agriculture, ROAE the English army, VE English literature, YE the English language. In the same way 5F is French biografy, and so on to YF French language.

He turns to A or F in the index, and finds an answer to his doubt in an instant,—“Annuities 333,” “Family 173,” which means that the former is the third subject in the third division of the third class, and the latter the third subject in the seventh division of the first class. With such a help the only previous knowledge required to use any system of classification is the knowledge of the alphabet. No matter how complicated nor indeed how absurd the classification may be the index makes its use simple and easy. Such an index as his, but very much enlarged, will be added to my Classification, and I have been fortunate enough to secure the coöperation of Messrs. R. R. Bowker and R. Bliss, jr.* We shall cull from catalogs and from the dictionary as many subject-headings as possible, arrange them alphabetically, and against each set its class-mark according to both the Amherst and the Boston Athenæum systems, and in the case of synonymous headings we shall show in some way not yet determined which we prefer. Then the young librarian who does not know where to put his new books, the novice in cataloging who is puzzling over the proper heading for his card, the experienced librarian whose brain has momentarily struck work, the reader who wants to know whereabouts in the library or in a classed catalog he shall find books on his subject,—can all solve their doubts with ease.

One of the first remarks which is made when any one displays a complete scheme of classification or describes some such device as the “geography list,” is, “This is very well for a large library, but it won't do for a small one; it is at once unnecessary and confusing.” And even large libraries have been influenced by the same

* Mr. Bliss prepared the classification for the natural sciences (classes I-L inclusive) in the present scheme.

idea. “The classification of books on the shelves of the British Museum Library,” says Mr. Garnett, “does not amount to the enumeration of all the subjects which might suitably be recognized as distinct in a classified catalogue, but only of such as possess sufficient importance to occupy at least one book press in the library. Subjects which from a philosophical point of view might properly be separated, must in actual library arrangements frequently be combined for want of room.” And again, “No subdivision of the useful arts has been attempted beyond the separation of Cookery and Domestic Economy from the rest.” All the Useful arts thrown into one undivided mass in a library of over a million of volumes! Minute classification is not needless, is not confusing, and, with a movable location, does not waste room. The objections to it arise from misconception, and possibly, in some cases, from *bad* classification, which is an entirely different thing.

1. Suppose two libraries, A and B, have each 200 histories. A does not subdivide them at all. B subdivides them thoroughly. If they each have only one history of Germany, many persons would say, “It is absurd to have a class of one.” Is it? In A the man who wants a history of Germany must look over 200 volumes to find it. In B he can put his hand on it at once. Even the man who does not know the classification, and is too indolent to glance at the printed table of classes hung up in the alcove, is no worse off in the classified B than he would be in A. In either case he must look over 200 volumes. If there were two histories of Germany, he would be much better off in B than in the unarranged A, because the two histories would be together, and having found one, he need look no further.

2. It is not any harder to find books on a given subject in a minutely divided library than in one slightly divided. The books

in a small subdivision are merely brought together *within* their class; they are not taken *out of* their class. It is easier, to be sure, to find a book by a given author when the subdivisions are few, provided the books in each class are arranged alphabetically. It would be easier still if there were no classes at all. But the main purpose of classifying a library is not to enable one to find a book by a given author. That is the purpose of the catalog. The object of the classification is to guide people readily to all the books on a given topic, which is accomplished in the case of a large subject by placing *near together* all the subordinate topics which belong to it, and, in the case of a small subject, by *separating* it from all its coordinate subjects and from the general works of its including class. Confounding the small topics with one another is as great an evil as would be taking them out from the class to which they belong.

Minute classification does not always interfere even with finding books by a given author. In the Winchester Town Library of about 4600 volumes, which I have just arranged on this plan, the librarian has been obliged to give out books without any sort of a catalog, printed or written, to refer to. She tells me that she has been able to do so with ease. Now if you think what it means that a person who never has had her library classified at all before, and to whom all the present places of the books are new, should be able simply by the classification to find and charge 300 v. in an afternoon, you will see that the system is not ill adapted to a small library, and that minuteness of classification does not interfere with facility of use.

The general principle that should determine the extent of classification in a small library is this: When a class may be distinctly and clearly separated into well-known parts (as in the Natural Sciences and in History and Geografy), separate

them, even if the groups of books resulting are very small. But when the divisions are vague, indefinite (as in *Filosofy*), let the class remain undivided till the number of books in it is large. In the first case the classification is easily made by the librarian and is profitable to the user, as he comprehends it quickly; in the second, the classifier might have to puzzle long to decide on the proper place for his book, and therefore saves much time by not classifying; and the user, as he would not easily understand the principle of the arrangement, might get from it more hindrance than aid. But when a class like *Filosofy* becomes large, certain natural divisions make themselves felt, and the separation of the books becomes at once easy and useful. The librarian who is using a minute scheme of classification is not obliged to apply it all. In *Filosofy*, for instance, he can make the two great divisions, general and mental (1), and moral (1M), and neglect all the subdivisions.

3. With a movable location no room is lost by minute division. The different subdivisions can follow one another without any empty space, if it is thought best. A book added to the library fills just as much room in the one case as in the other, no more and no less.

With a movable location all new books fall at once into their proper places like the cards which are added to a card catalog, and the new-comers push the other books along on the shelf, just as new cards push the others along in the drawer. The consequence is that a book which is here to-day may be on the next shelf in a month or in the next alcove in a year; and the local memory, which is a great help in finding books quickly, is disturbed. The only remedy that I can see for this is to substitute a subject memory for a local memory, to get a habit of thinking of a book as belonging to a certain class instead

of as on a certain shelf (a much more rational memory, by the way), and then to make it very easy to find the classes. This last is not at all hard to accomplish.*

Over the alcoves, or, better still, projecting from them, I would have signs in very large letters, that can be read at a distance: "7. History," "A. Geografy," "v. Literature." Over or projecting from the sides of the presses I would have similar but smaller signs, showing the divisions of each class. On the shelves, at the end of every subdivision, however small, I would attach to the movable iron book-supports little pieces of zinc, with one end turned down over the front of the shelf. On this lappel, which will be about one inch wide and as long as desired, I would letter as plainly as possible the names of the two subdivisions which meet there, with hands pointing in the direction in which each will be found. With these aids, which correspond exactly to the zinc guides in our card catalog, and move with the motion of the books, as the

* I find a certain amount of misconception in regard to this matter. It is generally thought that in a movable location the books must be packed solid, and that when a new volume is intercalated anywhere all the books which by their classification follow it must be moved forward just the thickness of that volume. It is not so. Spaces may be and usually are left in a movable as well as in a fixed location at the end of each subject, in proportion to its probable growth. These fill up, often unexpectedly. In the fixed location there is no remedy for such an evil. In the movable, an hour's work or less solves the whole difficulty by borrowing a little of the spare space of the next class, or if necessary of two or three classes. At the time of the annual cleaning, when the books will be removed from their shelves at any rate, it is very easy to make a general readjustment and reapportionment of space. It may be necessary here to forestall some unreasonable objections by remarking that the movable location does not pretend to provide for the case where all the shelf room in the library is used up; but it does make it very easy—a mere matter of portorage—to transfer the books to a new library, or to divide between the first building and a new wing.

guides move with the motion of the cards, no one will have any difficulty in finding his way about. In each alcove will be hung a placard showing the classification of that alcove, and a book showing the classification of the whole library, with a full index of subjects. Suppose that a man who is examining the books in class U, Architecture, finds it necessary to look up some point in Engineering. Opening the index he finds over against the word Engineering the letters PA. He has then only to follow back the alfabet of subjects from U to PA. There is no need to inquire of the librarian, for the index alone is a sufficient guide.

Any one who has very decided ideas in regard to classification will prefer to arrange his library on his own plan. But if there is any one here who is going to arrange a library, large or small, and has not yet drawn up his scheme, I would seriously recommend him (unless he prefers to do a great deal of unnecessary hard work) to adopt some of the systems already in use, and especially either Mr. Dewey's Amherst decimal scheme, or my own Boston Athenæum scheme. He cannot make a good classification without spending considerable time on it; and even if he spends a long time, he may not make one that is *very much* better. And if he takes one or the other of these two plans, he will come into harmony with a certain number of other libraries. All coöperation is very much helped by uniformity of methods. In the *Title-slip Registry*, for example, we put the Dewey number on each title, and hereafter we may add the Boston Athenæum class-mark, that so any librarian who uses either of these schemes will have his book already classified to his hand. Of course he need not follow our dictum in regard to any book, if he thinks some other classing is better; but even in that case it may be a help

to know what our idea of the proper classification of the book is. I take it many librarians would be very glad to have the books' places fixed for them without any trouble. And if, in the course of a generation or two, some such practice should become general, think what a saving,—to have one man do the whole classification for fifty, or a hundred or a thousand libraries, instead of fifty or a hundred or a thousand men doing each the same

work independently. It is the difference between the copyist making slowly and laboriously his one copy of a work and the printing-press striking off at once a whole edition.*

* The Winchester catalog (40 p., l. O., 20 cts.), in which the classification described above is carried out, can be obtained after Aug. 15 at Winchester library, or from the author at the Boston Athenæum, or at the rooms of the A. L. A.

SOME POINTS IN INDEXING.

BY W. I. FLETCHER, WATKINSON LIBRARY, HARTFORD.

WHEN I was asked to present to this Conference a paper on indexing, my first impulse was to shrink from it as a work of supererogation. For this subject has been so fully, so happily, and so wisely treated by Mr. Wheatley in his paper (or book I should now say), that it would seem as if nothing more need be said on it. But second thought showed me that there is yet debatable ground within the limits of this subject, and my experience in connection with the new edition of Poole's Index, which was suggested to me by your Committee as the source of some thoughts which might be profitable to this Conference, had shown me that the time has not come for the last word on indexing. When every librarian needs no instructions beyond a request to index a set of volumes to insure a perfect index, and one corresponding exactly with the work of every other librarian, then indexing will have been reduced to a science, and will need to be taught only to those who are new to the librarian's work. But excellence, and uniformity of excellence, are not now the chief characteristics of the indexing done in our libraries. And here, lest I should be mistaken as to what I mean by indexing, I would say that I refer not merely to

the indexing of the contents of volumes, as periodicals for example, but also to the subject-cataloguing of books, which is essentially the same thing. I have on one or two occasions found it necessary, in my correspondence, to call attention to some differences between indexing periodicals and cataloguing books under their subjects. But the differences are slight, the two kinds of work being essentially the same.

In order that what I say on this subject may be capable of carrying away easily in the memory or the note-book, I will attempt to group it around a few leading headings, which I will put in the form of questions asked by the indexer.

First, then, as he takes up a book or opens to an article, or an essay, he asks:

What subject is here treated?

Upon securing the right answer to this question depends a large share of his success. And how is he to do this? Neither the title nor the first paragraph of an article will always show what is its real subject. One cannot really be prepared to answer to himself this question without in a certain way reading the matter before him. There is a kind of reading which librarians must learn to do, of which our President wrote in a recent number of the

LIBRARY JOURNAL. He calls it examination; and speaking of his own experience, he says, that he has given to each of about fifteen hundred volumes a year, enough of such examination to enable him to "ticket away in its proper pigeon-hole in his memory," whatever they contained of value for him. No better directions for acquiring and practising this art have been given than you will find in his article, at page 120 of vol. 3, of the LIBRARY JOURNAL. "To ticket it away in its proper pigeon-hole" is just what the indexer has to do. And there is no danger which my experience has shown me to be a more common one in this matter of finding what is the subject of a given treatise, than that of assigning too large a subject. There are those to whom classification is not a *bête noir*. Their experience with it has been such as to show them its advantages and uses, which are many and great. And I must at this point deprecate their displeasure in speaking of classification and the natural tendency to classify as the great bane of indexing. And please let the demurrer answer for all disrespectful remarks which I may make about classification from first to last. The indexer must be careful that when he asks himself the subject of a treatise, he is not satisfied with an answer which merely tells the class to which it belongs. It was in examining the first volume of the *Intellectual Observer*, early in the course of my recent indexing work, that I had this matter brought home to me more forcibly than ever before. How natural it would have been to put the article on "Prime Movers" under Mechanics, or "Double Stars" under Astronomy, or "Hunting for Diatoms" under either Biology or Animalcules, or "Haunts of the Condor" under Birds, etc. But I soon thought of this principle, which has been of great service to me in subsequent operations:

If a subject is worthy of separate treat-

ment through several pages of an untechnical work, it is worthy of its own special place in an alphabetical arrangement of subjects in index or catalogue.

Second. Although I might indicate other cautions to be observed in deciding exactly what is the subject of a given treatise, time requires that I now pass to what is naturally the second question which the indexer asks: What shall I call this subject?

I have supposed the answer to the first question to be a mental one. The indexer has discovered the exact subject of the matter before him, but he is not prepared to ticket it. And he cannot properly give it a name without reference to the order and system of his index. In making a classified list, the question is one between different systems of classification and the varying terminology of the different authorities in the various fields. And no mean question is this. I must confess that I have listened with some surprise to the paper on classification which Mr. Perkins has read to us this morning. I am surprised that any librarian of experience should advocate a classified catalogue, for I supposed the result of all experience in this line had been to show the futility of attempts to classify literature strictly for cataloguing purposes. Unless the librarian is an expert in every department of science how shall he classify scientific works correctly? I have had a little experience of late in attempting to make a classified list of scientific works, and I am ready to believe that most of us will need a short course of technical training before we are competent to classify successfully.

But in making an alphabetical subject-index, the case is different. Here the thing to be accomplished is simply to place the references to the articles under such subject-headings as are most likely to be looked for first by the intelligent

searcher for such information as they contain. Please allow me to repeat this by way of enforcing it as a statement which seems to me of great importance. The object of the indexer by an alphabetical arrangement of subject-headings is to place the references to the articles under such headings as are most likely to be *first* looked for by the searcher for such information as they contain. The natural reply to this is: "How can I know where the searcher will first look?" To which I would say, common sense and library experience, freed from the influence of all mere conventionalities of classification or nomenclature will be a sufficient guide. Read an article; then imagine yourself in want of just the information it contains; then ask yourself where in an index would I look for this information if I knew nothing about any rules on which the index was made. The article on "Hunting for Diatoms," for instance, will never be useful to any one except to him who wishes to know how Diatoms are found. Where else should that person look than under Diatoms? Of course the judgment of one person will differ from that of another as to where the average inquirer is most likely to look, and for this reason no co-operative index work can ever be well done without supervision by some one person, or two or three persons in conference, whose judgment shall be accepted as final. But if the indexer will keep in mind something like the rule I have given above, he cannot, if of average good sense, go far astray in applying names to his subjects.

But more or less difficulty is apt to arise in connection with the accepted principle that all references to a given subject should be brought together under a common heading, whatever different names the subject may receive in different treatises. Or in other words, that of synonymous subject-headings one must be selected for use, and cross-references made from the others

to it. This I have called an accepted principle, because I have heard of no dissent from it. But it appears to me that in the application of this rule sufficient attention has not been paid to the limitations of the word *synonymous*. This is ground which was well gone over in the discussions in the LIBRARY JOURNAL of last year centering in the Symposium on Poole's Index. In this discussion the fact was clearly brought out that in many cases those are not synonymous subject-headings which at the first glance appear to be so; as for instance: Birds and Ornithology, Fishes and Ichthyology, Fishing and Angling, Church-yards and Cemeteries, Meteorology and Weather. May it not be said in all fairness that the choice of different names for their treatises by different writers warrants the inference that the subjects are diverse? If so, the indexer who treats two of these names as synonymous without having assured himself completely that they are so, does the authors a manifest injustice. And again, may it not be fairly asked how many librarians are competent to discriminate fairly in all these matters? The question naturally raises another, which the authors may well be supposed to ask the indexer, in the language of Scripture: "Who made thee a ruler and a divider over us?" In this connection we see the wisdom of the proposed co-operative scheme of subject-headings, which I hope we shall hear something further of before the close of this Conference.

If any remark of mine shall seem to be the throwing of cold water on this proposed list I shall regret having made it, for it seems to me one of the most useful and most appropriate things this Association can do at the present stage of our co-operative work. But I wish to say, with all deference to the judgment of some of our best librarians who probably differ from me in this, that it appears to me that such a list, however perfect it may be, will lead

to the danger of the obliteration of some of those fine distinctions between closely related subjects which give rise to the divergences of nomenclature, and which, in themselves, if I am not mistaken, constitute the down upon the cheek of the peach of indexing. The indexer is like a clothier, who will do his business better by making some garments to order than by depending wholly on a ready-made stock. I am aware that the art of making ready-made clothing has been brought almost to perfection here in Boston, and that your dealers here can fit almost any customer out of the machine-made stock on their counters. But when a customer comes in to them who is in some respects of an abnormal shape, who has a shape, that is, all his own (and there are many such people), I suppose they find it necessary, if they would give him a perfect fit, to take his measure, and cut the garments by it. So, however complete a ready-made stock of subject-headings the indexer has on hand, he must not content himself with selections from that stock in all cases, but if he would give his work a fit (and not *fits*) he must take the measure of each subject, and make the garment to the measure, if the latter does not exactly correspond with something already made on his counter. We see then that when the indexer asks himself, "What shall I call this subject?" his chief desire should be to find the name which exactly fits it. Of two names which are certainly synonymous, that one should be chosen which is, all things considered, the best, and cross-references must be made from the other. And the securing of uniformity of practice throughout an index as to choice between synonymous headings will require *system* in the work from first to last, and the most careful and patient attention to details. Fortunate is the indexer whose relation to a piece of indexing work (and whose conscience) will permit him to throw off all

this burden on the supervising editor who is to enter into his labors!

But the indexer who is doing something more than furnishing material for others to arrange, will have to ask himself:

Third. How shall I arrange these subject-headings? On this point all is not said when the answer is given, "Alphabetically." It is not so easy to arrange a large number of subjects alphabetically as those suppose who never tried it. A great many questions are constantly arising needing thought and often vexatious and painstaking study to determine. Of course I cannot discuss many of these questions this morning. I select one only, and that is the one relating to the geography of art and the sciences. It has been the custom to put under the names of countries, arranged in proper subdivisions, everything relating to literature, art and the sciences in those countries. My experience has led me to favor the arrangement which has already been proposed in the LIBRARY JOURNAL, and which perhaps some of you have adopted in your catalogues. As to literature, I would not advocate a change. Through its close connection with the languages, and their having generally a local character, literature is more naturally looked for in its subdivisions by countries. But in art and the sciences I am satisfied that it is better to group the titles under their appropriate subject names, giving subdivisions, when necessary, for countries. All titles referring to Ferns would then be found under that word instead of being, all but one or two general ones, scattered throughout the index in the subdivisions labeled *Natural History* under the names of countries. You must all have inwardly rebelled against the arbitrary separation in such far apart portions of the alphabet as A., N., and U. of titles on the birds of America, of North America, and of the United States; and many other similar results of the rule now generally

followed. It seems to me that the proposed change has altogether the weight of argument in its favor, and I wish to submit it to the Conference or to the suitable Committee that we may have it properly considered and if need be, argued. As I at present feel on this matter, I shall carry out the proposed new system in my work of arranging the matter for the new edition of Poole's Index.

Fourth. One more question the indexer asks, "What cross-references shall I make?" I was so unfortunate as to express myself in the Symposium to which I have already referred, so as to have been understood to have something like a contempt for cross-references. I wish to disclaim any such feeling. The contributors to the new edition of Poole's Index might well wish the revision of their work and the editing of the book had fallen into other hands if I was not disposed to consider cross-references as an essential feature in any such work. When I have spoken of them with disapproval, it has been when they have been made the medium of attempting to do more than they can wisely be called on to perform.

One of the things for which many indexers attempt to use cross-references is much better done with additional full references. This is the indication of an article as of value on another subject than the one chosen for the first reference. An article, for example, treats of early printing and gives an account also of early book-binding. It should have a full reference under each. Giving a cross-reference from book-binding to printing, is not more economical, while it is objectionable for many reasons, one of the chief being that the inquirer referred from book-binding to printing does not know which title under printing he is referred to. If the cross-reference is specific as to this point, it takes all the space of a full reference, and might just as well have that character. I

am really astonished at the large number of librarians—out West and in Europe—who fail to see these so patent points.

But without dwelling farther on the mistaken uses of cross-references and without referring here to the sufficiently discussed plan so nobly carried to its highest development in Mr. Noyes's Alphabetic-classed System, I will state the three things which I hope we shall succeed in doing by cross-references in the new Poole's Index. They are: 1st. To guide from every subject-heading to its subdivisions, if any occur in the Index. 2d. To indicate under each subject, where it is necessary, those headings which are nearly synonymous. 3d. To refer the inquirer from every unused subject-heading to its synonym which is used. And it is my present hope that with a careful arrangement of the material on the principles I have tried to set before you, and with a clear statement in few words of the plan of arrangement, printed at the beginning of the Index, the space devoted to cross-references may be greatly limited, without loss of usefulness, by embodying them in many cases in a brief condensation.

As, for example, under Natural History, instead of giving a list of all the subdivisions, I should say, *See the names of various subdivisions of this subject, as Zoölogy, Botany, etc., and the names of various classes of animals and plants.*

I have thus said a few things about indexing which appear to me to be well founded and essentially true. But I am not constitutionally dogmatic, and I hold myself open to conviction on this whole subject. It is certainly to be hoped that we who have the first great coöperative work of this Association in special charge, may receive all the light that can be thrown on this important subject, and also that we may not ultimately prove to have made many great errors in our methods of arrangement.

BINDINGS FOR A PUBLIC LIBRARY.

BY F. P. HATHAWAY, FOREMAN BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BINDERY.

THE most serviceable materials for bindings in a public library, as shown by some years of practical experience, with ample opportunity for experiment, are calf parchment, goat morocco, levant, and linen buckram. The time is not perhaps far distant when a buckram will be made that will take the lead of all, for durability and rough service.

Parchment has outlasted all the others, and survived even the glues or cements worked with it. One reason why it is not more used may be the difficulty in working it, owing to its elasticity when damp; but it can be used without trouble or danger of cracking, if properly lined, and by substituting a grooved or open, for a tight, joint, and in this way we can still have the volume flexible and solid.

Morocco and levant, only when of the *best* quality and manufacture, are fit for public library work. There is a difference in their durability on account of color. Olives and the lighter shades of brown are best; then come cochineal, red, light blue and green, medium and dark green or black. This last color is most used, because it generally costs less; but it often happens that the skin has been first dyed another color with poor success, before it is finally run into a dark green, and it can receive no benefit, but rather some harm, from the successive processes.

Buckram can be used to advantage where there are no raised bands, and for rough usage it surpasses all materials. The only trouble found in its use is in the prejudice that "there is nothing like leather." There may be difficulty in getting it to stick; but this fault can be overcome by removing the glossy size from the calendered surface with sponge and water. It takes a finish in gold as well as morocco

does. That there is a difference in strength and durability on account of color, there is no room for doubt. Of the five colors I have been able to get, flax-color, brown and red are best; green and blue poorest. If a buckram could be had with as little size as possible, and with the surface not at all, or but slightly, calendered, it would be every way preferable to leather, and cost much less.

Every volume larger than a 16° should be sewed upon not less than three bands, each made of at least a four-ply soft flax twine. Each fold of more than two leaves should be sewed "all along" the edge of the fold, regulating the size of the thread used so that a proper swelling may be had to form the round in the back. The failure to be thus thorough in the sewing is a most common fault in ordinary binding, and one fatal to its durability and strength.

Of the thousands of volumes that yearly come under my hands for rebinding, less than ten per cent. are sewed the full length of each signature. I find generally two folds—often three, and sometimes four—sewed on with one crossing of the thread, while the percentage of volumes with folds so thin as to require sewing only two folds on, is very, very small. Volumes that have been sewed "all along" with good thread, though the leather be entirely gone, can very often be rebacked, lined, and covered, and made as good as new, without taking apart.

Each band (without thinning by scraping) should be laced into the boards, first cutting a groove for each band from the edge of the board to the first lacing-hole, thereby retaining for the bands their full strength, and preventing their showing through the leather or being cut off in "knocking down," or the pounding proc-

ess. I rarely find a volume which has more than two bands on a side laced into the board, and often one or both of these have been cut off in "knocking down"; and this is why so many open-back books come out of their covers, while the cover is good and the volume yet firm.

Every volume should have, according to its thickness, one or more linings of strong "super," or gauze, put directly upon the paper. Tight, flexible backs, where the volume is of good paper, *if properly* made, are most durable and satisfactory; but for our ordinary American publications an open back will last longer.

Good morocco should have a uniform firmness of grain, not soft and spongy, or too harsh to the touch, with the feeling of being burnt. The boards should be square, with a solid feeling, and not light for their thickness. On the inside of the cover, the bands that have been laced in can generally be counted, and they should be more than two in number. Some judgment of the sewing can be formed from the firmness of the leaves and from the

round of the back. The back of the folds should not show a wrinkle. There should be no cracking, even when the volume is opened for the first time. Such cracking often denotes too thick or chilled glue. The covers should shut heavily of their own weight. The book should stand firm and be well closed, whether placed on foot, head, or front. Parchment corners are better than leather, because they are stiffer and stand a fall better, and they do not rub when the book is placed on, or removed from, the shelf.

Some imitations of morocco are so finely wrought that, when they are well worked upon the volume, a thorough knowledge of leather is necessary to detect them. Such imitations are preferable to real morocco, when the genuine article has been "burnt" in the coloring process.

It is false economy not to guard thick or double plates with a strong cloth, and not to mount most folding maps and plans upon at least a thin cambric. It takes but little time when the volume is first being bound.

BOOK THIEVING AND MUTILATION.

BY W. B. CLARKE, BOOKSELLER, BOSTON.

THE extraordinary increase in the number of books mutilated in, and stolen from, our libraries, the difficulty attending all attempts at detecting the delinquents, and, notwithstanding certain severe penalties in case of conviction, the fact that these penalties are so seldom enforced *after* conviction, may reasonably alarm all those who are in any way connected with library management. The criminals are not confined to any one class in the community, but include school-boys, clerks, students, teachers, soldiers,

physicians, lawyers, clergymen, etc., etc. Representatives of all the classes just named have come under my observation as book thieves, although the thefts have not in all cases been from public libraries. And in only one of these has there been a reasonable possibility that the crime was committed in consequence of want or suffering. Yet notwithstanding the fact that the offenders have been proven guilty in every instance, I can recall but two where sentence has been enforced, when the trial has taken place in Boston. And one other

case out of the city, where a young man was arrested at the instance of the writer, for stealing valuable books from a public library, and conviction secured, *as well as enforcement of penalty*, by the culprit's trial taking place away from Boston,—no less than eight libraries being the victims of this one thief. Should any of the audience desire, I shall be very happy to go more particularly into the smaller details of the subject. Now, gentlemen and ladies, in addition to the missionary work already performed by intelligent librarians, here is a still wider field for your exertions.

First. By using every effort in your power to teach the reading public how to handle books properly, so that they may be of use to the greatest number of readers and for the longest possible time.

Secondly. By systematic and well-directed endeavors on your part, to make conviction and enforcement of the severest penalties an absolute certainty in case of detection, for either mutilation or theft.

Remember always that every dollar expended in replacing losses by these crimes, lessens just so much the addition of new books. This of course is more severely felt in libraries with small appropriations or incomes to be used in purchases.

The knowledge that two hundred and fifty volumes, carefully labelled on backs and sides, stamped on title-page and selected page in each volume, can be stolen from a library in a single year, and probably to a large extent absorbed by second-hand book dealers, would seem to indicate that a more distinctive marking is necessary. The additional fact that the library thief whom I have already mentioned found no difficulty in disposing of several copies each of such books as Drake's "History of Boston," Lossing's "Field Book of the Revolution," Stanley's "Westminster Abbey," Lecky's "European Morals," Schliemann's "Mycenæ,"

and others, all, or nearly all, having very decided marks of library ownership, goes to prove that the present system of marking books is not a sufficient protection.

The admission to me by a salesman in a large and well-known book-store, that he had regularly bought of this same young thief for several months, would seemingly indicate a large field for missionary labor among my brothers in trade.

I give you this extremely rough and very incomplete sketch, with the hope that the subject may be opened for your more careful consideration, and that the result may be a better protection both for libraries and honest dealers in second-hand books.

I will, with your kind permission, suggest as among the possible measures for mutual protection the adoption of some such plans as the following:

First. That every book in a library shall be stamped on the title-page, and also on a given page in each volume, such page to be decided upon by this Association, all libraries adopting the same page, in addition to their own special one *already* selected. Each library disposing of duplicate volumes shall also so mark *them* on these same pages. This will enable a dealer in buying second-hand books to turn to such pages, when the marks, or the absence of the pages, will indicate whether the books offered for sale may be safely purchased.

Secondly. That Library Directors shall mutually agree to make every possible effort to secure the conviction of all offenders, always remembering that any person who will deliberately mutilate a book by stealing the illustrations, cutting out pages, etc., or who will take a volume from a library and carefully remove all traces of ownership for the purpose of selling, is utterly inexcusable, and has no claim for mercy. And the higher the offender's social standing the greater the crime.

INSECT PESTS IN LIBRARIES.*

BY DR. H. A. HAGEN, PROFESSOR OF ENTOMOLOGY IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

HAVING been invited to make a communication on the insects injurious to books and libraries, I am obliged to be very brief, even more than I should like to be, owing to the fact that most of the publications are not accessible here. An application to the National Library was without success, and there was not time enough to get an answer from Europe. Therefore it will be easy to observe the three golden rules for a speech given by Dr. Martin Luther :

Open thy mouth widely,
Shout out strongly,
Shut it quickly.

The first fact on record is given by Pastor Frisch in Berlin, who had observed the small larva of a beetle (*Anobium*) perforating transversely the thickest books. It makes a network of small passages, and, in some places, larger holes for its transformation.

This larva, as common here as in Europe, is the same which even now every library has to fight. The injuries observed by Frisch are well known to every librarian, and are to be found in old and seldom-used books. I saw once myself a whole shelf of theological books, 200 years old, traveled through transversely by some more adventurous larva.

Some twenty years later, injuries must have been oftener observed. At least Mr. Prediger in Leipzig was induced to write, in 1741, a book of advice to book-binders, which was republished in 1772. We find from an extract in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, May, 1754, that if the book-binders were to make their paste of starch instead of flour, worms would not touch the books. He also recommends pulverized

alum mixed with a little fine pepper to be put between the books and the covers and also upon the shelves—which would certainly transform such a library into a gymnasium for sneezing. For the more effectual preservation of books, he advises to rub the books well in the months of March, July, and September with woollen cloth dipped in powdered alum. I think he might have advised with equal propriety to rub the books with the second finger of the left hand, as the inspection of the books is the only important point of the advice.

The *Gentleman's Magazine* adds that it is remarkable that worms seldom attack books printed on English-made paper. It is overlooked in this statement that until 1690 only packing paper was made in England, and all other kinds of paper were imported from Holland. Therefore no old books, which are attacked by preference, printed on English-made paper then existed.

Some years later, the library in Göttingen seems to have been troubled in a serious manner. The Academy of Göttingen has published three prize essays on insects obnoxious to books by Mr. Hermann, M. Fladd and one anonymous writer. All three were reprinted in contemporaneous magazines and many extracts made from them. I have not met with any of them here, and know nothing but the titles. The remedies proposed must have been very effective or the insect decided to move into more hospitable quarters, as since that time nothing further is stated about such pests in Germany.

A few general rules for the preservation of libraries are given in the same year by Mr. Meinike. As a curiosity I may be allowed to quote the substance of them.

* A bibliography of the subject, by Dr. Hagen, will be given in an early number.—Eds. L. J.

The rooms in which the books are ought to be heated, but as it is not possible to heat large libraries, the more costly manuscripts and incunabula should be kept in a small, warm, and at the same time well ventilated room. Obnoxious insects should be trapped by water and lard placed in some rooms of the library. The rules conclude with the following words: It will not be necessary to do anything against insects excepting where a library takes only the place of tapestry or other decoration of the walls without being used. I have to state that the little beetle (*Anobium*) is the same which is so obnoxious to old furniture and old picture frames. No wonder that it considers old, not used books, as old furniture. The custom of preserving in libraries historical pieces of furniture is, therefore, probably a disadvantage for the books. Some papers for Sweden, France and Italy I was not able to consult; they prove at least that in those countries mischief has been done to Swedish libraries. Linnæus speaks about a beetle (*Ptinus fur*) which had been very obnoxious to libraries in 1760; French reports speak of mites which cackle like hens, eat the outside covers of books and live on the paste, a kind of insect unknown to me. A memoir by Pozetti for Italy in 1809 is also known to me only by the title.

A species of white ants living in the most western and southern parts of France made immense ravages between 1825 and 1835. The little insect known only as living under stones or in old, decayed trees, had until this period never been injurious. Even its apparition in myriads after the falling in of an uninhabited house in Rochefort did not draw the attention of the people to the danger. Some time afterward more accidents happened. In a boarding house a whole dinner party fell suddenly from the third story down into the cellar. The attention of the Government was drawn

finally to the danger by the destruction of the naval archives and of the library of the marine department. It was necessary to secure every book and paper in tight-closing tin boxes. Constant attention proved to be the only remedy. Some years later the insect did less damage, and disappeared, as insect pests commonly do, without any apparent reason. The insect exists still in those parts of France, but without being obnoxious.

Concerning America the facts published are few. Dr. L'Herminet, a surgeon in Guadaloupe, has made a somewhat detailed report about the ravages done by a beetle called by him *Dermestes chinensis*. Everybody complained of the destruction of books, and the Doctor himself lost about 4000 volumes. The only remedy used with success was mercury in different kinds of preparation, surely not without danger for the owner of the books. Several interesting remarks are added. Some older books were exempt from injury, probably because the paper was made of different material. New books were only attacked after they had absorbed the humid air of the island and had become distinctly heavier.

Probably the same beetle made the extensive ravages in Cuba, about which Professor Poey in Havana has published a memoir. He calls the insect *Anobium bibliothecarum*. I am sorry to state that a reliable determination of both insects is still wanting.

The facts given so far seem to be rather harmless, but I cannot refrain from drawing the attention to the presence of white ants here and everywhere in the United States, sometimes, as for instance in Cambridge, in the near neighborhood of libraries or university buildings harboring valuable special libraries. I am obliged to state that twice in the United States books have been destroyed by white ants to a hopeless extent. In Springfield, Ill., fourteen

years ago, all the bound spare copies of the State papers were stored in a closed room in the State House, and not looked after for some time. When the room was opened all were found in a mutilated condition.

Some years ago a Boston lady, a teacher in one of the freedmen's schools in South Carolina, who had gone away for a vacation of six weeks, found on returning, the whole library of Bibles and Prayer-books destroyed. The copies kindly forwarded to me were less damaged, and therefore retained.

Perhaps the allusion to a danger which has only existed in exceptional cases may seem too darkly colored or even sensational. This of course has not been my intention. But we must know that we live surrounded by such enemies, and that great destruction can be effected. The circumstance that our white ant is very closely allied to the French species, which lives in a similar manner, and was for a century innocuous till it suddenly became a formidable pest, makes the knowledge of the danger imperative. It should not be forgotten that Alexander von Humboldt stated half a century ago that the rarity of old books in Mexico was in consequence of the depredation of white ants.

Only a few days ago I received from Mr. J. A. Lintner, of Albany, N. Y., the following written communication: "The book which I spoke to you as injured by cockroaches bears the following memorandum: 'Presented to the State Cabinet by Antonio de Lacerda, to illustrate the works of *Blatta Orientalis*, Jan. 2, 1807.' It is an English pocket dictionary, bound in cloth. The back and sides are eaten in patches through the enameling down to the threads of the cloth. As it stood on the shelf, the cover must have been partly open, and at the outer edge of this the paper lining had been eaten for the space of about one-quarter of an inch along the entire margin to get at the coating beneath.

"Some years since we had a large edition of one of our Museum Reports stored in the basement. The cockroaches, which infested this part of our building, attacked the backs and the exposed cover of each upper volume, eating through the coating of the cloth, as above described. The edges of the volumes were also badly soiled by their excrements. This injury could be removed by the binder with sand-paper, but no way was known by which the other could be remedied. Perhaps a hundred volumes were so badly injured that we do not like to distribute them."

Perhaps it may be too assuming, and too much like bringing coals to Newcastle, to propose a few regulations for libraries in the presence of librarians to whose care are intrusted libraries comprising millions of volumes.

As far as I can judge by the reports of large and small libraries, more than the third part, even in the larger libraries, is intended for frequent circulation, and indeed does circulate very rapidly. This part needs, of course, no prevention at all. The second and third is intended for the advance of knowledge and is used more or less frequently for this purpose. Here begins the necessity of a stronger supervision of the books.

The third part, finally, consists of books which are less used, often only once in a year or even in several years. Nevertheless, such books cannot be omitted by libraries. This part indeed needs the greater care, the more so as it consists mostly of rare or costly books. There are sometimes very rare books injured by *Anobium*. The different methods employed to kill the larvæ are mostly not indifferent, at least for the binding. I should like to propose here a remedy perfectly harmless and perfectly efficient, namely, to put such rarities under the glass bell of an air pump and to draw out the air. After an hour the larvæ will be found killed. Of

course this is only to be applied to rare books or costly bindings.

If we recapitulate briefly what is so far known about insects obnoxious to libraries, only two insects remain—the well-known *Anobium* and the white ant. I say only two, leaving aside the cockroach, as libraries will not often be stored in cellars. The beetles will certainly not

do any notable injury if the books are used frequently. Against white ants, which would be an exceptional danger, constant attention would be the only remedy.

Some precautions against them are published by myself in the *American Naturalist*, for 1876. I am happy to acknowledge that so far no serious damage has been done to libraries here by obnoxious insects.

VENTILATION OF LIBRARIES.

BY D. F. LINCOLN, M. D., OF BOSTON.

I HAVE been requested to say a few words about the ventilation of libraries, with especial reference to that of the building in which we now are (that of the Boston Medical Library Association).

The general principles and methods of ventilation are now tolerably well understood. Not to delay you too long upon these, I will only observe that they are designed to secure the following advantages:

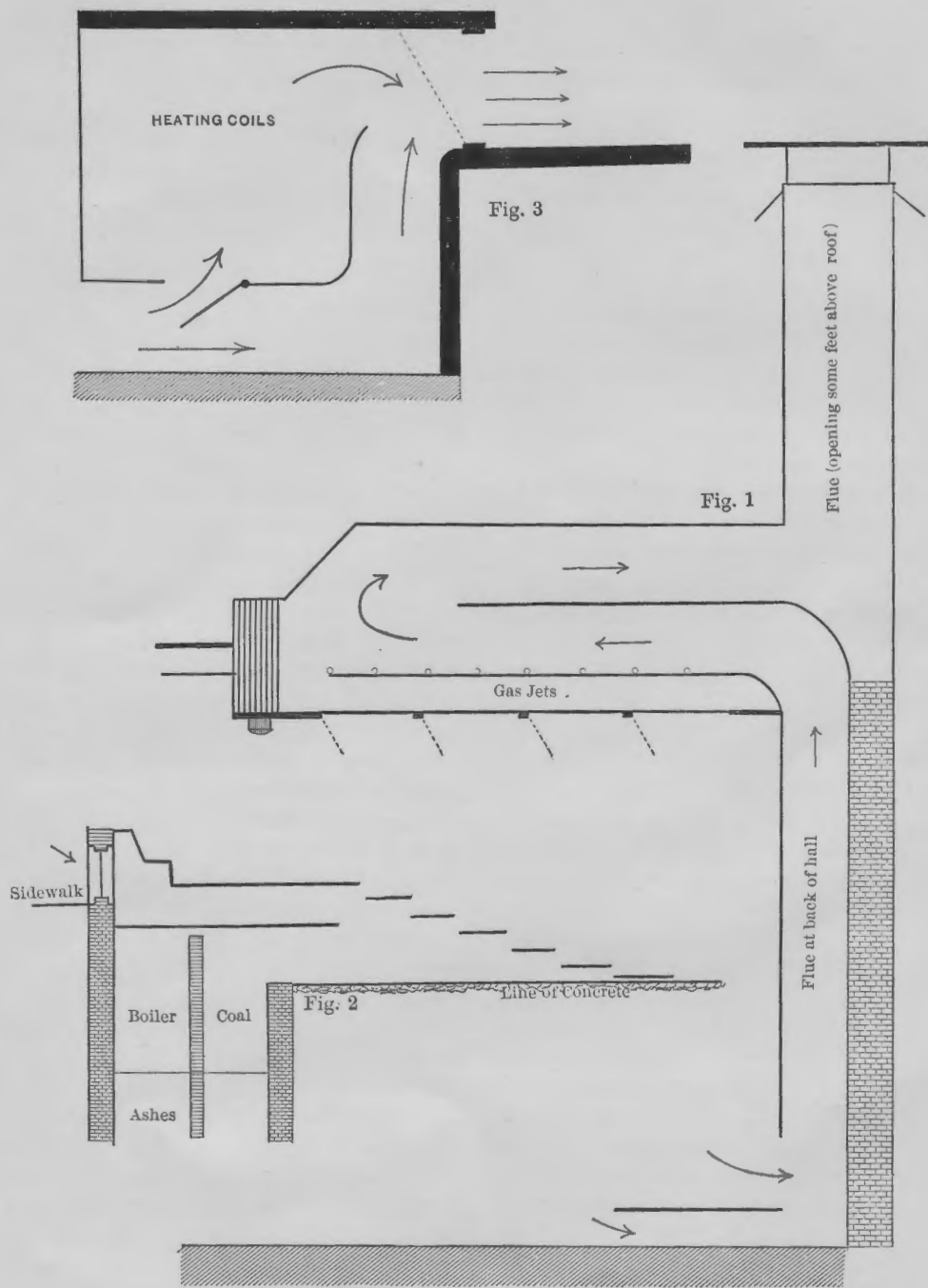
1. A comfortable temperature.
2. An equable temperature.
3. A sufficient supply of fresh air.
4. Freedom from uncomfortable draughts.

The sedentary scholar needs warmer air than the mechanic who stirs about at his work. But I believe the absolute temperature to be of less importance than that he should have his head kept cool and his feet warm. I will, therefore, pause to remark that the use of open fire-places as the sole means of warming the air of a room is objectionable, unless the room be situated over another, which is well warmed and imparts heat to the floor above. An open grate is extremely apt to leave the lower layers of air in a room cold, and the same may often be said of stoves.

In regard to draughts of air, we know that they are usually pleasant in summer,

or at least are easily borne, if not too strong. But in winter we cannot bear the admission of the outer air, so that we cannot then ventilate a room properly by its windows, unless it be a large and lofty one, with nooks in remote places where air can come in without endangering human life. Such conditions as to space and form are not likely to be found in rooms where any considerable number of persons are gathered for reading, or for receiving and returning books. We may open a window here and there in a large and nearly empty hall—we dare not do it in a crowded room, in winter. In summer, the air comes in already warmed; in winter, it must always be warmed before it enters, with the exception of a small amount which may with advantage be suffered to enter through slight cracks between upper and lower sashes, or through the so-called Maine ventilator, or some analogous arrangement.

It would lead me quite too far if I were to speak of the comparative merits of furnaces, steam and hot water, as means for warming a room. But let me here repeat my statement, that nearly all the air required in winter must be warmed before entering the room; and to this statement let me add, by way of corollary, that the



LIBRARY VENTILATION.

Ventilation plan of Boston Medical Library Hall, to accompany Dr. Lincoln's paper.

Fig. 1.—Back of hall, showing ventilator flues. Fig. 2.—Seat platform at front of hall, showing supply of air. Fig. 3.—Heating apparatus under each step.

employment of stoves, hot-water pipes, or steam pipes, in such a way that they do not heat any incoming fresh air, is absolutely unscientific. Every heater must be at the same time a source of fresh air.

To this statement let me make an exception in the case of vestibules and halls when they are exposed to frequent gusts of fresh air. Another exception is admissible in the case of a very large room, which can be thoroughly aired in the morning and evening, and is visited by very few persons, as is the fact in the new portion of the Harvard College Library, a little occasional opening of windows being sufficient during the day to keep the air practically fresh. A very large amount of air also will enter any building through the crevices, and even through the masonry of the walls, if the building stands freely exposed to the winds, as that library does.

But neither windows nor crevices are in the least adequate to ventilate a room where a crowd sits. The older portion of the Harvard Library furnishes an instance of this. From forty to a hundred students are commonly at work at the tables in that hall. The air comes in by the windows, while the heat is furnished by steam radiators in the central part of the floor; the air is stifling, and yet the draught is troublesome.

Let me give another instance of bad arrangement, illustrating another way in which draughts may originate. I mean from *closed windows*.

The State Library of Massachusetts is contained in a hall, around which runs a gallery with alcoves above and below. The air of the room, in contact with the windows in the alcoves, becomes in winter so chilled that it forms a continual stream which pours over the rail of the gallery and is felt in the most disagreeable way by those sitting below, creating a draught although the room is entirely closed. It

is needless to remark on the bad economy as well as the unhealthiness of such an arrangement. The difficulty could be remedied by double windows.

The products of burning-gas should always be carried off by special flues. They are not only offensive, but are believed to be positively injurious to the books. The gas always contains some sulphur, which in burning forms SO_2 , which is afterwards changed to SO_3 , and absorbed by the bindings of books. Some doubt has been thrown on this latter statement by the failure of Prof. Gibbs to find SO_3 in books where gas had been used, viz.: in the Boston Public Library. The sulphurous odor, however, is distinctly perceptible both in this building and in that of the Boston Athenæum, where gas is used in a lower story in free communication with the library. There can be little doubt of the reality of the injury to books and of its cause.

By ventilation we seek to get rid not only of human breath and perspiration, but also of a variety of ill odors. Each trade has its peculiar smell; and the trade of the book-worm has its own, most distinctly marked. How can we get rid of that musty, fusty, dusty, suffocating mummy-like, garret-like odor of unknown origin, which haunts respectable old bookshelves. I venture to say that this is a problem little understood by those who have to do with libraries; nor will I claim to have solved it.

I once took a black walnut case of my own, which smelt dusty, and carefully washed out the interior, shelves and all. I let it dry in the natural way, and was much interested to find, when I re-applied the olfactory test, that the old smell was exactly what it was before I washed.

I owe to Mr. Winsor the observation, that when wood is thus treated, the dust is washed into the pores of the wood, unless they have been protected *ab initio* by first

soaking in oil and then covering with shellac. Wood thus protected can be washed *clean*.

In the new portion of Gore Hall, planned and constructed by Messrs. Ware and Van Brunt, the amount of wood in use is reduced to a minimum, whereby not only security against fire is obtained, but the amount of odorous surface is reduced to that presented by the books themselves. In regard to the latter, it is important to keep them well dusted. Files of unbound matter collect dust very readily, and it would be well to protect them by doors or drawers.

I have no doubt that these measures will greatly reduce this evil, thereby removing a very serious cause of complaint among workers in libraries. We must learn to treat the walls, floors, shelves, and books as surgeons treat hospital wards where cases of amputation are placed.

VENTILATION AND HEATING OF THE
MEDICAL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION HALL.*

The present arrangement is the result of a variety of corrections made upon the original plan, some of which are worth noticing for the lessons they convey. For the total result, credit must be given to a number of different persons, in particular to Drs. Chadwick, C. P. Putnam, and Billings, and also to the architects, Messrs. Ware and Van Brunt.

The plan comprises the introduction of fresh air at various temperatures at the floor level, and the removal of foul air by several apertures, some of which are at the floor level and some in the ceiling.

The back of the hall, as you perceive, rises by several low steps, on each of which are placed benches; these lead to a raised platform in the extreme rear. The risers or upright fronts of the steps are perforated for the admission of air from a chamber beneath. Much ingenuity has

been devoted to the utilization of this very limited space under the platform and steps. There is no cellar under the main floor, and the chamber for heating, which necessarily has a lower level, has to be protected by iron walls against the entrance of the tide. These points are illustrated in Figure 2.

There are three windows of considerable size in the front wall of the house, at the level of the sidewalk, to admit fresh air into the chamber underneath the rear platform. The opening and closure of these windows regulates the amount of air admitted for our use; there is no other supply except such as enters casually at the door and windows in the end of the hall.

Before entering the hall through the risers, the air passes through boxes of galvanized iron, one box for each riser. Each of these boxes contains a coil of steam pipe so arranged that the draught can be thrown in contact with the pipes, or may enter by a separate channel, according as we desire warmed or unwarmed air; or, in the third place, we may allow a part of the air to become warmed and a part to enter at its natural temperature, the mixing being ensured by a simple device, represented in Figure 3.

Originally, the cold and the warm air formed two distinct layers in entering the room, the cold flowing horizontally over the step, and annoying the occupants of seats, while the hot air rose at once. The mixture of these two is now effected by the aid of a perforated diaphragm placed obliquely in such a position that the hot and the cold air strike upon it, and are (in part) deflected so as to meet and mingle before they pass through the diaphragm.

The air thus furnished distributes itself over the hall mainly in the upward direction. But in order to ensure as thorough a distribution as possible, it is again drawn downward to its chief point of discharge, which is situated at the level of the floor

* See plate of diagrams.

in the riser of the platform on which the President sits. Through this it passes to the base of a flue, 7' 7" by 2' 2" in section, which rises through the skylight roof of the hall. (See Figure 1.)

It was expected that the gas-burners which are placed in the skylight would create a sufficient draught in the flue of which I speak. But when first put in operation, it was found that the draft was not at all what was desired, and that cold downward currents were sometimes felt. The gas-jets, in fact, were entirely out of the line of suction. The introduction of a diaphragm of glass, above the gas-jets, has remedied this fault, and at present the working of the flue is perfectly satisfactory. The current of air is deflected in a horizontal direction, passes over the jets, and returns to the flue once more before rising through the hood.

It will be observed that the skylight has a floor composed of four sashes with ground glass. When closed, these sashes diffuse the light in an agreeable manner. They also form the floor of the flue for exhausting the foul air from the room. When open, they take the position represented by the dotted lines.

The amount of air required by even such an audience as the present is something quite astonishing to the uninstructed. Assuming that the hall contains about 20,000 cubic feet, and that 100 persons are present, it will be necessary, in order to keep the air in an ideally pure state, to renew the entire contents of the room (the audience *not* included) seventeen times in the hour, or once in four minutes. It is needless to say that this has not been accomplished. But those who have used the room during the winter can assure you that the result is very fairly satisfactory; that even when full, the hall has not been oppressively close at any time, nor the draughts ever uncomfortable.

A very powerful current of air escapes

in the upward direction through the spiral staircase which leads into the hall above. In summer, this current, and that through the opened skylight, are both likely at times to be feeble. As you are aware, the rapidity with which air ascends in closed spaces analogous to flues, depends on the difference in temperature between such air and the atmosphere out of doors. Even our chimneys draw better in cold than in warm weather; and as to flues which are not artificially warmed, they will hardly draw at all in warm, still weather.

The purity of the air we are now breathing depends, therefore, on the freedom with which the breeze from the Common draws through the ample spaces at each end of the hall; and the skylight is playing the part of a window, not of a flue.

The Boston Public Library is a very badly ventilated building. It is draughty, close, and in parts badly lighted. It was never a proper house for books; it was not built for that purpose, one might almost say. As regards ventilation, there is one glaring fault which I will mention. The worst part of the house by far is that where crowds of youth of a humble station in life, of the class that seldom wash, sit to read the monthly magazines and to wait for the books they have ordered. This part is in the lower story. It is not ventilated, except by windows and a few apertures for flues. One would suppose that of all parts this would be the one to receive the first attention. But so far is this from being the case, that the contents of these rooms are allowed practically but one escape, and that escape is upward, through spiral staircases, freely opened to the passage of the foul air, and discharging their air into the Bates Hall.

It is harder to cure than to blame, I know. I would, therefore, refrain from further remarks upon this building, which possesses, in other respects, only the usual faults.

THE SPREAD OF CONTAGIOUS DISEASES BY CIRCULATING LIBRARIES.

BY W. F. POOLE, LIBRARIAN OF THE CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

ABOUT two months ago, at a meeting of the directors of the Chicago Public Library, the question was raised whether books in circulation were not in danger of spreading contagious diseases in the community. The director who started the inquiry had passed through a painful experience in losing several of his children by scarlet fever, and with him it was a question of genuine solicitude. He knew of no instance where disease had been communicated by a book; but as it was known to be transmitted by clothing, to toys, and even by the air, he asked: "Why not by books?" No one present could answer the question. When appealed to, I said that I had never known such an instance, and had never heard of one. I had never even heard the subject discussed; and almost everything else relating to books had been discussed at the several conferences of the librarians or in the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*. If such an incident had ever occurred it would have been known and talked about. Several reporters of the daily newspapers were present taking notes of the conversation, and in view of the publicity the subject was likely to attain, it was thought advisable to appoint a committee to consider it. But for the presence of the ubiquitous Chicago reporter, the discussion might never have been heard of outside of the directors' room. The next morning this combustible material was spread before the people, and it became of general interest. The medical profession and the public took sides upon it immediately. Nothing would have allayed the interest awakened except a thorough investigation on the part of the committee.

We wrote, therefore, to medical and

sanitary experts of established reputation in different parts of the country, and to the librarians of the largest circulating libraries, for such information as they could impart. We received nineteen letters in response to our inquiries. Fifteen of these were from medical and sanitary experts, and four from librarians.

No one of these writers could give any fact falling under his own observation tending to show that a contagious disease was ever imparted by a book from a circulating library. None had ever heard or read of any, except Dr. John S. Billings, of the Surgeon-General's Office, Washington, who said: "I cannot refer to any facts with reference to such propagation, although I remember to have read an account of the transmission of scarlet fever, somewhere in London, by the books of a circulating library."

The medical experts, therefore, had nothing to discuss except the theoretical question whether it be possible for contagious diseases to be transmitted by library books in circulation. On this point nine of them expressed themselves decidedly in the affirmative; three, admitting the possibility of such transmission, thought the danger was very small; two did not believe in the theory of such transmission, and one, Dr. Samuel A. Green, City Physician of Boston, treated only the practical issues, and expressed no opinion on the theoretical points. Dr. Green said: "I have never known an instance where there was any grounds for believing that contagious diseases were carried by books in circulation from the Public Library. Throughout the year 1872, a severe epidemic of small-pox prevailed in this city, and it was my official duty to see every

patient and to trace, if possible, the history of the case. In no instance was I able to connect the infection with the use of books from the Public Library. At that time I was one of the trustees of the institution and took a particular interest in the matter, as the same question had arisen here." Yesterday, Dr. Green informed me that, during the period named, he investigated the origin of 4300 cases of small-pox.

Dr. H. A. Johnson, of Chicago, member of the U. S. Board of Health, having expressed the opinion that transmission of disease by books is possible, said: "As a matter of fact, however, it is not very likely that persons afflicted with measles, scarlet-fever or small-pox will use or handle books, as the rooms of such patients are usually darkened. The probability, therefore, of propagation by such means is quite small."

Among the writers who thought transmission of disease by books was possible and probable, Dr. J. D. Plunket, Pres't of the Tenn. State Board of Health, said that ten years ago he had a patient with the small-pox, which he concluded was communicated by a book in paper covers, borrowed from a family which had the disease.

Dr. Henry M. Baker, Sec'y of the Michigan State Board of Health, referred to a case in the Michigan Health Reports, where scarlet-fever was transmitted from one family to another by a book; and also to a case where it was transmitted by a letter.

Dr. Charles F. Folsom, Sec'y of the Mass. State Board of Health, says he can recall no instance of scarlet-fever traced to books from a circulating library, but has the impression that such cases have been reported. It is easy to see that books might readily become infected and convey the disease to the next household using them.

Dr. Edwin M. Snow, Sup't of Health, Providence, R. I., has no facts on the subject. There can be no doubt that books might become infected and very

dangerous agents of spreading disease. Cases would be rare where persons in that state would wish to, or be allowed to, use books; yet care should be taken that books from a library should not go into such houses. He does not believe that the danger of propagating disease by books is great.

Dr. Elisha Harris, of New York, ex-president of the Board of Health, said: "The possibility or even probability that, under exceptional conditions, diseases may be communicated by books renders the inquiry of the committee pertinent, and worthy of an answer. The risks are comparatively small, no doubt." To defend the great libraries and their readers," he suggests that "the books and shelves be treated with the best insecticide and germicide powder, namely, calcimined borax and salicylic acid applied with a dry cotton-faced brush."

Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago, said no facts on the subject have come under his observation creating even a suspicion that a contagious or infectious disease had been propagated by books from a circulating library. Unless a book was actually handled by a person with the small-pox he does not think there would be any danger. From the nature of the circumstances such a case is not likely to happen.

Dr. C. B. White, of the New Orleans Sanitary Association, knows no facts tending to show the propagation of contagious diseases by library books. It would probably occur only in cases of disease, such as small-pox, where the poison is known to be exceedingly energetic and tenacious of life.

Dr. Billings, of Washington, already quoted, says he is of the opinion that the books of a circulating library may be instrumental in the propagation of contagious diseases, especially scarlet-fever.

Dr. Oscar De Wolf, Health Commissioner of Chicago, said he had never been able to trace any case of scarlet-fever or

small-pox to books as carriers of the contagion; but thinks the possibility of such transmission has been undisputably proved by others. He refers to the essay on Scarlatina, by Professor Louis Thomas, in Ziemssen's "Cyclopædia of the Practice of Medicine," who said: "The cause of scarlatina is a peculiar substance which is transferable from the patient to the unaffected individual. The shortest contact with the contagious atmosphere of the sick-room may suffice for the infection. The view that scarlatina can be transmitted to unaffected individuals through the medium of substances which have remained in the morbid atmosphere, is undisputably proved by numerous examples." Dr. De Wolf recommends that no books be loaned to houses which are reported by his office as having contagious diseases. Drs. Johnson, Billings, Snow and Schmitt make the same recommendation.

Dr. Robert N. Tooker, Professor of Sanitary Science in the Chicago Homœopathic College, said: "The means by which contagious diseases are transmitted is one of those questions upon which doctors proverbially differ. The germ theory is just now the dominant one, but it is not universally accepted. Granting it to be true, it does not follow that the germs are carried by books or letters. Cases of small-pox and scarlet-fever are reported where the contagion was presumably carried in this manner; but the isolated cases which could not have originated by such transmission are so much larger as to leave the former cases in doubt. One is much more likely to meet the contagion on the street, on the cars, and in public assemblies, than on the shelves of the public library. During the last epidemic of yellow fever, thousands of letters were received in Chicago from the infected districts, and yet no case of yellow fever was developed here. The good work of the public library need not stop nor be interfered with through

fear of spreading any of the infectious diseases. The probability or the possibility of its doing so is so extremely small as to be practically *nil*."

Dr. Henry M. Lyman, of Chicago, Professor in Rush Medical College, wrote a satirical letter, treating the whole theory of the transmission of disease by books with ridicule. "Let us, by all means," he said, "have an official fumigator of libraries. A city as large as Chicago ought to have 15,000 sanitary policemen. It should be the duty of these inspectors to see that no one ever enters a house without disinfection. Physicians should be housed in jail, and make their visits under the eye of an assistant jailor, who should disinfect the doctor after each consultation or visit. Every child should be taken to school in a glass receiver, under the charge of a sanitary policeman. He should not be allowed to leave his cage, and should be supplied through the top of the receiver with fresh air properly warmed and carbolized, which should be discharged through the bottom of the receiver up through the roof of the school-house. Letters should be left in the post-office for a week to be disinfected in a chamber heated to 240° F. People should call at the post-office themselves for their letters, for it is dangerous for postmen to be running about spreading disease. Every house should be placarded with a notice, warning every man against his fellow man. There is no telling how many lives of statesmen, orators and poets have been sacrificed by the neglect of these simple precautions."

From these extracts from our correspondence it is evident that the doctors know very little of facts relating to the subject, and that, in their theories, they do not agree.

The librarians whom we addressed indulged in no speculations, but treated directly the practical question, whether books circulating from libraries *do* actually

transmit contagious diseases. If such a transmission of disease by books did occur, the employés of libraries who are continually handling these books would be the first to come under its influence. No employé of a library with which I have been connected ever had a contagious or even a cutaneous disease; and I never heard of such a case in any library. Librarians and their assistants are, I think, above the average of the community, a healthy and long-lived race. If they were in the focus of such malarial and poisonous influences as some of our medical correspondents imagine, such would not be the fact.

Mr. Winsor, our president, stated that, during his ten years' experience as librarian of the Boston Public Library, and since, he had never known or heard of an instance of the transmission of disease through a book circulated from the library. Among the hundreds of his employés constantly handling these books, there had never been, to his knowledge, a case of contagious disease. If there be a danger from handling library books, his experience warrants him in saying that it is *inappreciable*. During the small-pox epidemic, a few years ago, he, in consultation with the Board of Health, took such precautions as were practicable to prevent books from going into infected houses and being returned from them directly to the shelves. He says: "It is to my mind exceedingly questionable whether any contagion of disease was prevented. It may have been a wise thing to do in order to allay apprehension and protect the library from aspersion."

Mr. Wm. T. Peoples, Librarian of the New York Mercantile Library, said that he had never been able to obtain any facts bearing on the subject of inquiry, and had heard of no case of sickness caused by handling the books of his library. The subject had been talked about by the directors, and they had

heard of their books being in hospitals and other places where infectious diseases existed. Such books he had taken the precaution to disinfect before they were replaced in the library.

Mr. John Edmands, Librarian of the Philadelphia Mercantile Library, said: "Touching the spread of disease through the circulation of books, I have heard nothing said in this city, and I am sure there has been no general consideration of the question. My attention was called to it some time ago, when the small-pox was prevailing in this city. As no one of our twenty assistants during these months took the disease, and as we heard of no instance of the transmission of it, there would seem to be little cause for anxiety. Still, I think it would be well to refuse to allow books to go into houses in which there was any so-called contagious disease."

After the question had been started with us, we learned that it had previously been discussed in Milwaukee, and I wrote to Mr. Henry Baetz, the Librarian of the Public Library, for his statement, to which he replied as follows: "I am not aware of a single instance where it was claimed or intimated that the books of our library had been instrumental in carrying disease in the community, nor do I know that such a case has occurred anywhere. The question was once suggested at a meeting of the Board, but no action was taken in the matter. As a matter of precaution, however, I requested the Commissioner of Health to report to the Library all cases of contagious diseases; and this report has been regularly made, which has enabled us to withhold books from families in which such diseases prevailed."

This, in substance, is the testimony which the committee received, and it made upon our minds the impression that while there may be a possibility that contagious diseases may be transmitted by books of a circulating library, the real

danger of such transmission is very small, or, as one of our correspondents expresses it, "inappreciable," and another "*nil*."

We thought, however, that a possible danger, even if it be small, should be guarded against by such provisions as are prudent and practicable; and we recommended to the Board to act under the advice of the Commissioner of Health, and adopt such regulations as he had sug-

gested, namely: that he furnish to the Library, whenever he thinks proper, a list of the premises infected with contagious diseases and of their residents; that no books be loaned to such houses until they are reported by the health office to be free from contagious diseases, and that all books returned from such houses during this period be disinfected before they are replaced on the shelves of the library.

LEGISLATION FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

BY DR. H. A. HOMES, N. Y. STATE LIBRARIAN.

IN the preparation of the present paper on State Legislation for Public Libraries, I have been following in the path previously traced by our colleague, Mr. Poole, in his paper two years since on the same subject. It was his discussion which suggested to me to make still further researches in the same fields. I do not intend to repeat any of the statements made by him in that paper; and if my figures in any particulars differ from those given by him, it will be because I include the territories as well as the states, and also because that in the two years since his article was written, the legislation of the states has advanced and improved.

Without discussing questions of library government and administration, my aim is to note historically certain steps of progress antecedent to the introduction of the town library system, till we reach the present condition of legislation regarding these libraries.

Previous to the legislation for free public libraries was that for library associations. The early library associations were known by the names of proprietary, social, subscription, and even of *public* libraries. At least sixteen of the states, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maine,

Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin, have a statute for the incorporation of such associations under a general law. We, in every case, even when not mentioned, include the territories with the states in the enumeration.

In one other way the representatives of the people have shown a disposition to encourage the formation of these associations, by exempting their libraries and buildings from taxation. This exemption is authorized in at least twenty-three of the states and territories: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming. In the revised statutes of the following states and territories, no legislation regarding libraries was found, except for the *State* Library, Columbia, Dakota, Delaware, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina. A further expression has been given to the high estimate put upon the value of knowledge to be derived from books, by a pro-

vision of law, in at least nine states, by which private libraries up to a certain amount are exempted either from taxation or attachment: Alabama, Columbia, Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, New York, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

But in no way has the popular estimate of the value of libraries been shown more persistently and extensively than in the establishment of the school-district library system, under the operation of state school laws. In this measure, from the year (1835) in which New York introduced it, at least twenty-one states have entered: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Wisconsin. We will not repeat here the summary of facts regarding the system so clearly given by Mr. Poole in his paper just referred to. From year to year in the states which have expended the most money to make school libraries a success, the laws have been amended and modified in later times, in the hope of creating a tolerable substitute for the public town library. The Indiana and Wisconsin systems, carried out under school boards of education, are examples of these changes; and perhaps Pennsylvania should also have been classed with those states having a town libraries' law. Yet in reference to them all, the superintendents of education in those states pronounce these libraries failures. Michigan finally adopted a thorough town libraries' law in 1877. In 1859 her superintendent of education reasoned strongly in stating the advantages of the district system over the town system. And yet in 1876 one-third of the counties in the state made no appropriation for either the district or the town system, and the bulk of all that was appropriated for libraries was made by three out of the entire seventy-six counties in the

state. The superintendent of education of 1877 observes: "The public library has almost ceased to exist as a part of the public school system of the state." In the state of New York, testimony from the county school commissioners is frequently of this nature: "The library money is almost invariably applied . . . to the payment of teachers' wages. In four-fifths of the districts, not one in ten of the inhabitants can tell where the library can be found, or how many volumes it contains, and probably in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred the libraries are of no practical use whatever."* The present superintendent of education remarks: † "I am satisfied that the day of usefulness of district libraries is past;" and he recommends a system of town libraries in their stead, and the gathering the books of the district libraries into them.

If the school-district library has resulted in disappointing the expectations with which it was established, the reasons for the failure are very apparent, now that we have obtained a better system. All of the reasons suggested have had a share of influence. But the reason of all was that the amount of money and the number of books annually obtainable for any one district were too few and small to admit of an interest in the library, or to secure proper care of the books, either for circulation or preservation. The sum disposable, from both the state and the town, would not be more, ordinarily, than from eight to ten dollars a year. The school-district was too small a unit for the object. And these funds, either with or against the authority of law, were constantly diverted to other purposes, as for the wages of the teachers. The books selected, at their best, were not selected as much for adult minds as for young minds. The abundance and the cheapness of ex-

* N. Y. Educ. Report, 1874, p. 240.

† N. Y. Educ. Report, 1875, p. 27.

cellent monthlies for old and young, and of other cheap literature, have served to diminish the interest in these small libraries. Notwithstanding the failure of the district library, the expenditure of money has not been useless. Along with the direct and positive advantages which have accompanied them during all the years of their existence, we are indebted to them for the preparation of the public mind to welcome the town library. They have occasioned the need and the utility of books and good reading for the whole community to be appreciated, and the public town library to be regarded with hope and strong conviction as one of our best resources for the future.

The school-district library is acknowledged to have been the transition-link between the subscription library and the town library. I think that the law of New York, of 1835, creating them, has more of historical significance than is usually ascribed to it. It is, I believe, the first known law of a state allowing the people to tax themselves to maintain genuine public libraries. The law did not establish libraries for schools, but for the people, in districts of the size of a school-district. The first recommendation of this law proceeded from a man whose name has since obtained the widest national repute by his eminent public services, but who, in 1836 and for three years thereafter, was secretary of state and superintendent of education—a son of New Hampshire, the late John A. Dix. In his report of that year, he says: "If the inhabitants of school-districts were authorized to lay a tax upon their property for the purpose of purchasing libraries for the use of the districts, such a power might, with proper restrictions, become a most efficient instrument in diffusing useful knowledge and in elevating the intellectual character of the people. . . . The power of the inhabitants to lay taxes is restricted to specific objects, and a legislative act

would be necessary to enlarge it. . . . It would be proper to limit the amount to be raised annually. . . . As its imposition would be voluntary, it would be made only where its tendency would be to produce salutary effects."

Secretary Dix, in 1836 (this law proposed by him having been enacted in 1835), in his report on the object of the law, says: "The object . . . was not so much for the benefit of children attending school, as for those who have completed their common school education. Its main design was to throw into school-districts, and place within the reach of all their inhabitants, a collection of good works on subjects calculated to enlarge their understandings and store their minds with useful knowledge. . . . Works of a juvenile character would not, therefore, as a general rule, be suited to the purposes of the law."

In the volume entitled "Decisions of the Superintendents of Schools," published by him in 1837, Mr. Dix gives one of his own decisions on this subject in the following language:

"School district libraries are intended for the inhabitants of school districts; as well for those who have completed their common school education as for those who have not. The primary object of their institution was to disseminate works suited to the intellectual improvement of the great body of the people, rather than to throw into school districts, for the use of young persons, works of a merely juvenile character. . . . I doubt, therefore, the right of the inhabitants to restrict the choice of books to be taken from the library to scholars attending the district school. They may have the privilege of drawing them if the inhabitants adopt such a rule; but I think any such rule must be subject to the right of any inhabitant to take from the library for perusal any book in it."

It is worthy of note that in the law of

1835 these libraries are called *district libraries* simply, never school district libraries, and least of all district school libraries, which last term countenances the very popular notion that the libraries were originally intended for schools. The district was merely a unit of size supposed to be suitable for a free public library. I cannot better substantiate the allegation that the departure has been great from the original design of the district library of Gov. Dix than by reading a part of the section of the Connecticut law, enacted in 1839, only four years after the New York law of 1835, when the contrast will be evident: "Any school district. . . is hereby authorized to levy a tax . . . for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a common school library . . . for the use of the children of such district."

We have now in chronological order reached the town library proper. The first on record so far as known, is that of Salisbury, Conn., supported by the town without authority of state law, from previous to the Revolution for many years after, but not now in existence. The next is the Peterborough, N. H., public town library, established by the town in 1833, and still in existence, but maintained by the town for seventeen years previous to the general state law on the subject.* The first town or city library for which a special state law was enacted was for that of the city of Boston—in 1848.

The honor belongs to New Hampshire of having been the first among the states to place upon her statute-book a general law authorizing towns to maintain libraries to be as free to all the inhabitants as the common school. Its legislature, on July 6, 1849, adopted without amendment a bill introduced June 29, by Dr. J. C. Eastman, of Hampstead, Rockingham Co., with the title, "An act for the establishment of public libraries," and it was approved by

* Dr. Smith's "History of Peterboro'," 1876.

the Governor on July 7. The law was so complete and satisfactory in its provisions that it has remained unchanged as the law of the state to the present time, and under it at least twenty libraries are maintained by the same number of towns.

In apportioning the honors of precedence in inaugurating successive portions of this great movement, this is the proper place to mention that the first constitution of the state of Michigan contains this important clause, one perhaps not yet found elsewhere in the organic act of any state: "The legislature shall also provide for the establishment of at least one library in every township." The legislation by the state of Indiana in 1852, allowing each county to raise by tax seventy-five dollars a year to maintain a county library, free to the inhabitants, is of a kindred nature.

It is a point of some importance and worthy of observation that from the day of the passage of these laws the word *public*, as applied to libraries, has gradually been acquiring an extension of its meaning which did not before belong to it. The "public" designated by its earlier usage was the public that enjoyed the use of a library which was owned in common by stockholders, or by annual subscribers. The law of April 1, 1796, of New York, entitled "An act to incorporate such persons as may associate for the purpose of procuring and creating *public* libraries in this state," yet contained in it such a limitation as this, that "a part of a right in said library shall not entitle the owner thereof to any privilege . . . in said library or corporation." The law of Indiana, as late as 1852, with the title, "An act to establish public libraries," contained no provision for the use of the books by any persons but the stockholders of such libraries. In the exemptions of certain property from taxation, in the statutes of 1829 of the state of New York, one specification is in these terms:

"The real and personal property of every public library," which could only mean proprietary associations, for the public free library had not yet appeared above the horizon, and the "public" designated was as limited as the number of proprietors.

Since the British libraries' act of 1850, and the opening of the Manchester library in England, and the Astor Library in New York, and the Boston Public Library in the same year, with the passage of the Massachusetts law of 1851, there has been a continuous progressive activity in establishing free town libraries. The passage of the British and Massachusetts laws of 1851 stimulated considerable activity in 1852, 3, and 4, to favor library associations on the part of states not ready to favor taxation for town libraries. This was true of Indiana in 1852 and New York in 1853.

Maine adopted a town library law in 1854; Ohio, Vermont and Rhode Island, in 1867; Connecticut in 1869; Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, New York and Wisconsin, in 1872; Texas in 1874; Nebraska in 1875; Michigan in 1877, and California in 1878, making sixteen states in all that have given their approbation to the same general system. These laws are not all equally comprehensive, but all these states fairly deserve to be included.

Several of the states have occasionally made amendments to their public libraries' law, some of which have been alluded to by Mr. Poole in his paper. Those states that have been most deeply engaged in sustaining school district libraries have had the most difficulty in bringing themselves into the town library system. The present Ohio law is a very good example of the shape that may be given to legislation to secure the desired transition. It allows school officers to deposit their libraries for use in the town libraries. Michigan has at last secured a good law, which sets the towns free from any embarrassments aris-

ing from the school libraries; unfortunately, it confines the application of the law to towns having less than ten thousand inhabitants; but this section will probably be soon repealed. Nebraska had a capital law, passed in 1875; but a clause introduced as a rider, confined the law to the single city of Brownsville. Two years after, not only was this final section repealed, but the operation of the law was extended to the towns as well as the cities.

Several of the states seem to have received the boon of a public library law in advance of any general demand for it in the state. Yet the same thing had been true of the school library laws, which found their place upon the statute-book as the result of the constant appeals of their friends, who were sanguine as to the grand results which would follow. The generous zeal of a single individual is often allowed easily to carry through the legislative halls successfully a bill for a pet and supposed harmless scheme, yet, if he himself afterwards fails to prosecute the matter so as to secure the advantages of the new law, perhaps nothing will be done by any other persons. Indiana library laws illustrate this. Successive acts of the legislature, from the year 1852 to the present time, testify to the presence there of many friends of books as educators, but with two or three exceptions, and those not resulting from the public library law, town libraries have been rarely established.

In the state of New York, a law authorizing the maintenance of public libraries by the towns and cities has been on the statute book since May 1, 1872, and yet very few persons have been aware of its existence. The gentleman who introduced the bill and secured its passage, has done nothing to make the law known. From the Index to the Revised Statutes* of 1875, it is next to impossible to infer the

* Bank's edition, 1875.

existence of such a law ; and in the chapter in which it is found it is merged with "Library Associations" under the same series of sections, and the same running caption to the pages ; the broad distinctive idea of town free libraries does not appear to have been before the mind of the person making the index. The town libraries of Syracuse, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, etc., are operated by these towns under a provision of the school law of 1847, by the boards of education ; and we are not aware of a single library being maintained under the law of 1872. The law of Texas has as yet accomplished little, from the lack of a local population to claim its advantages ; while local public opinion has been so effective in Massachusetts as to secure public libraries in more than a third of the 346 towns in the state since 1851.

There is great difference of opinion as to what are essential provisions in a town libraries' law. This is shown in the differences among the states in the length of the laws enacted. The law of Iowa, Rhode Island, and Texas is in a single short section ; in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York, the law is embraced in two sections ; in New Hampshire and Vermont, it is in four sections ; in three of the states,—Colorado, Ohio and Wisconsin,—it is in seven, eight, and nine respectively ; Nebraska and Michigan devote eleven sections to it, while Illinois requires twelve sections. The last section of each law—of its immediately taking effect—we have not intended to count in any case.

The origin and nature of these variations in length become apparent when we trace the laws for these libraries chronologically. The law of New Hampshire, as the first, was evidently made use of in framing that of Massachusetts, of 1851. The latter derived from it the rather peculiar provision for the receipt of gifts, donations and bequests, which, however, had previously

been engrafted upon the general laws for the incorporation of library associations. Indeed, this provision for bequests has been adopted by a majority of the states that have enacted a public libraries' law (Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin). After the passage of the Massachusetts law of 1851, Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, New York, Texas and Vermont conform the language of their statutes to it, and to the principle, at first, of restricting taxation by towns to a definite sum annually, while they are all left to devise such local management as each town may deem suitable. But in 1872 Illinois struck out a new course, and passed a law, with minute details for organization, government, and management, in twelve sections. Ohio followed with two laws, one for cities and another for towns, in nine sections each. The law of Illinois has been the basis of more library legislation in the Western states than any other law. Its longest section is the one relating to bequests. In framing the last but one of the state laws,—the law of Michigan,—that of Illinois was chiefly followed, except in the 12th section of the latter, which refers to the losses of books by the great fire in Chicago.

In conclusion : The facts upon which we have dwelt show that the introduction of public libraries is one of the prominent movements of the period. It is well that it is so. The annual increase of printing is incredibly enormous ; inventions of cheap paper stock and machinery are continually aiding this increase. Common schools are supplying undeveloped readers by millions in a perpetual stream. Well-chosen libraries, administered with generous sympathies, are for these readers a great necessity and a great boon. Must the multiplication of them be left solely to the spontaneous action of solitary individuals ?

CATALOGUES OF TOWN LIBRARIES.

BY JAMES L. WHITNEY, BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.*

CARLYLE stated before the Parliamentary Commission on the British Museum that a printed catalogue is a prime necessity to a large library, and that without it such an institution is the most strange conceivable object.† On the other hand, the opinion of Dr. Pertz, the Royal Librarian at Berlin, was quoted to the effect that written catalogues are sufficient, and that the only use of a printed one would be to throw away an immense sum of money.‡

This question, which thirty years ago arrayed Carlyle, De Morgan, and Edward Edwards in opposition to Panizzi and Hallam has again been brought forward for discussion. However it may be decided in the case of libraries of the character of the British Museum, there is no doubt that a printed catalogue is of the first importance to a town library, and that there are few questions in library economy which require more careful attention than this: How to prepare a good catalogue in the shortest time and in the most economical manner.

It is the object of this paper to make a few practical suggestions to this end. These suggestions will be in large part upon subjects not touched upon by Mr. Jewett or Mr. Cutter, or if included in their Rules deserving of further mention, and they are applicable to town libraries which are not likely to assume the proportions of our largest institutions, whose

* It is proposed in a later number of the LIBRARY JOURNAL to give specimen pages of a catalogue suitable for town libraries.

† Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the constitution and government of the British Museum; with minutes of evidence. London, 1850, p. 273.

‡ Ibid., p. 442.

collections must be catalogued with greater elaborateness and precision. In some cases it has been found necessary to cut loose from old traditions, as certain established rules, whose value even in the catalogues of large libraries may be questioned, are clearly not the best for smaller catalogues.

In the preparation of this essay, fifty recently printed catalogues of town libraries have been examined. While some have been carefully and economically compiled, there are many where there is proof of haste, or waste, or misdirected effort. To cite a few examples: In the first catalogue taken in hand independent shelf-numbers and entries are given to every volume of a series, so that *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* occupies two pages, *Littell's Living Age* three pages, Milman's "Latin Christianity," with its cross-references, one-half a page, while Payne's "Universal Geography," published in 1798, and in a town library of little value, is entered three times in four lines each. In these cases no list of contents is given, but simply a repetition of the same words, and duplicates are entered again with the same fullness. A list of pseudonyms is appended, many of which have appeared twice in their alphabetical place and the others do not need mention, as the catalogue contains nothing written by the authors. In these, and in other ways, the catalogue is extended from its proper size of three hundred pages to four hundred and forty.

In the next catalogue examined independent shelf numbers and entries are given, as in the preceding case, to every volume, and even to every pamphlet in a series of annual reports of corporations. The accessions-numbers are printed, both

under the author, and also under the subjects, which are repeated in every conceivable form. "The independent liquorist," for example, appears under the author, the title, Liquor, and Domestic economy; a banjo instructor under the author, banjo, instructor, Music, and Education, the accessions-numbers of five figures each being printed nine times in the two. On some pages the extra lines required to print these accessions-numbers fill one-fourth of the space, and the catalogue might be made probably fifty pages shorter by their omission. Apart from this they are objectionable because they are likely to be mistaken for shelf-numbers. The laws of the United States are found under Laws and repeated under the United States and Congressional Documents, these documents with the repeated accessions-numbers occupying some twenty-five pages in double column. And here it is well to caution librarians against attempting, as is sometimes done, to analyze these documents, as involving an expenditure of money which can be better used in other ways. They have been indexed very minutely by the Boston Public Library, and when the work supplementing this, undertaken by the Library of Congress, is finished, these two will form a complete index which can be used in other libraries.

On the examination of a third catalogue of some twenty thousand volumes, it was no surprise to learn that it had been prepared in forty days, for since the Deluge, forty days and forty nights have not accomplished the like. The disappointment experienced at finding only three mistakes in the first three titles disappeared when twenty-one were seen in five consecutive lines, causing one to question the dictum of Carlyle that the worst catalogue that was ever drawn up by the hand of man is greatly preferable to no catalogue at all*. As no pent up Utica can contract

the powers of the person who threw this work together, and as he has announced his readiness to undertake other catalogues at the rates of 75,000 volumes a month, it is clearly our duty to enter a protest. Certainly, with this *πῶς ὄρω* at hand, the possibility of a Universal Catalogue needs no discussion.

It is evident from these examples, which are by no means without parallel, that the question how to make the catalogue of a town library give the most information within the least space and at the smallest expense, is worthy of our attention. In these days of retrenchment, when public libraries are looked upon with distrust by many taxpayers as being an expensive luxury, every effort towards making catalogues compact, simple and economical should be encouraged. And it is to be remembered that with the growth of libraries catalogues must often be supplemented or reprinted, and that those institutions which have spent, as the first two mentioned have done, three thousand dollars, where two thousand would have sufficed, may find it difficult to obtain money to repeat such costly experiments. It will be wise for the librarian before deciding upon any plan to examine other catalogues, in order to copy their good features. Such might be seen at any large public library, or at the rooms of the American Library Association. They could be purchased for a small sum, or obtained by exchange.

FORM.—What shall be the form of the catalogue? It was a surprise to find that thirty-five of the fifty catalogues examined were printed in a single column. That this is not the most economical form can be proved by the following estimates recently received from printers:

1. A catalogue of four hundred pages, in single column, where the initials only of authors' Christian names are given, and the imprints omitted, will cost about \$1200

* Report of Commissioners on the British Museum, p. 275.

for five hundred copies, and \$1,400 for one thousand. The same matter in double column, the page being enlarged, will occupy about two hundred and twenty pages, and cost \$800 for five hundred copies, and \$950 for one thousand,—a saving of \$450.

2. When imprints are given the saving would be somewhat less. *

An examination of a catalogue in single column shows from one-fourth to one-half of the page a blank space, occupied only with dots or leaders; and when it is remembered that all such filling is known as "printers' fat," and costs as much to a library, although not to the printer, as solid print, the waste is at once apparent. †

If the single column is used, let the catalogue be reduced from an octavo to a duodecimo, and the page narrowed by a centimeter or more, and there will be a considerable saving, and the catalogue will be more agreeable to the eye and convenient to the hand. If the double column is used let the size be a large octavo, or a small quarto.

ARRANGEMENT.—While preferring the Dictionary system, it is not proposed to discuss here the relative merits of that and of classed systems. Attention should be called to the fact that some of the best specimens of printed classed catalogues of public libraries—Professor Abbot's, of the Cambridge High School; those of the Saint Louis Public School Library, as explained by Mr. William T. Harris; of the New York Mercantile Library, by Mr. Perkins; and of the Apprentices' Library, of New York, by Mr. Schwartz—have appended partial, but only partial, alphabetical lists. The last

* These estimates are not close, but approximate, and they are made from an examination of three different catalogues.

† A recent novel is described on the title-page as "a romance of dots and dashes." The hero is without doubt a compiler of single column catalogues.

named, however, has indexes arranged by authors, titles and subjects, so that the objections to the classed system are removed. In other classed catalogues, however, there are no indexes, and there can be no doubt that they are very much inferior to alphabetical catalogues. Few librarians have a sufficient knowledge of books to arrange them wisely under any scheme of classification, and however skillfully the work may be done, it will be sure to baffle the reader. A recently printed catalogue of a city library is arranged under classes, and some of these classes have been catalogued only by subjects, others only by authors, and others still only by titles or catch-word references. Unless the reader should chance to agree with the compiler in regarding Guyot's "Earth and Man," and the Cobden Club Essays, as works on the belles-lettres, or Reid's "Intellectual powers," and De Foe's "System of magic" as theology, he might seek for them in vain. In other classed catalogues the Pyramids are entered only under Fossilism and Paleontology, the Book of Psalms in short-hand, under Science, division Commercial Arts, and subdivision Inter-communication, and Cats and Dogs are found where, as in real life, they will be likely to make the most trouble, under Agriculture and Gardening.

Having settled upon the plan of the catalogue, before entering upon its preparation, make a rough list of the books, beginning with fiction, which should be placed nearest to the delivery desk, and let it be posted on the wall to serve as a temporary catalogue until the printed list is finished. The fiction can be entered only under titles, and other works by the authors only, either in one alphabet, or divided into a few classes, such as History, Travels, Science, and Miscellaneous.

AUTHORS.—In some catalogues the full Christian names of authors are given; in others, only the initials, and in others still,

only the surnames appear. The first is unnecessarily minute for an ordinary catalogue, and the last is altogether too bald. The headings Smith, Brown, Jones, and Robinson convey no ideas as to the authors. If the initials only are given, the sex of the author is not disclosed, and the title is far less suggestive than if the first Christian name be given in full. This, it will be found, will not lengthen the catalogue appreciably. If all the Christian names are generally used in speaking of an author, as Walter Savage Landor, all might to advantage be given.

British noblemen, as well as those of other nations, should be entered under their titles. It is here that we naturally look for them, and the reasons that are given for the use of the family name will rarely apply in small catalogues. The family name can follow in parentheses. It is to be understood that there are exceptions to this rule.

Pseudonymous books should appear under the pseudonym when it is in general use, and when the author prefers to be known by the disguising name. If Fernan Caballero, having survived three husbands, assumed again her maiden name, it is hardly worth the while to discuss which name shall be chosen, but to take the assumed name found on title-pages, and the one by which she is universally known. So it is with Paul Marcoy, John Latouche, Joaquin Miller, and many others. The real name can be added in parentheses, and if it is thought best, a heading-reference made to the pseudonym. This rule also cannot be followed indiscriminately.* The pseudonym is often found under two forms of the name when one is sufficient. This rule can be followed: if the last name of the pseudonym is a surname, as in George Eliot, give the last name, or, if preferred, both. If it is

* The reasons are stated in Mr. Cutter's "Rules for a Printed Dictionary Catalogue," p. 18.

not a surname, as Oliver Optic, enter it only under the first name. If the initials only of an author appear, let the entry be under the first word of the title of the book. This will save one entry, and will generally be found to be sufficient.

In some catalogues the author's name does not appear unless he has written more than one book whose title is given in the catalogue, or, from the authors of single works a selection is made, which is purely arbitrary, as in one instance where a place is given to Dio Lewis which is denied to Roget and the Duke of Argyll. This is clearly unwise.

In repetitions it is well to avoid the use of dashes. The same purpose is served with less waste and offense to the eye by indenting the lines. There are pages in some catalogues where one-eighth of the space is occupied with dashes, each a centimeter in length, giving the titles the appearance of being on sluices.† The use of the word *See* in references should be avoided as much as possible, the author's name directly following the title being more natural.

From time immemorial catalogues have arranged the names of authors in an inverted order, so that they appear as if marching backwards in serried files, or as "men whose heads do grow beneath their shoulders." In references, where only one author is given, the names are better arranged in their natural order. In the general alphabetical arrangement of the catalogue, and where several authors are found under a subject, of course the eye catches the name quicker if the surname is given first.

TITLES.—Care should be taken in the transcription of titles that they be condensed within the smallest limits consistent with a proper description of the book.

† In the Barton Catalogue of the Boston Public Library, now in course of publication, dashes and leaders are not used.

Abbreviations can be used, selected from the list prepared by the American Library Association. When only two or three letters are to be saved by abbreviation, it is better to give the word in full, as Boston, Berlin, Lisbon, and not Bost., Berl., Libs., unless a line can be saved in printing. In several catalogues the word Philadelphia can be seen repeated in full from thirty to thirty-six times in as many successive lines, occupying one-sixth of the page, when a contracted form and a single entry would have sufficed. Occasionally a catalogue is found which goes to the other extreme, and represents a Commentary on the Epistles by Com. or Eps., on the Cyclopædia of commercial and business anecdotes by Cyclop. com. bus. anec.,—a Cyclops "*cui lumen ademptum.*" *

SUBJECT.—Let the subject be entered under its most specific head, and give cross-references from all including subjects. This, which is the essential characteristic of the Dictionary system, has been generally forgotten, the tendency being to leave subjects isolated, or to place them only under some more general heading. It is only in proportion to the thoroughness with which cross-references are made from general subjects to their subordinate subjects, and also to their coördinate and illustrative subjects, that a catalogue will be useful. It must be remembered that no subject stands by itself, but is linked with many others. The catalogue of a limited collection of books has this advantage, that a double entry can often be made where in the larger work it is necessary to make a selection from two equally good headings, as for instance, in a work on Agriculture in China, which can be entered both under Agriculture and China.

IMPRINT.—The place, date and size are given in a larger part of the catalogues examined, in some they are not found,

* *Æneid*, Lib. iii, 658.

and in a few they are given only under the author. If the library has a record of its books in its accessions-catalogue, shelf-list or card-catalogue, the place and size are not needed in the printed catalogue, unless the book is old or rare. The date can be omitted in Juvenile books and Fiction. It is of no advantage to know that the thirty or forty volumes of Mrs. Southworth in the library bear the date 1870, and to give the date 1879 to a copy of "Jane Eyre" or the "Vicar of Wakefield," or to any of the innumerable books which, like the date palm, shed their dates from year to year, will only mislead the ignorant. In histories and works of travel and science, the date when the book was written or first issued, is more important than that of the publication of the particular copy in the library. This should appear both under the author and the subject. It is a defect in the printed Bates Hall catalogues of the Boston Public Library that no dates are given under the subject, so that readers, who rarely think to turn back to the author entry, sometimes call for scientific books which have long gone by, or for histories which do not cover the period of their studies. Under Geography, to leave without dates, as is often done, Strabo, Jediah Morse and Guyot, or under Greece, Anacharsis the Younger and Leake, or to give the date of some recent edition of the earlier works, would mislead.

When a work consists of more than one volume the number should be stated.

If there are works in foreign languages in the catalogue let their titles be revised by some one acquainted with those languages. Otherwise, judging from examples which have been seen, there will be many mistakes, which may subject the catalogue to ridicule.

The printers' proof should be read with care, and returned, if not perfect, two or three times to the office for corrections. The type chosen should be distinct,—what

is called by printers *Bourgeois* or *Brevier*, using in the notes *Minion* for the former and *Nonpareil* for the latter. Avoid smaller fonts, as trying to the eye.

How far it may be possible to introduce a classed system into the catalogue must be left to each library to decide. Independent lists of Fiction, Juvenile books, Drama, and Biography will be found helpful to the reader. In such cases it is not necessary, as is sometimes done, to repeat both the author and the title when they have already appeared in the general alphabet.

It will be seen from what has been said that catalogues of town libraries can be made more economical. They can be made more useful by an equal expenditure of money in other ways.

Catalogues are regarded as the most dreary, as well as the most perplexing reading, by many persons, who often prefer to go without books rather than to take the trouble to hunt for their titles. What can be done to overcome this prejudice? Only this: to make them so simple that they are understood without vexatious study, so thorough that they give in the best form all the information possible, and so attractive that no one can help sharing the librarian's pleasure in them. How few titles there are which do not need some explanation to make their scope or their meaning evident? A writer in a recent number of the *Spectator** having taken up a book entitled "Sketches from shady places," expecting to be transported to the wooded retreats of the country, only to find that the shady places are dens of vice, is led to suggest that books had better be published without titles, since a title is no longer any guide to their subject or object, and that the name only of the author be given, with the number in the series by that author, as, for instance, John Smith's novels, No. 10. With a word or two of

* April 26, 1879.

explanation, all such titles as "Juventus mundi," "Aftermath," "The gates ajar," "Sesame and lilies," "The construction of sheepfolds," "Battle of Dorking," and the like, are made clear. A few words descriptive of an author, of his nationality, his profession or his views, may make a column of blind or deceptive titles intelligible, and the date of his birth will tell the reader whether the scientific work mentioned will give the information needed. If a novel, or book for the young, let this be stated, if it is not plain from the title; if suitable also for adults, let this be mentioned. If historical fiction, let the time and the country described be stated; if a history or book of travels, the dates of its beginning and its end. If in any department of knowledge there are any books whose superiority is unquestioned, let some sign be used calling attention to this fact, and, on the other hand, if there are indifferent or bad books in the library, let this be indicated. Let contents of books of a miscellaneous character be given, with references from every subject treated. Brief notes under a country will indicate its leading historical works, or sketch its literary or artistic history.

These are only a few of the many ways in which catalogues may be made more useful. Their value will be limited only by the knowledge of the librarian and the means placed at his disposal.

And now, having finished what I have to say on this subject, will you allow me to add a few words in regard to catalogues of larger libraries, and especially in respect to the Card Catalogue of the Boston Public Library. Not in its defense, however, for you will perhaps remember the story told of Antalcidas, that he interrupted a sage about to pronounce a defense of Hercules, with the question, "Who ever blamed him?"

Complaint against the catalogues of

large libraries is no new thing, and the suggestions for their improvement have been as numerous as the devices for perpetual motion. This fact is seen in the ponderous folios containing the Reports of the Commissioners on the British Museum, where are found the complaints, the conflicting opinions and the suggestions, partly wise and partly foolish, of English literary men. That these complaints are not louder and more frequent is a wonder to those who are familiar with catalogues and recognize the difficulties which lie in the way of their perfection.

I have lately read Señor Quesada's account of the libraries of Europe,* and, from his statements, supported as they are by those of others, am led to believe that in no library of an equally large collection of books does the public have the use of a catalogue equal to the card catalogue of the Boston Public Library. In many European libraries there is a struggle to keep up simply an authors' catalogue, which is delayed months after the books are received, and which is reserved often only for the use of its officials. In the Boston Public Library and its Branches there are eleven card catalogues, and an additional consolidated catalogue, where one card serves for several branch libraries. The eleven are arranged both under author, subject and title, and all are kept up promptly, with only the delay of a few hours or days after the books are received. And this in a collection of 365,000 volumes, with a yearly increase averaging for the past ten years 21,000 volumes, or 36,500 volumes and pamphlets. In the Bates Hall Public and Official Card Catalogues, there are at a low estimate 600,000 cards, the average annual addition for the past eight years being 69,000 cards. The Public Card Catalogue consists of the cards

* *Las bibliotecas europeas y algunas de la América latina*, por Vicente G. Quesada. Tomo 1. Buenos Aires, 1877.

prepared since October, 1871, together with all the titles of books received previous to that time, which have been cut from 35 catalogues and bulletins and added to the collection. This work, done by a great number of persons from Mr. Jewett's time to the present, each of whom has had his own plans for improving the catalogue,—plans which the increase of the library absolutely demanded,—has made the task of harmonizing the various catalogues to make one symmetrical whole an exceedingly difficult one. As the library increased, its methods constantly broadened, the system of ten years ago being insufficient for the needs of to-day. For instance, the sixteen divisions and few hundred cards under the heading United States in the first printed catalogue, have increased to some 175 divisions and 8300 cards.

The work done to consolidate this vast mass of cards, and reduce it to a system as clear and as helpful as possible, has been a laborious one. It would be impossible to describe here its magnitude. To make the catalogue a perfect, ideal work, much remains to be done, and this must be in the same general direction as in the recent past. The dictionary system upon which the catalogue was founded should still be carried out, but in a more perfect state than has hitherto been attempted. Whatever can be found outside of this system which will remedy its defects should be adopted. If it be possible, as was proposed by the author of the essay read here two days ago, to marry the classed and dictionary systems so long kept asunder, I shall be the last to forbid the bans. Mr. Cutter states, however, in the Special Report of the Bureau of Education (p. 543), that to add to the present dictionary system of the Boston Public Library a classed system would probably not perceptibly increase the practical value of the catalogue. Without yielding un-

qualified assent to this statement, I cannot go to the other extreme, and believe with the essayist that his scheme will supply all the defects of a dictionary catalogue, inasmuch as all catalogues compiled after such

schemes are very imperfect, and less helpful than dictionary catalogues. These defects are to be remedied in numberless ways, of which the plan proposed by him is only one.

A "COMBINED" CHARGING SYSTEM.*

BY J. SCHWARTZ, LIBRARIAN NEW YORK APPRENTICES' LIBRARY.

AMONG the many problems in library economy that have to be solved in a circulating library, there are none of more vital moment than the proper method of charging its loans. While the clientage is small and the circulation correspondingly meagre, the problem does not give any serious inconvenience, and an ordinary ledger or borrower's account answers well enough, but when the daily loans run up into the hundreds, not to say thousands, it becomes a serious question how to secure the maximum of results with the minimum of labor.

I will not take up your time with a detailed explanation of the various systems of charging that have been suggested by the ingenuity or experience of librarians, as this part of my subject has been very ably handled in a series of articles in the third volume of the *LIBRARY JOURNAL* (Nos. 6-8 and 10); I will only say, as necessary to my purpose, that all the plans there explained are built up from one or more of the following typical and fundamental systems:

1. The account with the Borrower.
2. The account with the Book.
3. The account with Time.

A perfect system, suited to the needs of our larger libraries, should embody and combine all these elements, as each is alike important and necessary. Such a

* Read by C. A. Cutter.

plan is still a desideratum, and I therefore submit, with great diffidence, the following scheme, which aims to supply that want. While I cannot hope that I have entirely solved the problem, I believe I have made a nearer approach to its solution than any plan with which I am acquainted.

I begin my explanation by assuming that the books are classified and numbered. Whether a relative or absolute scheme of notation is used, or whether the classes are designated by letters or figures is immaterial, but for the sake of illustration I will suppose that letters are used for the main divisions, and that the accessions number is entered in each volume.

The materials or machinery I propose using are simply—1, the Borrower's card; 2, the Book slip, and 3, some boxes to contain the cards. The Borrower's card (of the P. O. size) is to contain the signature number, name and address of the reader, and spaces for date of issue, class letter and accessions number, date of return, and fines paid and due.

The Book slip (also of P. size) is to have its top edge gummed, and is to be ruled with spaces for date of issue and reader's number. One of these slips is to be attached to every book issued, and is to receive an entry whenever the book is given out. When filled it is to be removed, and another slip put in its place.

The boxes are intended as receptacles

of the cards and are to be divided into suitable fixed partitions. Besides these, a number of movable board or zinc partitions are to be provided to separate the classes. If there are separate counters for the two sexes, four boxes will be needed, one at each charging desk and one at each return counter; where no separation is deemed necessary, two boxes will be sufficient.

When a book is given out, the attendant pencils on one of the gummed slips, which is to be attached to the fly leaf, the reader's number and date of issue, and places the reader's card in the book, and hands both to the charging clerk, who stamps the date of issue on the card, and enters the class letter and accessions number of the book taken out, which is then handed to the reader. The card is deposited in the charging box in the order of its class and accessions number, in its proper division, and as the same process occurs as each successive book is issued, the box will contain, at the end of each day, all the loans in a classified form, so that the necessary statistics can be at once obtained and recorded; the cards are then removed to the return-box.

It is usually customary to keep the issues of each day separate, to facilitate the ascertaining of books overdue. But this is objectionable, as the search for any book out may require from fourteen to thirty-one references before it can be known who has it. The end aimed at is attained in a much simpler and more direct way, as will be presently shown, by separating only the issues of *each week*, and beginning a new series every seventh day. The issues of the five succeeding days are therefore to be distributed among those of the first day, the whole forming one series.

As the return boxes contain a card for every book *out*, and as the books themselves have a record of the date when issued, together with the number of the

reader's card, it is only necessary that the attendant refer to the slip and accessions number of the book returned to find the corresponding card. If another book is taken out, the borrower's number and date of issue are pencilled on the book slip, and the card and slip are then handed to the charging clerk, who proceeds as shown above, this time in addition stamping the date of return. As no card can be found except by means of the book charged on it, the mere fact of having the card before him is proof of the return of the previous book.

As the cards of each week are kept separate, and as every book returned requires a card to be withdrawn from its respective week, the number of finable books can be easily ascertained. Assuming, for the sake of illustration, that *two* weeks is the limit allowed, the cards of the third week preceding the current one are of course delinquent, and as their number has been diminished by the withdrawal of the cards of books returned, those remaining will probably not average over one hundred and eighty in a circulation of 150,000 volumes per annum. These one hundred and eighty cards are to be distributed into six heaps, according to the respective days in the week,—an operation that will not require half an hour's work,—and all the delinquents of that week will be in regular order, so that the necessary notices can be sent each day to those a week overdue.

As the books *out* show where the cards of the live accounts are, no index is required except for *dead* accounts, and this is easily obtained by placing the borrower's cards in the alphabetical order of their names in a drawer for that purpose.

When accounts are opened for a specific period it is customary to keep an expiration book, but this labor can be dispensed with by using, for accounts expiring *during* the current year or season, colored cards,

a different color being used for each successive month. By making the borrower's card of the color corresponding with that of the month when his account expires, the closing of accounts becomes an easy matter.

From the preceding outline it will be seen that the system gives the following information:

1st. The borrower's card gives a classified and chronological summary of all the books issued to him.

2d. Every book on the shelves shows through its slip, when, how often, and to whom, it was issued.

3d. When books are absent from the shelves, the cards show who have them.

4th. The statistics of each day and the books overdue are easily ascertained.

5th. No indexes, delinquent books, expiration books or other auxiliaries are required, except the book of statistics.

6th. Last, but not least, all the information is obtained at a minimum of labor, both to the reader and to the library.

Without making comparisons, that are always odious, the plan may fairly claim that it is the simplest and most inexpensive that has yet been devised, and possesses several advantages not afforded by other schemes, a few of which may be mentioned:

1st. The reader is not obliged to carry around and take care of his card, as it is always kept in the library.

2d. Orders can be given either verbally or in writing,—in the latter case the list is returned to the reader, and can be again used.

3d. The only writing necessary is the entry of the class and accession number

on the borrower's card, and the pencilling of the borrower's number and date of issue on the book-slip.

4th. Most of the information, and in fact all that is really necessary, is given in a form for permanent preservation.

5th. The permanent and annual expense of the system for a library of say 10,000 readers, need not exceed fifty or sixty dollars.

6th. Any desirable number of clerks can be engaged at the same time in charging books, so that the greatest possible speed can be secured whenever necessary. Returns can be managed in a similar manner.

Various minor details, such as renewals, duplicate accounts, extra books, or books due at different dates, etc., will admit of easy solutions that will readily suggest themselves to a practical librarian. The important feature common to all book accounts, viz.: the feasibility of taking account of stock without closing the library, is also an essential part of the present system, and possesses some advantages not afforded by other methods.*

In conclusion I would call attention to the fact that the system will especially commend itself to libraries where economy is an important consideration, as it combines with the minimum of labor and expense the maximum of security, and completeness of information. Should any apparent objection suggest itself to any one interested in the subject, I would beg the privilege of replying by mail, as I am confident that most, if not all, such objections can be shown to be *apparent* only, and not real.

* Mr. Cutter is introducing a system on a similar plan into his library. Eds. L. J.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

JULY—AUGUST, 1879.

Communications for the JOURNAL, exchanges, and editors' copies, should be addressed EDITORS LIBRARY JOURNAL, 13 & 15 Park Row (P. O. Box 4295), New York, except material for special departments, which should be forwarded direct to departmental editors.

Library catalogues, reports, regulations, sample blanks, and other library appliances, should be sent to MELVIL DEWEY, Sec. A. L. A., General Offices American Library Association, 32 Hawley Street (P. O. Box 260), Boston.

European matter may be sent in to the care of H: R. TEDDER, Sec. L. A. U. K., Athenæum Club, Pall Mall, S. W., London.

Remittances and orders for subscriptions and advertisements should be addressed to THE LIBRARY JOURNAL, 13 & 15 Park Row (P. O. Box 4295), New York. Remittances should be made by draft on New York, P. O. order, or registered letter.

The Editors are not responsible for the views expressed in contributed articles or communications, nor for the style of spelling, capitalization, etc., in articles whose authors request adherence to their own styles.

THE success of the Conference at Boston surpassed all expectations. Never were four days more crowded with profit and pleasure. But one criticism was made, that the Committee on papers had done its work too well, and spread so liberal a feast that there was no time between whiles for discussions,—which is the same as saying that the four days might have been six. The papers of the general sessions are given in full in this number, and speak for themselves. They are replete with suggestive practical "points," and certainly show that, in dealing with books, librarians have forgotten neither what they are for nor how to make them. It may be said, to the credit of the profession, that few professional conventions could show a better literature.

The proceedings, which are also given in full, are of secondary interest only because the papers were so many and so important. The chief feature was the discussion on library architecture, and there was general regret that this also was restricted by want of time. As it was, it will not be unproductive. The work of the Committees was approved *nem. con.*, so that the Association has set its seal upon much of the coöperative work so far accomplished. This indeed has been almost enough to make an era in library history. The new work laid out (aside from the important

A. L. A. Catalog, which was pushed a step further along) is chiefly that in connection with the proposed coöperative index to subject-headings, already discussed in the JOURNAL for November, 1878. No decision was made as to the next Conference, but it will undoubtedly be held at Washington, probably in the fall of 1880.

The great day of the feast was Tuesday, when the general public lent its ear, by a large attendance in the larger hall and by very full reports in the press, to the symposium on Fiction in Libraries and the Reading of School-Children. The papers and the addresses following brought upon the platform a notable number of people who had something to say and who knew how to say it, on a topic of absolutely first importance in the development of popular education. The librarians proper had the help of men so well known to the public as Mr. Adams, Mr. Hale, Mr. Clarke, Col. Higginson and others, and while they did not all agree as to this or that, there was an essential unity of spirit and purpose that will have its effect in obtaining for their subject intelligent consideration and well-considered treatment. These papers, in full, will make up the body of our next number.

What shall be said of the good times everybody had? The Committee of Reception, with Mr. Chase as Chairman and Dr. Chadwick as Secretary, contested every inch of ground—or, rather, every moment of time—with the Committee on Papers, and each won more than the half from the other. Mr. Chase's own delightful and elegant reception; the official and recuperative hospitality of the city; the courtesy of the Trustees of the new Art-Museum; the lovely and inspiring day at Cambridge, by grace of "the President and Fellows" of the University; and finally the crowning day at Plymouth—this was hospitality which out-Bostoned Boston. Much would remain unsaid without reference to the ladies, whose presence at this Conference, in force, set an example that will not be lost at future gatherings.

There was one cause of regret—the chair of Antonio Panizzi only made more noticeable the vacant seats that should have been filled by the English visitors. Their regrets were cordial, but they were poor solace. We trust they may come to a realizing sense of what they missed, and suffer the penances of a disturbed conscience. Nevertheless the Americans are generous, and will hope for the Manchester Conference in September as high success and as pleasant enjoyment as they have had at Boston.

THE PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST SESSION.

[MONDAY MORNING.]

THE second annual meeting of the American Library Association (the third National Conference of Librarians) opened in the Medical Library Hall, 19 Boylston Place, near the Public Library, Boston, Monday, June 30th, 1879. The meeting was called to order at 10.20 A. M., by Professor JUSTIN WINSOR, President of the Association, who delivered the President's address.

(See p. 223.)

RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

MR. GEORGE B. CHASE, Chairman, then reported on behalf of the Reception Committee:

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention :—In accordance with the programme of the day, it is my most agreeable duty, in the name and on behalf of my associates of the Committee of Reception, to welcome you to this hall, and to assure you that, in all the arrangements we have made for your comfort and entertainment, we have found that we had the cordial sympathy of the city authorities, of the directors of our public and private institutions, and of our citizens at large. We hope that your deliberations with each other during this your third conference may be profitable to yourselves and to that republic of letters whose servants you are. The friends of education recognize more widely with each succeeding year the direct importance to the community of the principal questions you discuss, and their large influence upon the education of the young and the old.

The Committee of Reception has endeavored to discharge the duties imposed upon it in such a way as to provide for all of you some agreeable occupations during your hours of leisure. As the report of that committee, I have only to ask you to turn your attention to your programmes, while I briefly recapitulate the order and arrangements we have made of the numerous invitations you have received, all of which have come to us with the most cordial and sympathizing words for the members and purposes of this Association.

INVITATIONS.

Correspondence and invitations being next in order, THE PRESIDENT said: An even hundred years ago, a French frigate came into Boston harbor, bringing the French minister to the young

republic, and an American minister returning from his post, in the person of John Adams. A few days later, at a dinner given by the Corporation of Harvard College in honor of the French ambassador, John Adams first proposed the scheme of an Academy of Arts and Sciences. A few weeks later, he was instrumental in fixing that famous section into the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which renders it obligatory upon the legislators of the state to foster learning and promote education. One of the first acts of the new assembly of the reorganized state was the founding of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. John Adams had now returned to Europe, and Bowdoin became its first President, whose grandson, in Mr. Winthrop, I am happy to see here to-day; and also the grandson of its first promoter, whom I have pleasure in now introducing to you, as its President to-day, the Hon. Charles Francis Adams.

MR. ADAMS, though not then in the Hall, presently entered, and briefly responded, extending to the members a cordial invitation to the rooms of the Academy and of the Boston Athenæum, the Presidency of both of which institutions it was his privilege to hold.

THE PRESIDENT.—Next year Boston celebrates the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its founding. A quarter of a thousand years ago the fleet of John Winthrop sailed into the waters of this bay, and from that time to this the name of Winthrop has been historic, and has never been sullied. Fitly is it to-day associated with the Presidency of the oldest of all our American Historical Societies; and it is now my privilege to introduce to you the President of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop.

ADDRESS OF ROBERT C. WINTHROP.

MR. WINTHROP.—I thank you sincerely, Mr. President, for this most kind and complimentary reception. I thank you for the distinction of being numbered among your invited guests, and for the privilege of listening to your own admirable introductory address. I came here only as a hearer, and with no purpose of attempting any remarks of my own. I am glad of the opportunity, however, to express, in a single sentence, my deep sense of the indebtedness of us all, whether as authors or students or readers, to the Superintendents of our great Public Libraries, who are always so able and ready to tell us of the books we need and where to find them and what they contain. There is no more perfect mockery, since the days of Tantalus,—nothing more suggestive of the proverbial "slip between the cup and the lip,"—than a grand Library

without an accomplished Librarian and an adequate Catalogue.

It has happened to me to know personally some of the grand librarians of other lands. It was at the house of the late John Forster—the biographer of Goldsmith and Dickens and Landor, as well as of the noble Sir John Eliot—that I met that very Antonio Panizzi, whose chair and table are before us at this moment, and to whom you have just paid so just and appropriate a tribute. I have known his distinguished successor at the British Museum, Mr. Winter Jones, and the genial Dr. Coxe, of the Bodleian, and more than one of the librarians of old Cambridge. I have thus been in the way of appreciating the accomplishments of these eminent men, and of witnessing the high estimation in which they were held by the great scholars of our mother country. I rejoice that an interest has at length been awakened, on this side of the Atlantic, in this special and most important calling, and that we can already count more than one American librarian who may rank with the best and most distinguished abroad in their intelligent devotion to this particular department of literary labor. I hardly dare to name names, but Smith and Moore and Allibone and Poole and Spofford and Cutter and Winsor would occur to every one, even were none of them present to suggest them.

Let me hasten, however, to say that I have risen at your call, only to unite in welcoming this Association to our city, and, as President of our old Massachusetts Historical Society,—as well as of the General Theological Library of Boston, and of the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology at Cambridge,—to invite the members to visit the rooms of these institutions at their convenience and pleasure.

I may, also, avail myself of the opportunity of saying that if any, or all, of the members of this Association, in their drives through the environs of Boston, should chance to find themselves near the avenue to my suburban villa in Brookline, it would give me the greatest pleasure to welcome them in the most unceremonious and informal way beneath my own roof.

THE PRESIDENT.—The spirit of Winthrop and his associates flowered perhaps in some hardy graces on this sterile soil of ours, and among the fruitages resultant, which we librarians can best appreciate, is that institution for which somehow I have a lingering fondness and whose foundations were laid by the care of an Everett, a Ticknor and a Jewett, and in the absence of their associate, Mr. Greenough, the present President of its Trustees, I have the pleasure of asking you

attention to Judge Chamberlain, my worthy successor in office.

ADDRESS OF JUDGE CHAMBERLAIN.

JUDGE CHAMBERLAIN.—Mr. President, I am sorry that Mr. Greenough is not present to extend in behalf of the trustees an invitation to the Library Association to visit the Public Library this afternoon. He doubtless is detained by unavoidable circumstances, and the duty he would have most cordially performed you assign quite unexpectedly to me. Indeed, these little addresses not set down in the programme are veritable surprises to the audience, as well as to those who make them, if anything in this line could be a surprise to Mr. Winthrop, who always meets such incidents on either continent with a propriety and grace all his own.

Yet the duty is a simple one and easily discharged by extending, as I now do, a cordial invitation to the members of this Association to visit the Public Library this afternoon. It so happens that I have some share in its administration, though none in those labors which raised it to the position it holds among libraries. It is only a few months since I was called to the office of librarian; but in that time I have had ample opportunities to observe and study the great work accomplished by those who have preceded me. You, Mr. President, have always borne ample and generous testimony to the abilities and devotion of those who, before your day, laid the foundation of the work, as well as of those with whom you were associated in your own administration. And I will say to these ladies and gentlemen what I may not thus publicly say to the presiding officer, that I am daily filled with admiration and despair at the amount, the variety and the excellence of the work which he did during the ten years he filled the office of superintendent; and I mean privately to ask him to happen round this afternoon and explain to you, as none other can, the system, the details and the administration of the institution which is so largely indebted to him for the distinction which it possesses among the great public libraries of the world.

MR. GREENOUGH, having meanwhile entered the room, rose and cordially seconded Judge Chamberlain's invitation.

THE PRESIDENT.—Upon our triple hill, and surrounding the gilded dome of which a few have heard, there are three other libraries, to extend to us their courtesies. I have a cordial invitation from the authorities of the State Library, under the hand of its new librarian, Mr. Tillinghast, who

is already girding up his loins for the race we are all entered for.

Mr. Tillinghast's letter was as follows :

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
STATE LIBRARY, BOSTON, June 17, 1879.

Dear Sir:—In behalf of the Trustees of the State Library, I take pleasure in extending a most cordial invitation to the members of the American Library Association to visit the State Library at their pleasure and convenience during their stay in the city.

Yours very truly,

C. B. TILLINGHAST, Acting Librarian.

JUSTIN WINSOR, Esq., President, A. L. A.

THE PRESIDENT.—Our friend, Dr. Langworthy, so worthily cherishes the garner of that literature which has sprung from the belief that sustained our fathers, that I hope, as the librarian of the Congregational Library, he has a word for us.

MR. LANGWORTHY responded by heartily inviting a visit to his library.

THE PRESIDENT.—If the books in the care of our good friend, who has just taken his seat, tell the story of that bourne we are all journeying towards, there is a library neighboring to his whither all the world goes to learn whence we sprung, and I believe Mr. Haskins, representing the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, is with us to-day.

MR. DAVID GREENE HASKINS, JR., extended a hearty welcome on behalf of his society.

THE PRESIDENT.—It is incumbent on me to say that upon the broad shoulders of a gentleman here present I throw off a share of my responsibility at Cambridge. He is also the librarian of the American Academy, and to-day, in the absence of the President of the foster-child of the Academy, the Boston Society of Natural History, he worthily represents it as its Vice-President,—Mr. Samuel Hubbard Scudder.

MR. SCUDDER responded briefly, mentioning that, next to the Smithsonian Institution, the library of this society could show the largest number of serials and periodical articles in its speciality.

LETTERS.

The following letters, expressing regret at unavoidable absences, were also read, together with a telegram from Mr. John J. Dyer, of St. Louis :

GERMANTOWN, Phila., June 16, 1879.

Dear Sir:—I am grateful for your remembrance of an old librarian, who enters his eighty-second year to-day, as also for the kind invitation to attend the Librarians' Convention ; but age has its priva-

tions as well as pleasures. I am afraid I shall not get to you, though with you in heart and spirit.

For your encouragement I may remark that I think the duties of a librarian are eminently healthy ones ; exercise in-doors, without exposure, is certainly favorable, and perhaps the odor of tannin in the bindings of books has some of the good properties of quinine. At all events your correspondent enjoys fair health, and is in the habit of reading twelve hours a day without glasses.

Having lived through *all* the inventions of steam and its wonders, we have now arrived at the era of steam printing. Does it ever occur to you that it is possible the world will grow too small to hold the immense progeny of books and pamphlets which must result ? The owners of expensive steam printing presses cannot afford to keep them idle, and will spin out pages till doomsday—much of it trash. The fact is a present, however recent, source of anxiety. *Pari passu* has come a new race of librarians, erudite and alert to the new and great want of arrangement and cataloguing, etc., etc. I was long the governor of the then largest library in America, and it contained forty-three thousand eight hundred and eighty-four volumes, all told. The subscription of eight hundred members was two dollars each, and there was little else to depend upon, so that my humble salary was but six hundred dollars, with no assistant ; hours from two o'clock till sunset. The change to present times is more than accordant to the progress of other things, and is to increase ; with this will come improvements already so happily commenced. The beginning with erudite and learned men is auspicious. I am happy in leaving a worthy son as my successor, and desire that he may keep step with everything promotive of public taste or which will meliorate the sometimes, if not too oft, distresses which environ life.

Again regretting my necessary absence, I am, very respectfully, your ob'd't serv't and friend,

JOHN JAY SMITH.

To Mr. JUSTIN WINSOR, Cambridge, Mass.

WASHINGTON, June 25, 1879.

My Dear Sir:—I regret my enforced absence extremely—and so much the more because it is to be held under your auspices, and in the goodly metropolis of libraries, Boston. As it is now settled that I cannot get away, pray present my heartfelt regrets to the associated Librarians, with the tender of an invitation to them to make Washington the place of the next general meeting of the Association. As the capital of the country, it has claims to have an early place assigned it in the programme of Conventions, and the Library of the Government needs the aid and influence of the

assembled Librarians to give an impetus to the movement for a public library building that shall be worthy of the United States.

Yours with high regard,

A. R. SPOFFORD.

Mr. JUSTIN WINSOR.

LIBRARY CO. OF PHILADELPHIA, }
Fifth Street, below Chestnut, }
PHILADELPHIA, June 24, 1879.

My Dear President:—I regret more than I can tell you that my pressing duties here in the charge of two libraries and in building another, will prevent my accepting your hospitable invitation.

I beg you will convey to the Conference, and especially to my fellow-delegates to the London Conference, my regret that it is not possible for me to meet with them this year. To those who saw the unfinished building, in 1876, of the Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Library, it may be of some interest to know that the building is finished, and is now occupied by about 70,000 vols., including the entire Loganian Library. There remain in Fifth Street about 48,000 vols., an actual count taken lately, showing our no. to be between 117,000 and 118,000 vols.

Before another meeting of the Convention, we shall have abandoned the old site in Fifth Street for a more convenient, if not so venerable a building. The new Library, at the corner of Locust and Juniper Streets, is rapidly going up, and we hope to move about Christmas. The present structure at Fifth and Library, will probably pass into the hands of the Apprentices' Library.

With my best wishes for the prosperity of the Association, I remain,

My dear Sir, yours faithfully,

LLOYD P. SMITH, Librarian.

Library Co. of Philadelphia.

J. WINSOR, Esq.

St. LOUIS, 29th July, 1879.

MELVIL DEWEY, Sec'y American Library Ass'n.

Please express my sincere regrets to the Association for unavoidable absence on this glorious occasion. God speed the good work. Give, as I know you will, our friends from abroad a hearty reception. Draw on me, at sight, for any assessment levied to defray expenses.

JNO. N. DYER.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

MELVIL DEWEY, the Secretary, presented his report, which is given in full below.

In offering his report, the Secretary said:

Coincidences and surprises seem the order of the day, and I was lucky enough to have discovered

a few hours ago that this first day of the Boston meeting is the thousandth since we met to organize. Our President shows his suspicion of the decimal character of my coincidence, but I plead innocent of any knowledge of the fact till last evening.

Want of time compels me to omit and condense much which otherwise I wished to bring to the attention of this meeting.

Just a thousand days ago this morning we met in Philadelphia to hold our Conference and to give birth to this Association. In '76 associated library work was an experiment. These thousand days have proved the possibility of great success if proper effort is bestowed. The least hopeful of the first Conference will acknowledge that for the time and money given to the work we have much more than satisfactory results. In business such results would insure the necessary men and money to work the mine thus proved to be rich. We have done enough to know what ought to and what can be done. The successful completion of this thousand days should properly have something of the millennial about it. From it the American Library Association should date a still broader and more active work.

I need hardly say that much of my report has wider application than our own country. These few years have been pre-eminently library years, and will always be recognized as such thruout the English-speaking world. Our sister association in Great Britain, avowedly owing its existence to our organization, is settling down to work so vigorous that we must look well to our laurels. From several other countries comes gratifying news of library progress. There never was better opportunities for effective work.

Since our organization in Philadelphia in 1876 there has been no formal report of our condition. This has been because of the monthly record of progress printed in the LIBRARY JOURNAL, to which nearly all the members of this Association are, I believe, subscribers. I purpose at this our third general meeting to summarize our past and to offer brief suggestions for our future. For full discussion of these points I must refer to past and coming numbers of the LIBRARY JOURNAL and to the detailed records and files of the Association in its general offices. The opinions I offer are based on a great number of letters and personal interviews on these subjects. I recommend those things that have met with the strongest endorsement and have roused the most enthusiasm, among all classes interested in libraries. I believe that the surest road to that complete success to which we aspire lies in the direction indicated.

Under "What has been" and "What ought to be," I will mention General Offices, Bibliothecal Museum, Visitors, Correspondence, Publications, Addresses, Coöperation (including the A. L. A. Catalog and Supply Department), Membership, and last, but far from least, Finances.

General Association Offices.

For much effective work of any kind, some headquarters is the first essential. All experience proves it impossible to secure the best results unless there be somewhere a central office, equipped with all that specially pertains to the work in hand, and with competent officers to attend to applicants, whether in person or by letter. This is specially true of our Association. The constantly growing Bibliothecal Museum and Library must have space for proper display. There must be a library clearing-house for a score of different purposes,—a librarian's Mecca, containing enough, not to be found elsewhere, to repay something of a pilgrimage. Here every library should be free to send questions and submit difficulties, to be solved if possible at once, otherwise to be put in the way of solution. It must be a center to which all will contribute whatever can be of service in any way to libraries, and to which all may freely apply for aid from the ideas and appliances contributed as freely by others. Catalogs, reports, blanks, sample appliances, descriptions, etc., will be freely given to such a headquarters. They must there be arranged and labelled so as to be self-explanatory as far as possible. Much labor and some expenses are necessary, but as Carlyle said about the catalog, "whatever the difficulties are, they must be faced." No society like ours can do the work we ought and mean to do without a well organized headquarters, that welcomes inquirers and is glad to render aid.

Till a few days ago, we have had no General Offices. By common consent, the office of the secretary and of the LIBRARY JOURNAL had, more than any other, partly taken this place. The executive board have now declared the General Offices to be at 32 Hawley Street, under charge of the secretary till otherwise voted. Under this authority, a beginning has been made. Our name appears upon the entrances and in the various directories, and we have a local habitation from which to issue our circulars, transact our business, and in which to grow. The newly constituted office is wholly without expense to the Association, and is offered only through the current year, but we all hope that nothing will occur to interrupt the present arrangement or to make a backward step necessary.

Bibliothecal Museum.

The contributions have been gratifying, and the collection contains many hundreds of appliances, blanks, catalogs, etc. No effort has been made to increase it, except by the notes in the LIBRARY JOURNAL. Under the new office arrangements, this collection will soon be displayed and labelled to advantage, and should then be made complete. Those who have not contributed must be asked personally, if our general requests are not heeded. The value of this Museum and library has certainly not been overrated, and it is an essential nucleus for other departments of our work. I need not take time to impress upon you the importance of making and keeping this Museum complete to date. It is the property of the Association, and will be of practical service, direct or indirect, to every member. It is our only tangible rallying point, and should be cherished as such.

Visitors.

The number who have called on library errands has steadily increased during the three years. We estimate the number of visitors in the thousands, but have no means of getting exact figures. A turn-stile would show the number so large as to astonish those not familiar with our office-work. We have done the best we could with other pressing duties, to answer questions and stimulate interest. Visits of this kind will increase now that we advertise our offices.

There are often callers who come without the slightest preparation, who have never read a word of all that has been printed for their benefit, and would, if allowed, ask questions by the hour that are fully answered in the JOURNALS and reports. It would be unwise to try to provide assistants enough, so that those desiring could in this way take a complete course of free lessons in library management. The museum labelled and made self-explanatory, circulars of information, and chiefly the LIBRARY JOURNAL, must be depended on very largely for this information. Even then, it will be necessary to give no small amount of time to library visitors. Nothing can take the place of personal interviews in stimulating interest and developing enthusiasm. We must give every inquirer a hearty welcome, and help him to the best in methods and ideals. Much of this important work can however be done as proposed under the head, Publications.

Correspondence.

Nearly all said under visitors applies equally to correspondents. A careful estimate based on our records and files in the offices, shows that we have

sent out during the 1000 days 15,227 letters, cards and packages, not counting the nearly one-third as many more sent out before the first Conference. The postage alone forms no mean item, and the labor involved has been something to diminish the number of aspirants for the office of secretary. We answer everything, if possible, on a p. o. card or by marking a printed circular. We make use of every labor-saving device to diminish the labor. As with visitors, however, if we are to do the missionary educational work for which we organized, we must attend to applicants, if only to refer them to information in print. Young librarians hesitate to take the time of those they know to be overworked, and often go on in a poor way when they would be glad to learn a better. I esteem it of the first importance to our highest success that all understand our willingness to do freely, all in our power to help those who try to help themselves. We are preparing a series of circulars and letters to be duplicated on the Manifold Slate, answering the most frequent questions, and thus making it possible to attend to all more fully than would otherwise be possible, and with much less labor.

Publications.

Since our organization there has been a rapidly increasing public interest in everything pertaining to libraries. I might have mentioned under visitors and correspondence that it was noticeable that in addition to the great work of the central office, the increasing interest has led to many more personal visits and letters between librarians. This has been specially marked in publications. The press has never been used so much for this purpose before. Papers, magazines and books have vied with each other in the prominence given. Catalogs, records and bulletins have come from the libraries as never before, and in them has been manifested an earnest purpose to advance the standard of librarianship. For the future we should utilize the press still more. Nearly a hundred periodicals have responded to our invitation to become members, and promise us their hearty coöperation in anything that tends to make more readers, better readers, and of better books. We ought, in some way, to supply these periodicals with suitable matter, ready to be printed. If this is not attempted through a committee, individual members must see to it that the most is made of this, the best of opportunities, for reaching and influencing the masses. In furtherance of this work, I think it desirable as often as once each quarter, to send a special circular to each of our members, stimulating them to effort, and giving them material in convenient shape for the press.

Our main dependence for communication is of course the LIBRARY JOURNAL, and I would print in that this quarterly sheet, striking off extra copies and mailing one or more to each member, to be used for the press or as a basis for articles adapted specially to local wants.

Addresses.

Mr. Axon's paper on library lectures (see JOURNAL, v. 3, p. 47), with Mr. Winsor's comments (p. 120), and a score of other testimonies as to the value of the plan, point out our duty in the direction of addresses; a few libraries have done a little something in this way, but the field is practically new. Something might well be done by addresses in a more general way in developing interest in our work. The main service, however, would be done if we could get some hundreds of libraries started in a course of library lectures or talks, and I propose for this that the best notes or complete lectures which we can obtain be printed in the JOURNAL, and also distributed in the quarterly package to members. Some help of this kind must be offered the smaller libraries which are not familiar enough with such work to organize it from the foundation successfully. The printed sheet of notes could be used as a basis for the lecture best adapted to local wants. I conceive this to be a very proper field for library coöperation.

Coöperation.

Surely, *in hoc signo vinces*, may be written under this word. We have won, we are winning, and I am sure shall win our best successes through coöperation. The long hoped-for Poole's Index heads the list, and the title-slip registry, Mr. Cutter's coöperative bulletins, the Harvard-Boston lists of periodicals, etc., etc., are all outgrowths of this movement. It was the corner-stone of our organization. This and every conference is but coöperation of ideas. The best results can come only when we go back to our homes to coöperate as well in our work. Coöperation has served sometimes as an excuse for hobby-riding and extravagance, but our work is dependent in a remarkable degree on coöperation, and our success must be largely measured by the extent to which we utilize this principle.

A. L. A. Catalog.

I look upon this proposed coöperation as by far our most important work. Our experience in the office shows that nothing else will be so keenly appreciated by the libraries and public. It is practicable. The plan is organized and carried to the threshold of success. I trust we shall not adjourn our Boston meetings till the order can be given to commence the work.

Supply Department.

Since our last meetings a majority of the members who have joined us have done so avowedly to get the advantages of the Supply Department. It has served as an introduction to many. It has been a help to many. It grew steadily from the most trifling beginnings till we have now filled 364 orders, averaging \$17.26 each, besides hundreds of petty sales in the office. This amounts to \$6,284.82 cash sales. To measure the usefulness of the department, it must be remembered, that this sum gives no proper idea of the service rendered. We have sent out hundreds of little packages, either without charge or for fractions of a dollar, which have saved many times their cost in time and trouble. I esteem this Supply Department the most practical step taken, and the one destined to help most in holding together our membership, and in rendering the most direct aid to the libraries.

I esteem it of the first importance that this "practical department" shall continue the work now fairly started. This distribution has been carried on at prices intended to just meet total expenses except for the services of the manager, which were given from the first to the work without compensation, in order to get it started. We started with four objects, to be secured by co-operation: 1, better library appliances; 2, less cost; 3, less trouble in getting or making; 4, a slight income to the A. L. A. It was decided, after a year's experience, and after consultation with leading members of the A. L. A., that it was wiser to let the Supply Department benefit only those who used it by making the prices as low as consistent with expenses without profit to be paid into the treasury. With this view, prices were several times reduced, and, in our zeal to show the saving of coöperation, we cut off not only all the profit above expenses, but also a part of the actual cost. In balancing of accounts to date we find that we have just met expenses except the interest on the capital invested and the insurance, which together amount to about 3 per cent., or \$180.18. This deficiency has been provided for among ourselves, so that the Supply Department accounts are just balanced. In the first years there were expenses and experiences in getting the best articles at the lowest prices that will not have to be repeated. The quantity used is also so much increased that there is no doubt that the work can be continued without loss, and possibly with still further reductions in prices. This much is certain: we have learned to do the business at the smallest possible expense. The amount of patronage is rapidly increasing, so that we can use vastly more than any manufacturer or dealer,

and thus we can get the low prices that always go with the largest quantities. We have in scores of cases furnished libraries with supplies better than they had before, and at less than one-half the prices previously paid. All this can certainly be continued, and there is a fair prospect that even greater gains are possible. It is proved that this Coöperation Supply Department is the best means to get good library supplies. It remains to prove *how much* the best it can be made. The Coöperation Committee have two plans under consideration, by either of which the work will be continued under the full control of the Association, and yet without asking it to assume any financial risk or responsibility. These plans are to be submitted to the Executive Board for decision at their first meeting, and in either case the success of the Supply Department is assured.

Membership.

We have to-day 269 members.* This number ought to be ten times as great, and can be made so if each one does his part. With 4000 public libraries in the country, and many times that number of private collections, there could well be in this Association 3000 members. The influence we could exert through and upon such a membership cannot be easily measured. The slight annual fee from such a number would enable us to carry forward most important works, which, in their turn, would bring returns to carry out other plans. A few of our members have filled their pledge of getting a certain number of new members: more have apparently forgotten the matter entirely. We have membership circulars and invitations which we furnish to any one wishing to use them. A special effort should be made to increase our list at the beginning of our second thousand days.

Finances.

To do all this work, even with gratuitous labor and the most rigorous economy, requires money. This is half the object in increasing our list of members. Nothing can be done as it should be done without some expense. Our enthusiastic founders will some day tire of constant giving, and we should look to a time when necessary expenses can be met by the treasury without personal assessments. One of the best means is to get life members. This payment of \$25.00 gives substantial aid to the treasury. Members who have thus paid in advance for life feel a still greater interest in keeping the Association up to its work and in inducing others to join. In all respects

* At the close of the Conference we had increased to 365.
—M. D.

the life membership plan seems a good one. Our annual fee will be \$2.00, so it really yields 8 per cent. interest on the money, granting that our members continue on the roll. I have tried to practice what I preach by making myself a life member at the first, and, not satisfied with that, by dint of much persuasion I have, last October, perfected permanent arrangements with the only lady who helped organize this Association, and who has been present at all the sessions in Philadelphia, New York, and London, so that I had the opportunity of securing the extortionate interest above noted by making her a life member.

Within a few weeks several new life members appear on our roll. A special effort should be made to increase the number.

Legacies and Gifts.

Finally, we must not overlook what ought to be our most fruitful source of income. There are many wealthy friends of education and progress who would assist in our work by substantial gifts if they really understood what we are trying so hard to do. Each member present should feel it a duty as well as a privilege to submit all necessary information to any one that might give at once or remember our Association in legacies. Our work is a permanent work. There are few societies of the many receiving gifts and legacies that are more worthy. If we do not receive them it is our own fault that we do not present our claims.

I am done. May the "ought to be" I have so freely sketched to-day be found less than the "has been" on which we look back at the end of our second thousand days.

MELVIL DEWEY, Secretary.

THE PRESIDENT.—If the Secretary has left anything for the Treasurer to report, we will now listen to him.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

F: JACKSON, the Treasurer, presented his report, as follows:

BOSTON, June 20, 1879.

American Library Association in account with F: Jackson, Treasurer:

1876.	By membership assessments,	\$53.00
1877.	" " "	120.00
1878.	" " "	168.13
	" life members,	75.00
	" gift,	5.00
1879.	" membership assessments,	151.87
	" life members,	100.00
	Total receipts,	\$673.00

1876.	To expenses of Phila. Conference,	\$56.93
1877.	" short-hand report of N. Y. Conference,	50.00
1878.	To 2500 membership circulars, (2 p.) circulated in LIBRARY JOURNAL, April, 1878,	50.00
1876-'79.	To stationery,	36.68
	" printing and paper,	266.01
	" postage,	243.64
	" miscellaneous,	29.37
	Total expenditures,	\$726.63
	" receipts,	673.00
	Balance due Treasurer,	\$53.63

Vouchers for the above payments are filed with the Secretary for approval by the Finance Committee.
F: JACKSON, Treasurer.

COÖPERATION COMMITTEE.

C: A. CUTTER, Chairman, presented the report of the Coöperation Committee:

The Coöperation Committee have from time to time reported their work in the LIBRARY JOURNAL (3: 19, 59, 113, 187, 222, 331, 337; 4: 13, 50, 86), and they would content themselves with referring to these reports, did not one other circumstance require mention.

The duties and powers of the Committee have never been defined by the Association, but one thing is plain,—they have no power to spend any money, nor to cause the Association to incur any debt. Hence when they established a Supply Department it was evident that they must confine themselves to recommending good library appliances, and could do nothing towards furnishing them. The libraries would be obliged to get their supplies of the stationers or to have them made to order,—a costly matter, as we all know. An arrangement might have been made with some particular stationer, by which he should be the authorized agent of the Committee without involving them in any pecuniary liability. But the business of library supplies is peculiar. Some articles can be made at a very good profit, others, equally necessary when they are needed, can be sold only at a loss, or at least with no profit. Any business firm would have been very willing to provide the first, but would have kept carefully aloof from the others. The Secretary of the Committee, therefore, undertook with his own capital and at his own risk, to carry on a manufacturing and selling Supply Department, of which he was to take all the loss, if there was loss, and the Association was to have all the profits, if there were any profits. The Committee never altogether approved of this one-sided arrangement; but they saw no other means of effecting the object proposed.

Now, however, that a company is organized for the express purpose of doing a business similar to but more extensive than that which the A. L. A. Supply Department had been doing, they think it best to transfer their stock and good-will to the new concern—the Readers and Writers Economy Company—and to close up their accounts. It is intended that the Committee, or their successors, should still continue to examine and decide upon the merits of new devices; and the Department will still have the benefit of the business ability of their Secretary.

The Committee believe that their course in carrying on a Supply Department—or rather in allowing one to be carried on—requires no justification. It is sufficient for them to call attention to the extraordinary activity of invention in all branches of library economy displayed of late. It is not too much to say that more contrivances have been devised, more improvements have been suggested in the three years since Melvil Dewey conceived the happy idea of founding the American Library Association, than in the previous three decades.

C: A. CUTTER. *For the Committee.*

MR. F. B. PERKINS, of the Boston Public Library, read the first paper on the programme, on "Classification in Dictionary Catalogues."

(*See p. 226.*)

MR. FLETCHER, during Mr. Perkins' paper, queried whether it might not be better to make an occasional pilgrimage across the hall than to stand bent over one drawer all the while at the risk of breaking one's back.

MR. PERKINS replied that he would avoid this alternative by devising a kind of library chair which should make it possible to consult a card catalogue without physical suffering.

MR. C: A. CUTTER, of the Boston Athenæum, read his paper on "Classification on the Shelves," illustrating it with the aid of the blackboard and by means of an advance sheet of the Winchester Library Catalogue, copies of which were on the table for distribution. MR. CUTTER prefaced his paper, by saying, in reply to Mr. Perkins, that he was still in "discouragement" in regard to a synoptical table of subjects, and did not yet believe "that the result would compensate for the immense labor," *if done by any one library for itself.* But that sentence was written before there was any American Library Association, before the word coöperation had been pronounced in connection with library work. We have changed all that. What it would not pay for one library to do, may be well worth doing by a committee, or even by one person, *for all libraries.*

(*See p. 234.*)

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MR. PERKINS, during Mr. Cutter's explanations, suggested that, from the present appearance of the progress of the new spelling, it would seem better to him to use the enlarged alphabet of the spelling reformers, which would still more increase the capacity of his new system.

MR. W: F. FLETCHER, of the Watkinson Library of Hartford, and associate editor of Poole's Index, read his paper on "Some Points in Indexing."

(*See p. 243.*)

MR. F. P. HATHAWAY, foreman of the bindery of the Boston Public Library, contributed a paper on "Library Bindings," which was read by the President. Samples of buckram in various colors were on the table for examination. After the meeting, Mr. Hathaway kindly spent half an hour in answering questions and making further explanations.

(*See p. 248.*)

MR. BOWKER, speaking on the first three papers, expressed the opinion, in which he was prompted by Mr. Perkins, that there was an essential agreement, and not diversity, among them. The information as to the plans for the new Poole's Index was particularly welcome. In view of Mr. Cutter's reference he would state just what they were doing in New York. The subject-headings, first of the Boston Athenæum Catalogue (from the original schedule used by Mr. Cutter), were being written out on separate cards, and the alphabet would be filled out with subject-headings found by searching other leading catalogues, and possibly the dictionary. On each card would be written out the synonyms and related headings in these catalogues or otherwise found, together with subdivisions and references to the general class under which the heading came. If practicable, the usage of each catalogue would be distinctively indicated on the card. With this material, if now some designation of preferable headings could be made by capable persons, such as would probably be used in the various general cataloguing enterprises now on foot, a very practical point would be gained. He closed by moving the appointment of a committee of five on an Index to Subject-headings, to be appointed at leisure by the Chair, which was carried without dissent.

The Conference then adjourned.

SECOND SESSION.

(TUESDAY MORNING.)

The Medical Library Hall being fully occupied on the first day, and a large audience being promised for the second day's session, which was to be devoted to a public discussion of fiction in libraries and the reading of children, it was found advisable

to occupy the large hall of the Young Men's Christian Union, Boylston street, which was well filled.

THE PRESIDENT at 10.15 called the meeting to order, and read the following resolution:

LIBRARY ASSOC. OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Monthly Meeting, June 6, 1879.

Resolved, unanimously:

1: That this meeting offers its hearty congratulations to the AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION on their approaching Conference at Boston, with sincere wishes for the entire success of the meeting.

2: That a copy of the foregoing resolution be forwarded to the President of the AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

HENRY R. TEDDER, *Hon. Sec.*

THE PRESIDENT.—We have for our day's subject one of great interest, upon which there may prove much diversity of opinion. We are to hear from many, and I begin by introducing to you a gentleman who has made it a particular study to interest readers in the literature connected with events as they follow day by day.

MR. W. E. FOSTER, of the Providence Public Library, read his paper on "The School and the Library: their mutual relation."

THE PRESIDENT.—The lady who is now to address you hardly needs an introduction in this community, where she is known by her good deeds and that lively disposition that does not allow ideas to rust. She is the only lady who ever served a term on the Examining Committee of the Boston Public Library.

MRS. KATE GANNETT WELLS, of Boston, read her paper on "The Duty of Parents in the relation of Reading for the Young."

THE PRESIDENT.—The next is a gentleman who has exerted the thoughtfulness of a good citizen in many ways to improve our social economy. We ride the safer on our railways for him, and as Trustee of the Public Library of Quincy, in this state, the teachers and pupils of that ancient town have used their library more profitably for his labors.

MR. C. F. ADAMS, JR., read his paper on "Fiction in Libraries."

THE PRESIDENT.—Again we have a lady to counsel us, but this time the paper is to be read by the gentleman upon whom we were all so glad to see the Doctorate conferred the other day at Harvard, the Rev. Dr. Hale.

REV. E. E. HALE read the paper (with preface by himself) by MISS MARTHA H. BROOKS, of the Ladies' Unitarian Commission, on Sunday School Books, in which she gave an account of the work

of these ladies in recommending books for "Sunday School Libraries."

THE PRESIDENT.—A few years ago, when the question of annexing the town of Brookline to the municipality of Boston was agitated, the vote went against it in Brookline by the force of one argument largely, namely that it would relegate their librarian from an independent position to the office of a branch librarian of the Public Library of Boston. That favorite servant of Brookline I now introduce to you in the lady who directs the administration of that excellently managed library.

MISS MARY A. BEAN, of the Public Library of Brookline, read her paper on "The Evil of Unlimited Freedom in the Use of Juvenile Fiction."

THE PRESIDENT.—Now let us have the practical bearing of all this from the side of the teacher; and I beg to introduce to you the Master of one of our Boston schools.

MR. ROBERT C. METCALF, Master of Wells School, Boston, read his paper on "Reading in the Public Schools."

THE PRESIDENT.—The matter will now be summed up, so far as papers are concerned, by one abundantly able to do it. We who were in London remember how marked an impression his views made there.

MR. S. S. GREEN, of the Worcester Public Library, read his paper on "Sensational Fiction in Public Libraries."

The papers were followed by addresses and remarks from James Freeman Clarke, Col. T. W. Higginson, Prof. Wm. P. Atkinson, and Judge Mellen Chamberlain, of the Boston Public Library, which, with the papers in full, may be expected together in the ensuing issue of the LIBRARY JOURNAL.

THE PRESIDENT took the opportunity to appoint as the Committee on an Index to Subject-headings, Messrs. C. A. Cutter, F. B. Perkins, W. I. Fletcher, S. B. Noyes and R. R. Bowker.

The Conference then adjourned for the excursion to Deer Island tendered by the city of Boston.

THIRD SESSION.

(WEDNESDAY MORNING.)

The Conference again met in the Medical Library Hall, the meeting being called to order at 10.15 a. m.

THE PRESIDENT called attention to the chair he occupied and the table before him, reference having been made to them in his address. They had belonged to Panizzi, the great librarian of the British Museum, and were sent over for use on this occasion by Mr. Henry Stevens of London. It was

due to Collector Beard to say that the steamer which brought them arriving on Sunday, it was owing to his courtesy, that it had been possible to get them in position for our opening meeting, Monday morning.

He also announced that the Essex Institute, of Salem, would be glad to show their collections to any members of the Conference, and that Mr. Champney, of the Woburn Public Library, would be happy to have members of the Association visit the library buildings in that town. He conveyed a request from Mrs. Maxwell, Librarian of the Iowa State Library, asking advice as to the development of such a library. That institution has a very complete law department; it is desired to establish and complete other departments. She invited counsel as to whether it was best to extend them all gradually, or to fill them as completely as possible one by one.

THE SECRETARY read letters of regret from Mr. Jas. T. Clark, Advocates' Library, Edinburgh; Mr. Chas. Warren, of the Bureau of Education; Mr. Jas. Yates, of the Leeds Public Library, who was the English representative at the Philadelphia Conference, and Hon. Henry Barnard, of Hartford, editor of the *American Journal of Education* and a veteran library worker. The latter is as follows:

HARTFORD, CT., June 23, '79.

Dear Sir:—I shall be glad to avail myself of the courtesy extended by the Association to Periodicals to become a member of the Association, in the manner indicated in your circular of the 10th of June.

It is now 56 years since I served as assistant librarian, and made my first donation to the library of Monson Academy (in 1823 or 1824), and for two years served as librarian of the Linonian Society of Yale College—giving the little salary paid, back to the library in books to twice the amount, and during these two years, 1828–30, the library was increased in volumes more than it had been for twenty-five years before.

During my connection with the Legislature and the Common Schools of Connecticut in 1837–42, the District School Library system was established, and every library established in the state during that period (1838–42) owed its existence to offers of help made by me—and the power of establishing libraries by tax was given to every school society in the state.

During this period, the Young Men's Institute was established, the Robbins Library was secured to the Connecticut Historical Society, and the codicil by which the Watkinson Library was endowed was drafted by me.

During my sojourn in Rhode Island, I got up a library in every town in the state, and applied many of the methods now thought to be very useful in the selection of books and administration of libraries—such as having a catalogue of selection; a specimen library of nearly 2000 volumes to select from; a tract of 16 pages, devoted to Hints on Reading (of which over 50,000 copies have been printed at my expense), etc., etc. I have attended as a listener *three* of the meetings of the Association.

Yours truly,

HENRY BARNARD,

Editor and Publisher of *Am. Journal of Education*.

THE SECRETARY further read the following as a specimen of what he was receiving from editors in various parts of the country. The address and signature were not given, as it was evidently not intended for publication.

"I accept with thanks the proffered membership in your Association, though I see no prospect at present that I shall be able to avail myself of the pleasant opportunity presented at your annual meeting to hear intelligently discussed many matters in which I feel a warm interest. I have written an article concerning your Association and its objects, which I will send you to demonstrate that it is sympathy with the plan of your Association which leads me to accept the offer made in your circular, and not the mere fact that it is offered without cost.

"I should be most happy if I could stir up a sufficient interest to secure you several members from this city, and lead our people into a little more thought on the subject of libraries. We have no public one here, and our principal stock library is a mere collection of books shelved anyhow, practically unindexed, and presided over by a very nice old gentleman who meets the requirement of the Board (that of an honest janitor who can read and write), and no more."

COMMITTEE ON EXCHANGES OF DUPLICATES.

MR. JOHN EDMANDS, of the Philadelphia Mercantile Library, then presented the Report of the Committee on the Exchanges of Duplicates in Libraries:

The Committee appointed to consider the subject of effecting the exchange of duplicate books and pamphlets among libraries, beg leave to submit the following report of their failure to accomplish anything.

For a long time and in many libraries this accumulation of duplicates has been an embarrassment and a perplexity. With all reasonable care, such books will accumulate on the shelves by pur-

chase, and sometimes men will add to this stock by giving books which they do not value and do not wish to afford shelf-room. I should add here, however, that in Boston gifts are received that are *not* valueless, and sometimes institutions out of Boston are made the recipients of this generosity. Just before leaving Philadelphia, our library was laid under obligation by the receipt from Mrs. Dr. Pickering of the last work of her husband and his monument. I can explain this gift of hers only on the assumption of a true generosity and the fact that some of the best of his work was done in Philadelphia.*

But what is the character of these piles of books thus loading our shelves and our store-rooms? Some of them are valuable and not easily procurable. And if our inquiry related simply to these, the solution would not be difficult. But so far as I can judge, the great mass of this duplicate stock is of little value, not because it is duplicate, but because nobody wants it, either having it already or not regarding it as worth purchasing.

Among the methods proposed for distributing this stock are these two:

1. Make some large, centrally located library the medium and instrument of exchange.

2. Hire a suitable room or rooms at a cheap rate, and employ an experienced agent to conduct the business.

Under both of these plans each library would send to the depository whatever it did not wish to retain, and the receiving agent would assort, arrange and invoice the whole for sale or exchange. And libraries wishing anything from the depository could receive it by way of purchase or exchange on a fixed valuation.

A commission on all sales or exchanges must be charged to cover the cost of handling.

But to make either of these plans at all successful, there must be some way of informing librarians at a distance what books are in the depository, i. e., a list must be printed; or each one must travel to the place and carry his *card* catalog in his *pocket*, for no one except the ideal librarian can carry his catalog in his *head*.

And if this difficulty could be overcome, and some valuable and desirable books were disposed of, there would inevitably be a large accumulation of comparatively worthless stuff which ought in the first instance to have been sent to the paper-mill. The expense of transporting and re-handling this stuff, added to the fair cost of the exchanges actually made, would make an amount wholly dis-

* THE PRESIDENT explained that Mrs. Dr. Pickering had applied to Boston librarians to know to what libraries this monumental work of Dr. Pickering should be sent.

proportionate to the benefit gained. It would be better for each institution to dispose of its stock by ordinary advertising, or at auction, or at the paper-mill.

I know of no library that has the room requisite for the doing of this work, nor of any librarians who are ambitious of adding this to their present labor, even for the compensation that could be afforded.

A paid agent would hesitate to undertake it except on terms that would ensure him a certain profit; and he would be sure to conduct it in the way best calculated to benefit *him*.

Experience has shown that gaps in a library can seldom be filled from duplicate or second-hand stocks. The volume that you want is usually just the one that they do *not* have.

It is possible that in cities an arrangement might be made with a bookseller to receive on sale, at a fixed minimum price, the more valuable duplicates, and get his commission for selling in a given per cent. advance on this minimum, or he might be allowed the whole of this advance.

As the papyrograph and the electric pen come into more general use in libraries, brief title lists of the more valuable duplicates may, with little expense, be sent to other institutions, and so exchange or sale be effected.

Some time ago the *Publishers' Weekly* attempted something of this kind in behalf of the trade and of libraries by advertising *titles* for a commission on sales. Some of the first lists were quite long; the infrequent and small lists of late seem to show that the attempt is a failure.†

Some libraries have made advantageous exchanges of pamphlets in bulk and at a venture, giving 100 or 1000 for the same number in return, with the certainty that enough of those received would *not* be duplicates to make the exchange a benefit.

Obviously this plan is more likely to help the smaller library than the larger one.

This plan could hardly be used with books, except, perhaps, in libraries of nearly the same size. But with certain obvious limitations it may be found practicable.

Not having had opportunity for full personal interviews with the other members of the Committee, this report should be considered as giving the views of one person rather than of the whole Committee.

JOHN EDMANDS, Chairman.

† We are desired to state that the "Accommodation Department" of THE PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY was long ago given up, because the "commission on sales" did not even meet cost of printing titles, aside from the labor involved. The present lists referred to are advertisements on the ordinary basis.—Eds. L. J.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLISHERS' TITLE-SLIPS.

MR. R. R. BOWKER presented a verbal report for the Committee on Publishers' Title-Slips, substantially as follows:

The first plan of the Committee, which consisted of Prof. Winsor, Mr. Dewey, and myself, contemplated printing the titles of books on separate cards ready to slip into card catalogue drawers. This proved impracticable, partly because all libraries do not use the standard card, so that some called for an edition on thin slips for pasting, and partly because in handling so many individual slips the minute items of cost for each one would sum up to a total cost which could not be covered.

The present system, of the "Title-slip registry," which is sent as a supplement with each copy of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, as well as to individual subscribers, was devised to meet the practical difficulty of cost. The first cost of making the title-entries, according to the rules of the Library Association, of furnishing the notes, and of setting the type, is borne by the *Publishers' Weekly*, which has adopted this system for its weekly record of books. Proofs are then sent to Mr. Cutter and Mr. Dewey at Boston, who mark on books registered the proper headings and decimal numbers. To those publishers who desire to have their books treated in this way, a fee of \$1 per work is charged, for which an electrotype of the title-slip is furnished to them. Thirteen of the leading publishers agreed to this arrangement, but some are even now not disposed to keep it up. Despite the fact that the system costs only for the paper, printing and postage, these fees and the few individual subscribers have not, so far, been sufficient to make both ends meet.

The only way to make a permanent success here, as in the case of the LIBRARY JOURNAL and of all the coöperative enterprises, is for each librarian who is interested in the work to do his individual part toward putting them on a fair and square paying business basis. Those concerned in these enterprises have been perfectly content to do their share of the work gratuitously, but this cannot be depended upon indefinitely, and they cannot afford both to do the work for nothing and to pay losses out of their own pockets besides. The future success of all such branches of the Association's work rests upon the question whether librarians are willing to go home and give some work to interesting others as well as doing their own part.

MR. B. PICKMAN MANN, of Cambridge, Bibliographical editor of *Psyche*, was called out by the President as having a brief word to say in reference to the same subject, and introduced to

the Conference as the son of one whom they all honored, Horace Mann. Mr. Mann said:

"It is my object to call especial attention to an undertaking now carried on, which, as far as the present writer knows, had few predecessors, but seems to have given rise to several imitators. The Cambridge Entomological Club has been publishing for more than five years a periodical called "*Psyche*." Of the ordinary entomological portion of this periodical I need not speak. The distinctive feature of the publication has been the Bibliographical Record, which occupied 100 pages out of the 218 pages of text in the first three-year volume, and has occupied 92 out of the 248 pages in the present volume as far as published. An additional marked feature of the first volume is its two indexes, one systematic and the other alphabetical. The systematic index contains about 7000 references, and the alphabetical index contains about 3300 references, thus giving over 10,000 references to a book of 218 pages.

"The object of this record is to give an account, bibliographical and topical, of every book and article published in North America upon entomology, or published anywhere about North American entomology since the end of the year 1873. The first volume contained 715 citations, and the second volume thus far has contained 472. The arrangements made for the third volume insure the publication of about three times as many references to the volume as in the preceding volumes.

"In addition to this regular publication by the Cambridge Entomological Club, the present editor-in-chief has contributed, at his own expense, as fly-leaves, a bibliography of the entomological writings of our chief American entomologist, Dr. J. L. Le Conte, comprising 152 titles, another of the entomological writings of Dr. G. H. Horn, 80, and is now publishing a bibliography of all the writings upon any subject by Mr. S. H. Scudder, 183. The bibliography of Le Conte's writings was printed upon catalogue cards, in accordance with A. L. A. rules, and was the first publication of the kind."

In the temporary absence of Mr. J. W. M. Lee, of the Mercantile Library, Baltimore, Chairman of the Committee on the Distribution of Public Documents, Mr. S. S. GREEN stated that the Committee had not yet been able to reach a satisfactory result, and an extension of time was granted to the Committee.

MR. W. B. CLARKE, of Boston, was then introduced as both a bookseller and one concerned in library management, and read his paper on "Book-thieving and Mutilation."

(See p. 249.)

INSECT PESTS.

THE PRESIDENT.—There are many pests in libraries. There is your unreasonable, unbending librarian, who makes enemies of the library's best friends, the public, and also continues in all ways to torment his staff. There is your officious trustee, a manager, director, committee man, or what you will,—who never knows his place; who sells you haberdashery at 10 o'clock on the main street, and at 12 plots mischief in your library board. There is the free American citizen, who, by virtue of reading a few books, thinks he knows vastly more than you of how to take care of many. There is your cat-footed prowler, who misplaces the cards in your catalogue drawers. There are those who mutilate your books, those who steal them, and, alas! those who eat them; and it is of these minim pests that we are now to learn something from our friend, Dr. Hagen.

DR. H. A. HAGEN, Professor of Entomology in Harvard University, then read his paper on "Insect Pests in Libraries."

(See p. 251.)

Dr. Hagen added that both Mr. P. R. Uhler, from Baltimore, and the librarian at Natick, Mass., assured him that the white paper slips glued on the backs of books are often eaten by a species of *Lepisma* described by Th. Say. He recommended the use of pure starch paste in the binding of books to obviate such difficulties.

Mr. Weston Flint, of the Patent Office Library, Washington, showed *new* cloth books, in which the binding was discolored in spots by the depredation of insects.

Mr. Langworthy described an insect which seemed different from any noted by Dr. Hagen.

Mr. Scudder exhibited a volume belonging to the collection of the Society of Natural History in Boston, said to be injured by insects. The kind of the holes in the book were entirely new to Dr. Hagen, who stated that he knew of no insect able to make such holes.

LIBRARY VENTILATION.

THE PRESIDENT.—We librarians, by virtue of practice these three years past, have contrived to learn how to ventilate our ideas; and how to ventilate our libraries we shall soon know, when Dr. Lincoln has informed us.

DR. DAVID F. LINCOLN, of Boston, read his paper on "Ventilation of Library Buildings," illustrating it by diagrams of the hall in which the session was held, the provisions for the ventilation of which had been made under his direction.

(See p. 254.)

Mr. Dewey asked the cost of ventilating the Medical Library Hall on this plan. Dr. Lincoln replied that the cost of fitting was inconsiderable, but the cost of fuel was doubtless much increased.

Mr. Capen asked for a plan to ventilate the Boston Public Library, and Dr. Lincoln mentioned several plans proposed as palliatives—the encasing of the circular stairways as flues, for one.

CONTAGION IN LIBRARIES.

THE PRESIDENT.—There is contagion in libraries, to be sure,—to wit, enthusiasm, or we should not be here. There are also snakes in Ireland, as the famous chapter heading goes, and pretty much of the same import is, in my opinion, the chapter we are now to listen to.

MR. W. F. POOLE, of the Public Library, Chicago, read his paper on "The Spread of Contagious Diseases by Circulating Libraries."

(See p. 258.)

MR. CAPEN, of Haverhill, formerly of the Boston Public Library, cited the case of a book taken from the bed of a small-pox patient, which, after proper fumigation by the janitor of the latter library, was returned to the library, and no person suffered from it.

THE SECRETARY reported an invitation from the Bunker Hill Monument Association, inviting members to visit it,—the fee being remitted,—and offered from the Association copies of the monument memorial volume to any libraries represented that did not possess copies.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS.

The discussion on Library Buildings came next on the programme.

THE PRESIDENT.—I had occasion to address a club of gentlemen the past winter, and exercising a librarian's prerogatives, I talked of the shop, and told them that of all the buildings in the United States, fitted to hold conveniently a very large library, that which, in my judgment, was the typical one, was owned by the Boston and Providence Railroad Corporation,—their admirable station in this city. That building is built a little irregularly to conform to the ground; but taking it in its broad indications, I sketch it thus: *

The main body or head house, over 200 feet long, I would convert into the public and official working quarters of the library; this is two stories high, the lower one lofty. What is now the main waiting hall, lighted by a lanterned roof, would serve for the grand delivery room. On either side are reading rooms, large and small, to be fitted up

* See plate of diagrams.

in detail as required. Over these, the official quarters and work-rooms, all opening on a balcony, indicated by the dotted line, and which overlooks the grand hall, and communicates with the stack-room or train-house. This last extension, of which you see the section, and which may be continued indefinitely, is, as built, about 600 feet long and 130 feet wide, external dimensions. I would leave a 30 feet passage down the middle, open to the roof, for light, and for running the endless belts, which are to be kept in constant motion by hydraulic power, carrying boxes into which the books are put by pages on the different floors, these boxes inclining automatically, and delivering the books into cushioned receptacles near the desk, where the attendants take them and serve them over the counter. The books are called by numbers, a key-board at the counter working an annunciator, which gives the information to the pages waiting on the various levels. The transverse cases to be two feet eight inches apart, eight feet high; the floors to be glass; the side-walls to be as much of glass as possible, and also the roof. Tables to be placed between the lateral walls and the ends of the cases, for convenience of work at the shelves.

A stack-room of the size of the present train-house could be made to hold, conveniently, near four millions of volumes, all, by means of mechanical appliances, practically close adjacent to the points of delivery. The building cost \$800,000, and might cost something more, converted to this purpose. That building round the corner which holds the public library of Boston cost half as much, and holds an eighth part of the books, and inconveniently at that. The new building of the Ridge-way Branch in Philadelphia cost, I believe, nearly as much as this Providence Station, and will hold one-tenth of the books.

I throw out what I have said simply as a guiding idea, to indicate what I hope will be the conditions under which a librarian may be called upon to administer large libraries in the future. The same principles adapted to narrower conditions of purse and more contracted limits of books, of every degree downward, may still obtain advantageously, as I believe, in the planning of all library structures, where there is to be large use by many people not known to the librarian.

The President called on Mr. Poole, of Chicago, to give his views on the subject.

MR. POOLE.—I did not expect to engage in this discussion, though it is a subject in which I have a deep interest, and on which I have some positive opinions. I intended to listen to, and be instructed by, the eminent architects present, who have given

special attention to library construction. You are aware, Mr. President, that I expressed my views on the architecture of circulating libraries at the conferences in New York and London. The sketch which you have drawn on the black-board, and your remarks concerning it, take us beyond the practical wants of the bulk of the libraries here represented—libraries of from 10,000 to 75,000 volumes—to the construction of a library building for 500,000, a million, or even more volumes, of which, perhaps, three or four will be needed in this country during the next fifty years.

The discussion is none the less interesting on that account. Our largest library structures are the most faulty; and there is danger that in new buildings the old and confessed faults will be perpetuated. I know of no better rule to be observed, in the library architecture of the future, than this: "Avoid every thing that pertains to the plan and arrangement of the conventional American library building." The same rule applies with equal force to the English and continental style, from which the faults of our own library architecture were copied—an immense hall, fifty or sixty feet high, surrounded with tiers, galleries where the bindings perish with heat, and to which attendants must climb for books which ought to be within reach on the working floors. The vast open space, surrounded by Corinthian columns, may serve the purpose of architectural decoration, but it is useless and wasted for library purposes. A more unfavorable condition for quiet study can hardly be conceived than the marble floor of this open space, with fifty feet of emptiness over head, and crowds of visitors and patrons of the library tramping by. It is like attempting to study in Scollay Square, or in a mall of Boston Common.

I cannot see, Mr. President, in the sketch of the ground plan of the "Boston and Providence Railroad Station," which you have placed before us, as the plan of a model library building, how the objections which I have named are to be avoided. It is the barn arrangement again repeated, with its hay-mows and threshing floor. I never differ with you, sir, in library matters without a serious questioning of my own judgment; but I must confess that my reflections on this subject have led me to results very different from yours, and these I will state as briefly as I can.

The problem we are considering is the construction of a building for a library which, it is probable, will in fifty years contain a million volumes, and more as years roll on. A collection of that size must necessarily be a reference library, and I shall so consider it. The plan I am to suggest will admit of the addition of a circulating department as

a separate feature, but that I need not now consider. My first condition would be that a lot of land ample in size should be secured. It should be an entire block or square, of say six hundred feet, with streets on the four sides. If it be objected that such a lot in a city is expensive, the reply is that a library of a million volumes, and all that concerns it, are expensive; and to build on an insufficient and cramped lot is to entail upon the future the embarrassments under which the Boston Public Library is now struggling. There is public land in most cities that can be procured for such a purpose. I have time to give only an outline of the building I would construct.

In the middle of the side most appropriate for the main entrance, I would place the central structure, which would contain the offices of the librarian and the heads of the departments, the catalogues, the general works of reference, and where the business of the library would be transacted. The books of the library would be stored, not, as now, in one general repository, but in a series of rooms thrown out as wings and connected with the central building. These rooms would be not more than sixteen feet high, and as wide as could be well lighted by side windows. The wings would be carried only two stories high, and top-lights would not be needed. Each of these rooms would contain the books on a special subject, or, in the early stage of growth, several related subjects. One room would be devoted to Fine Arts, and would have the proper arrangements and appliances for keeping and showing illustrated works. Another room would contain the Mechanic Arts, Patent Publications, etc., with special arrangements for the same. Another room would contain History, and when the library had become large, perhaps American History only. The student would find the works on Political Economy and Social Science in another room, and so on through the different classifications of knowledge. These rooms would have no galleries, for galleries I hold to be a pest and a nuisance. The books would be shelved in cases open on both sides, not higher than a person of full stature could reach without steps or ladders, and placed as near together as will allow free access and light between them. The conventional plan of alcoves, as well as galleries, would be discarded. In each room there would be tables and the conveniences for quiet study, and with an attendant in charge, who would have an opportunity to become thoroughly acquainted with the books in his department, and competent to aid students in their investigations. Additional wings would be constructed from time to time as the library grew and

they were needed, but always in harmonious relations with the central structure, which would have the only public entrance to the building. In time the wings would extend around the whole lot, and would radiate through the inner space, with only distance enough between them to admit sufficient light to the lower stories. If the outer range of wings were carried three stories high, they would cut off the light from the interior ranges, or require them to be placed further apart. There would, therefore, be little or no economy in carrying the wings more than two stories high. The central structure, the corners, and perhaps a middle section of each of the three sides might be carried up three stories, which would furnish rooms for cataloguing and miscellaneous work, and also add to the architectural effect of the whole structure by breaking up the lines of front. In all cases I would hold architectural effect subsidiary to the practical uses of the library—in other words, would build around my books. The rooms for the deposit of books would need little or no architectural decoration. All the expense for ornamentation could be put upon the exterior, the central structure and the corners. It is hardly necessary to add that the entire building should be constructed of practically fire-proof materials. I have thus sketched, in outline, the main features of the plan which I have had under consideration, and that is all that our limited time for discussion enables me to do. I may, at some future time, take occasion to consider the details and relative cost of carrying out this plan. I here leave the subject for others to discuss.

MR. HENRY VAN BRUNT, of Ware & Van Brunt, Boston, the architect of the extension of the Harvard University Library, was called upon by the President, and responded more briefly than the Conference desired. By special request, he has written out his opinions more fully, as follows:

I conceive that I shall make the most acceptable use of the opportunity afforded by your invitation if I base what I have to say less upon speculation than upon professional experience, which certainly is the safest, if not the most picturesque and interesting stand-point from which to view a practical question like this.

The architect, when called upon to study this subject, cannot but recognize at the outset that there is involved in it one point of construction and design paramount to all others, viz.: how to provide accommodation for a great accumulation of books in such a manner that the utmost compactness of storage shall be made consistent with the most convenient classification, with accessibility, equality of temperature, abundance of light, com-

plete security from dampness and from fire, and with provisions for the indefinite enlargement of the collection in any department without unnecessary waste of space. To meet these difficult requirements with due economy of construction and with a respectful independence of the traditions of architectural style, but with a proper regard for the essential qualities of architectural expression, there is made upon the resources of invention in planning and constructing, a demand far more exacting than is felt in providing for any other department of the building. For to secure proper facilities for the administration of the library, with all its subordinate services of distribution and delivery, of cataloguing, bibliography, etc., to provide reading-rooms for the public and studies for scholars, galleries for books of reference and special collections, all this of course complicates the question more or less, but requires from the architect no very unusual effort of design.

It is probable that the part of the problem which is concerned with the storage or stacking of the books never yet met with a perfectly satisfactory solution. I believe the provisions made in the British Museum, and by the accomplished M. Labrouste in his late additions to the National Library at Paris, are necessarily adapted to the accommodation of certain existing conditions of service, or traditions of practice in those monumental collections. For our own use these precedents can afford useful hints indeed, but the purposes for which mainly our own public libraries are established are new to the world of literature and books, and materially affect the question under consideration. For the continued rapid and prompt delivery of books in all departments, and the corresponding return of them to their proper shelves without confusion, as required in libraries established for popular use, imply an especial need for arrangements securing the greater accessibility of the books and for mechanical appliances for their transmission, both horizontally and vertically. We have to provide also for accessions much more rapid than has been customary hitherto, and for frequent enlargement of special departments by gift and bequest. It may be fairly assumed that these new conditions are a continual inspiration for new contrivances of accommodation, varying according to local requirements and means, and, in the aggregate, showing a natural advance towards perfection through experience. It has been suggested to-day that the ideal library can only be realized by forgetting all these results of experience and by beginning anew, as all that has been done is fundamentally erroneous. Obviously, such a method of progression, if not unscientific, would be wasteful in the extreme. Doubtless

we made a false start by endeavoring to adapt our large public collections to the traditional architectural library halls surrounded by chapel-like alcoves in several open stories (an arrangement excellent for small and for social libraries) but examples are not wanting in more recent structures wherein there has been exhibited an absolute freedom from such embarrassing precedents as this, and a direct development of form and structure from necessity.

Among these I venture to refer you to the new wing of Gore Hall, the Library of Harvard University, which I understand you are to visit this afternoon. I refer to this, not because it is a perfect adaptation of means to ends, but because it marks a distinct intention of progress towards such a result, and because I am in part responsible for it, and for that reason better fitted, perhaps, to explain as an architect the conditions under which it was developed. In this construction the architects had the advantage of constant coöperation and advice from the authorities of the University, and were enabled thus to work, through experience, directly towards a practical end.

The old library is a structure of granite, fashioned somewhat in the form of a chapel in the English Gothic of the 14th century, as this style was imperfectly understood some fifty years ago. It is about 85 feet long and 45 feet wide, and within has a narrow nave lighted by large pointed windows at each end; this nave is flanked by grouped shafts sustaining a plaster imitation of Tudor groining in the roof. Between these shafts, and occupying the usual position of the aisles, is the common old-fashioned arrangement of book-alcoves, in two stories. The building was very much overcrowded and sadly needed more space. The new problem was to build a wing or east transept, about 40 feet wide and about 100 feet long, arranged to accommodate, in the part adjoining the old building, a central delivery room, with the catalogue cases, and, beyond this, a large book room, 36 feet by 70 feet, to contain as many volumes as could be stacked in such a space, fulfilling at the same time the conditions of accessibility, equality of temperature, abundance of light, convenience of classification and security from fire and dampness,—conditions which, as I have stated should be fundamental in such constructions. The new wing was also to contain ample accommodations for the librarian and for his numerous assistants in the bibliographical department. The only architectural embarrassment to which the architects were subjected was the obvious necessity of establishing a certain conformity of exterior between the old and new work.

I propose to direct your attention only to the book-room, as exhibiting an attempt to meet conditions which are of general occurrence in all large libraries. This, as I have said, is a room 36 feet wide by 70 feet long, its side-walls being a series of piers or buttresses, with windows occupying the whole of the spaces between them. The room is lined with brick throughout, with an air space between the lining and the outward wall; this brick forms the interior finish of the room. The roof is of concrete fire-proof blocks laid upon iron rafters, with a ceiling of hollow slabs of the same material hung three inches below. It has at the ridge a continuous sky-light of Hayes' patent, and ample ventilating shafts at the ends. The entire area of this room is occupied by transverse courses of shelving, facing in two directions with alleys between, two feet four inches wide, so arranged as to receive the light from the side windows at either end of each alley, the piers or buttresses between the windows coinciding with the shelving. A passage of sufficient width is carried around against the outside walls. The shelving is supported on a series of iron skeleton uprights, two feet wide and three feet apart, extending the whole height of the building, each having foundation on a short brick pier in the basement. These piers also sustain a floor of North River stone slabs, about four feet above the concrete cellar floor. This space is left open so as to permit a free circulation of air between the earth and the floor, and to prevent dampness from arising. The vertical height of fifty feet from this floor to the concrete ceiling is divided into six stories, each seven feet high, by open iron gratings or foot-plates, carried along the alleys and passages and bolted to the iron uprights, thus forming continuous floors. There are iron stairs at either end, and lifts in each corner for books. Horizontal railways for barrows or sliding boxes may be established on each floor. The iron uprights also sustain the weight of the roof. Each shelf is of wood, thoroughly oil-filled and shellacked, a foot wide and three feet long, resting upon movable galvanized iron hooks adjusted to notches cast in the uprights.*

It seems impossible by any other system to secure the safe and accessible storage of a greater number of books in a given space. Thus this area of 89,000 cubic feet accommodates 263,000 volumes, an average of ten (10) to each running foot of shelving space. The absolute similarity of divisions and subdivisions on each floor offers all needful facilities for defining the locality of every volume by the usual system of numbering, and at least presents no obstacle to classification. In the contingency of any one department of literature overcrowding

* See *American Architect* for Nov. 23, 1878. Plates.

the space allotted to it, this recurrence of similar divisions and subdivisions, both in horizontal and in vertical directions, seems to offer sufficient opportunity for the necessary expansion without the confusion, which is inevitable when the latest acquisitions have to be bestowed in distant parts of the library, as is the case with the ordinary methods of book-stacking. Thus, if we suppose this great mass of shelving space, divided into cubic spaces or blocks, and every alternate cubic space allotted to a special division of literature, leaving the others vacant, there remains an opportunity for the enlargement of each division at least in four directions, upwards, downwards, and horizontally, without exposing the collection to the obvious embarrassments of geographical separation. Ordinary arrangements, so far as I am aware, do not offer such advantages—at least, not in so great a degree; and the expedient of movable book-cases, in use at Oxford, and noted by Mr. Winsor, implies waste of space, an accumulation of combustible material, and other inconveniences which seem to me sufficiently apparent.

The device of open flooring facilitates the distribution of light, diminishes the weight of constructive material, and renders it easy to maintain an equality of temperature throughout while confining the circulation of radiating steam pipes to the lower story. The end walls are occupied by ventilating or exhaust shafts. It would be strange if the practical use of this book-room for two years has not suggested to the accomplished librarian in charge various ameliorations of structure and arrangement. I am not informed as to what improvements he finds desirable and practicable, nor, on the other hand, have any complaints touching any essential points reached my ears. This attempt to solve the most difficult point in the construction of libraries is therefore offered as a convenient point of departure for further developments towards perfection. It is to be observed that in this structure no sacrifice of convenience or economy has been made for the sake of any architectural pretence. The external aspects of the building are a legitimate growth from necessity, and have been adjusted so as to secure a proper and decent harmony of proportions and a just significance of detail, no more and no less.

A dry and fire-proof book-room, such as I have described, accommodating 263,000 volumes, may, at present prices, be built for between \$20,000 and \$30,000. The administrative and working force required to organize and make useful such a collection of books must of course require ample additional accommodation. It is difficult to offer any useful type for this essential and central por-

tion of a library building; it is a part of the problem which must be governed by local conditions, by the amount of money available, by the character and shape of the ground to be occupied, and by various other circumstances which must give individuality to each case. A public library should occupy a central, accessible space in the town, and it is not to be assumed that areas of indefinite extent are available in which to build ideal libraries. I have simply attempted to explain a structure in which has been secured what seems to me the greatest degree of economy as regards space, material, and cost yet attained in the fire-proof and damp-proof stacking of books for the uses of a public library.

How such a structure may be adapted in the form of wings to a complete library building of the first class is indicated in the accompanying diagram* which may serve to suggest arrangements compatible with various conditions of service. In this example, each fire-proof wing, at present rates, would cost about \$25,000, and the central portion, to which properly a more distinctly architectural character should be given, about \$50,000. The book-rooms should be separated from the central building by fire-proof walls, and entered only from the bibliographical and librarian's department. It is to be observed that every additional 4' 4" of length to each book-room will enlarge its capacity by 18,720 volumes. The book elevators at AA communicate with every floor of the book-rooms, and may be connected at each floor with horizontal railways; these elevators deposit their contents upon the delivery counter, where their titles may be conveniently entered upon the books of the library, and where they may be promptly delivered to the applicant without confusion or delay. In the second story of this central building may be arranged the public reading-room, a reference library, and rooms for special collections, with access by stairs and passenger lift.

MR. R. A. GUILD, of Brown University, was the next speaker. He heartily commended the paper presented by Dr. Lincoln. The principles which he so clearly developed found a complete illustration in the new library building of Brown University,† erected through the munificence of the late Mr. John Carter Brown. The air in that building is introduced in the east, west and north wings, being first heated by coils of steam pipe. The cold air is drawn down through four ventilators in the centre into eight ventilating shafts in the north wing, these shafts being heated by gas and steam. The

result for the past year has been perfect ventilation and equal temperature throughout the building. The amount of coal required for this purpose has been about seventy tons. In regard to a remark by Mr. Poole, that architects never consulted librarians in the construction of library buildings, Mr. Guild stated that his own case was certainly an exception. Mr. Gould, who drafted the plans for the building at Brown, first came to him, as librarian, to know what was wanted. He gave the architect his views in detail, and then advised him to examine the new library at Princeton, giving him a letter of introduction for this purpose to Mr. Vinton, the librarian. The result is a building perfectly well lighted, warmed and ventilated; with shelving for one hundred and fifty thousand volumes, and capable of enlargement; with reference books and reading tables in the centre, and with wings admirably adapted for the classification of books in the several alcoves. Mr. Guild explained in brief his system of classification, and closed by giving a cordial invitation to the members of the Association to visit him in his new official abode.

MR. FREDERICK VINTON, of Princeton College, said: My friend, Mr. Poole, has anticipated much of what I was about to say as to the advantages in library construction of a large circular building in the centre, to be surrounded, as occasion may require, by rectangular edifices communicating with it. I have long thought that would be the arrangement desirable for the proposed library at Washington. To many minds this would be a ready suggestion from the great reading-room of the British Museum. That admirable structure well accomplishes the purpose for which it was designed, affording ample space for a great body of readers, sitting in the midst of a vast collection of the reference books which they are sure to need while prosecuting research. But, if that grand hall, with its present arrangement, were employed for the ordinary purposes of a library department, it would be found eminently inconvenient, and profusely wasteful of labor and time.

Suppose the British Museum were a lending library, and the whole population of London were accustomed to resort to it, in any such proportion as the people of our New England cities and towns, on Saturdays, in the winter season. It would be impossible, from such a building, to supply their wants. No army of attendants could bring and carry away the books which that enormous circulation would imply. Expanding the apartment would only increase the difficulty, by enlarging the distance to be traversed. The walls of that room, 140 feet in diameter, sheathed with shelves to the height of twenty feet, afford space for only 90,000 volumes.

* See plate of diagrams.

† For description see LIBRARY JOURNAL, v. 3, p. 47.

But in the pages of the LIBRARY JOURNAL for October, 1877, I can show you the description of a circular library apartment, of only sixty feet internal diameter, in which may be stored more than 100,000 volumes, with abundant space to spare. What is the difference in arrangement? The book shelves at Princeton stand like the spokes of a wheel, starting from the wall, but stopping fifteen feet from the centre. The library room of the College of New Jersey is, in my judgment, a model of economical employment of space. As it was finished before I went to Princeton, I can praise it without immodesty. In it every great department of knowledge is lodged at an equal distance with every other from the desk at the centre. Circular arrangements always afford facilities for reducing distances; rectangular involve corresponding disadvantages.

Let us now imagine this Princeton arrangement adopted in the construction of a much larger building; such an one, for instance, as will be necessary for the new library at Washington. Let us suppose a circular building erected 150 feet in diameter, and a central space, clear of shelving, sixty feet wide, reserved for desks and office business. What remains for the cuneiform shelving is then ninety feet, or forty-five each side, for alcoves extending from the wall toward the centre. If these alcoves were four feet eight inches wide nearest the centre, they would be twelve feet wide at the wall. This enlargement might be utilized for tables, or be occupied by other book-cases on the wall, or advancing from it. And, in order to avoid an unseemly clustering of shelving near the centre, let each alternate spoke be shortened six feet, or twelve feet, as might seem best. There would be forty such alcoves, each forty-five feet deep, containing on its two sides ninety feet of shelving at the same level. If each tier of shelves consisted of *ten*, the whole alcove would have 900 feet of shelving. Forty alcoves would have 36,000 feet. Suppose ten volumes to fill one foot of shelving; the entire ground floor would hold 360,000 volumes, more than the library of Congress now contains. The second floor might soon be necessary; but the higher ones might not be needed in our century. Three floors would receive 1,080,000 volumes. The whole should be covered with a glass roof, affording ample light, to be admitted or excluded by awnings. The numerous points of support, afforded by such an arrangement, would allow superfluous strength. Such a building, largely consisting of glass and iron, would not be costly; but stone walls and a lofty dome might give it grandeur and dignity.

If such a building, or one much larger, stood in the midst of an intelligent community, numerous as that of London, a separate office for distribution

might be established at the outward end of each alcove, and 40,000 volumes be received and dispersed in a single day.

MR. LUTHER FARNHAM, of the General Theological Library, Boston, said:

I came here to learn, not to teach; and yet I cannot refrain from expressing my special interest in the question of library architecture. This interest has arisen in part from the fact that I have been engaged for the last eight months, in connection with "the Committee on Procuring a Building," to secure a suitable edifice for the General Theological Library of Boston. The Committee have not acted, owing to the difficulties in the way of adapting a building erected for other purposes to those of a public library, even if one could be found in the right situation, at a proper cost. Nor have they proceeded to purchase a large piece of land, with a view of erecting a single wing of the proposed building, hoping to complete it as wanted, owing to the cost of the land and that of holding it for future use. In the country, where land is cheap, this seems to be the true idea; and even in Boston, the Museum of Fine Arts, where this Association was so politely received last evening, have acted upon it, since the two portions of the structure already erected at different times only occupy one-fourth part of the land already purchased by the Trustees for the edifice when entirely completed. Such a plan was recommended to the General Theological Library seventeen years ago by Prof. Longfellow, of Cambridge, who saw a library in Germany that was built in this manner, and somewhat in the form of a two-story square house,—one room being devoted to history, a second to biography, a third to theology, a fourth to English literature, etc.; and as many further rooms to be added, as needed. So far as I have studied the subject, this seems to me to be the best plan where the price of land is not too dear; and where land is quite cheap, I would only have the structure one story high, to avoid the ascending and descending of stairs, so laborious to librarians and comers to libraries as well.

Thus I am disposed to approve, in general, of the remarks of Mr. Poole, who has just taken his seat. Though his plans are not quite perfected, and may need modification, they give us important suggestions as to the model library structure of the future. After an experience of twenty years as librarian, I am convinced that as yet we have no model library building. It is a question of the first importance, and much of the attention of the American Library Association may be profitably given to it for the next five years.

MR. M. D. GILMAN, of the Vermont Historical Library, asked the names of good library architects.

THE PRESIDENT appointed as a Committee on Resolutions, Messrs. Guild, Uhler and Crunden, and as a Committee on Nominations for Executive Board, Messrs. Edmands, Peoples and Flint.

The Conference then adjourned.

FOURTH SESSION.

[WEDNESDAY EVENING.]

The fourth session was called to order by the President, in the Medical Library Hall, at 8 P. M.

COMMITTEE ON COÖPERATIVE CATALOGUING.

MR. C. A. CUTTER presented the report of the Committee on Coöperative Cataloguing. The Committee, whose *personel* had been mistakenly given in the programme, consisted of Messrs. C. A. Cutter, A. R. Spofford, S. S. Green, J. N. Dyer, and L. E. Jones.

Mr. Cutter said substantially:—The Committee on Coöperative Cataloging were directed "to digest a code, which shall stand as the recommendation of this Association until otherwise ordered," and they therefore published a code of "Condensed Rules for Cataloging" in the LIB. JOURNAL, 3: 12-20. The Association have it now in their power to propose alterations.

No alterations were proposed.*

COMMITTEE ON POOLE'S INDEX.

MR. WILLIAM F. POOLE made a verbal report for the Committee on Poole's Index, substantially as follows:

IN our statement of the progress of the work on the new edition of the "Index to Periodical Literature," which appeared in the May issue of the LIBRARY JOURNAL, we reported that five-sixths of the indexing allotted to about seventy-five libraries in this country and in England had been sent in, had been revised by the editors, and that the work of arranging the material had commenced. Other contributions have since been received, and in correspondence with the collaborators whose work is outstanding, we have the assurance that it is nearly completed, and will soon be delivered.

The librarians who have undertaken this work, often at great personal inconvenience, have faithfully executed it; and up to this time we know of no instance where one has failed to fulfill his en-

* Mr. Cutter proposed that M: should be used for Matthew rather than for Mark, but such urgent remonstrances have been made to him since the meeting, representing the confusion which any change will make in the catalogs of those who have used the list of colon abbreviations, that he withdraws the suggestion.

gagement, except from sickness or other unavoidable cause. In a few such instances other librarians have assumed the work, or we have done it ourselves. The complete success of the coöperative plan, suggested at the first conference at Philadelphia, and developed in the original circular of the Committee, without a change or a modification, is now fully assured.

Our Association had made a good record if it had done nothing else than make this practical test of what can be accomplished by coöperation, which is the central idea of our organization. When our American plan was laid before the English librarians at the London Conference, they fully recognized the importance of the object we had in view, but they had no confidence in our method of accomplishing it. Our friend, Mr. Robert Harrison, of the London Library, expressed this feeling when he said, "he regretted to throw a damper on the project, for he greatly prized Mr. Poole's index—but he had no faith in the plan of employing gratuitous labor for such a purpose. He thought it would lead to failure." Mr. Harrison, on further reflection, has changed his opinion, and is now chairman of the English Committee, who are doing all they can to promote the enterprise. Instead of being gratuitous labor, it was found to be the most profitable and effective work a librarian could do. By indexing one or more serials, and sending in the references, he had them returned to him arranged, printed and embodied with the similar work of seventy-five other librarians. It is something in the line of progress that the principle of coöperation in library work is now established as a permanent policy.

In the matter of indexing, as of cataloguing, there has been a great diversity of opinions as to systems and methods. It is the occasion of congratulation that there now seems to be entire harmony as to the plan on which the new edition of the index shall be made. Every one who wished to state his opinion has had the opportunity to do so in the LIBRARY JOURNAL. We have had a Symposium (without the *Ποσις*), and have come out of it in sober and substantial agreement. The paper on "Indexing," read by Mr. Fletcher, my associate editor, seems to meet the views of us all, and the Committee have had no occasion to change their original plan. While all have done their work well, it is due to the ladies, who have taken their share of indexing, that we should state that theirs is among the best of the work that has been sent in—the neatest in penmanship, the most accurate in details and in conformity to the Committee's rules, and requiring the least revision.

I have the pleasure of announcing that the new

edition of the Index will be published by Houghton, Osgood & Co., of Boston. I seem to read in the faces of all present the interrogatory "When?" If I had such information as would enable me to give a definite answer, I would do so, but I have not. I can only reply, I do not know, and it is not possible till the work is more advanced to make even a reasonable guess. I fully appreciate the intense interest of librarians and others to be possessed of a copy of the new edition, but I have so much self-respect that I will not make a promise that I have not a reasonable expectation that I can fulfill. The volume will probably contain five or six times the matter of the former edition, and the work will be pushed forward as fast as possible. When our material is all together, we shall be able to make an estimate as to the time of publication, the size and cost, and it will be announced in the LIBRARY JOURNAL. Till then any statement on the subject is guess-work, and any person can guess about it as well as the editors.

It is the intention to bring the references to current periodicals down to January 1, 1880, an even decimal period, and to stop there. The librarians who have taken these serials to index will please send in the references to that date as soon as they conveniently can.

LIBRARY LEGISLATION.

DR. H: A. HOMES, New York State Librarian, then read his paper on "Legislation for Public Libraries."

(See p. 262.)

DR. HOMES followed his paper with the report of the Committee on Library Legislation:

The Committee appointed to consider the subject of suitable legislation for public town libraries submit the following report:

This topic was first presented at the Librarians' Conference of September, 1877, in the paper read by Mr. Poole, entitled "State legislation in the matter of libraries." * In consequence of the interest manifested during the discussion which ensued, this Committee was appointed. A similar desire for the multiplication of town libraries was exhibited at the British Librarians' Conference in October, 1878, in the adoption of the following resolution:

"That the Council be recommended to take opportunities of influencing public opinion in favor of the Public Libraries' Act, and also to obtain government aid to meet local funds raised for library and museum purposes." †

This promotion of the extension of town libra-

* LIBRARY JOURNAL, vol. 2, p. 22.

† Conference of Brit. Lib., 1878.

ries was frequently alluded to in the American Conference as of the nature of "missionary work."

In the discussions of the Committee, by correspondence and conference, as to the best provisions of state law for town libraries, two questions have presented themselves which seemed to be of more importance than all the rest: One was the question whether towns should be restricted by statute to a maximum rate of taxation for the annual expenditure for the library; and the second, whether the state law should define and describe the government of the library, and who should have the control of the funds.

It was admitted with regard to the first question, that towns vary much both in their wealth and their readiness to raise money; and that the same town would in a succession of years vary also in its means, and in its readiness to use them for library purposes. It was urged that a uniform restriction deprives towns, able and willing to raise a generous sum for a library, of the opportunity to do so. And in the case of a small town, the restriction does not allow it to purchase yearly a sufficient number of books to make the library an object of general interest. Yet the small towns, not having so many necessary occasions for taxation as the larger towns, might naturally desire to spend more on such a useful institution as the library. The restriction seemed to tend to perpetuate the same evil which broke down the school-district libraries — too few books to sustain an interest in them.

It was answered to this view, that by fixing the restriction at a generous maximum, instead of a narrow one, the objections of the timid taxpayer would be sufficiently met, while within that limit, towns varying in size, wealth and zeal might find abundant opportunity to vary their own appropriations from year to year. While most of the Eastern States have abandoned the restriction, most of the Western, if not all of them, retain it. On the other hand, the hope was expressed by some, that if the law should name a minimum of taxation on some principle of rating, below which the sum annually to be raised should not fall, the library interest might be sufficiently protected.

At present most of the states grant power to the towns to raise twice as much the first year to found a library, as they are allowed to raise the following years to maintain it. Connecticut, New York and Vermont allow 50 cents a year to be raised for each legal voter. Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Rhode Island and Wisconsin allow a one-mill tax on the dollar of valuation. Illinois allows also of a two-mill tax on the dollar for the smaller towns, and of one-fifth of a mill tax for cities having over 100,000 inhabitants. Ohio allows one-tenth of a mill tax in towns, and

one-half of a mill in cities. Indianapolis, under a special law, has a tax of five mills on every hundred dollars of valuation, which gives to the library about \$12,000 a year. Massachusetts, after 25 years' trial, repealed the restriction clause of a tax of 50 cents a year for each ratable poll, in 1866.

On the second question, the government and control of the library, there had existed and still exists doubts whether the state law should define the number, mode of election, and powers of the trustees of the library, or whether the authorities of a city or town should have that control under such an organization as they might originate.

It was urged in favor of leaving the power immediately in the hands of the authorities of a town to protect the interests of the library, that they would be at all times amenable to public opinion; that the interest excited in the community in defending the claims of the library would be every way beneficial; and that it was undesirable that trustees should be empowered to make requisitions on the town authorities for larger sums than even very enlightened people might think reasonable; and that as regards methods of government, they could be best provided for by means of instructions, to be contained in manuals like that published by the American Social Science Association of 1871, or the one this year published at London by Mr. Mullins, of the Birmingham Free Libraries.

While much of this was admitted to be true, it was on the other hand stated that it was essential to have such safeguards expressed in the state law as should prevent the management of the library being controlled by political considerations, or by gross ignorance; that experience has already admonished us of the danger in this direction, and that the state has had to be appealed to to secure the protection necessary, in two cases.

It was conceded that it is not essential to the success of a town library of any state that it should be governed in any particular manner, yet in consideration of the peculiar character of the trust, every possible effort should be made to secure, in each locality, men of superior qualifications for the administration. The sections in the Illinois law relating to the gradual change of the members of the Board of Trustees, which have been followed by Nebraska, Wisconsin and Michigan, make the impression that the conviction is general and increasing, among the friends of these institutions, that the government of them should be steady, and independent of local interference from a town meeting or a common council.

The seventeen states having state laws for town libraries divide themselves in this way: nine of them, Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts,

New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, have brief laws; and eight of them, California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, Wisconsin, have laws with full details. The division is nearly equal.

Without desiring to test by any vote in the Committee the preponderance of opinion on either of these questions, taking into consideration that the practical divergency is between the older states and the newer states, and that the difference in their state library laws might originate from certain differences in the civil conditions of these states, the Committee resolved not to attempt to present to the Conference a draft of a model state public libraries law; but that they would recommend that in view of the typical character of the laws of New Hampshire and Illinois, as illustrative of the brief law and the detailed law, a copy of each of them be published during the year for the information of the members of the Conference and the public generally in the LIBRARY JOURNAL.

They farther recommend that, in view of the importance of protecting libraries from thefts, mutilations, and other injuries, that the Wisconsin law of 1875, entitled *An Act to protect public libraries*, be also published in the LIBRARY JOURNAL in the same manner. This law is more thorough and comprehensive than that of any other state on the subject. Ten of the seventeen states have a law on the subject, but often imperfect in its character. The Wisconsin law legislates not only for public town libraries, but for all other public depositories of books and manuscripts, a measure in which also we are all interested.

There are valuable provisions in the laws of some of the states, to which the Committee at present merely call attention for the purpose of securing for them greater publicity, and, if thought best, their extensive adoption by other states.

1. Several of the states contemplate the probability that library associations may become town libraries, and that the event may occur in one of three ways: either by gift to the town, by acting as trustees of the town in administering their own library as a public library, or by depositing it with the town in trust. This provision is found in the laws of Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Such a section in a general law has the value of a perpetual suggestion, tending to beneficial results, even if additional legislation should be required to effect the change.

2. The provision in the law of Rhode Island of May 25, 1869, that two towns may combine and administer a library jointly, must be one which would in many cases prove a desirable

privilege. The villages of two towns are frequently nearer together than are the villages in either one of them.

3. It is equally important to give the same privilege to one or more villages in a township, jointly or separately, to raise money by taxation to sustain a library, or to a portion of a town within certain defined bounds, as it is to give it to a whole township. The township of Sag Harbor, on the east end of Long Island, has had for many years three proprietary libraries in the villages of Sag Harbor, Bridghampton, and Southampton. In such a case a public library could not be introduced without either the right of separate action, or by a combining of their common resources. The act of Massachusetts of 1870, "for the establishment of *districts* for maintaining street lamps and for other purposes," gives those districts power "to maintain street lamps, establish and maintain *libraries*, and maintain sidewalks," and no other purposes are specified in the law.

4. Several of the states require the publications of the state to be deposited in the town libraries. Iowa, Michigan, New Hampshire and Ohio have laws of this nature. Such books, however, would be the least in demand by the general public, and the storage and care of them for a library of small means is a perpetual source of expense. It is not wise to load down their shelves with books which will not be asked for. Still it does seem desirable that each town having a public library should receive a copy of the annual new laws of the state from the date of its opening. The section might be permissive to the Secretary of State to send also the legislative documents and journals to such libraries as should desire them. If the expense should be too great, the distribution might be limited to one library in a county, or to the county town.

5. In the facts that three of the territories have especial laws for the formation of historical libraries (Arizona, Colorado, and Idaho); that Michigan and Wisconsin sustain historical and pioneer societies, the latter having its State Library; and that the six New England states have laws authorizing towns to publish town histories, we see grounds for affirming that each town library should interest itself in the history of the town. It should be a specialty of its work to preserve the writings and biographies of its citizens, as monuments to their honor, and all books and pamphlets relating to the town, to be preserved solely for reference.

The Committee have prepared a collection in 150 pages foolscap, of all the town library laws of the seventeen states that provide for taxation to sustain public libraries. The collection also contains many of the laws on school district libraries, and other

laws pertaining to the subject. This collection is deposited in the Library of the Association for use.

In conclusion, the Committee desire to say that, from their observation and their correspondence with gentlemen all over the Union, they are persuaded there is one measure as important as a good state law or good town regulations for libraries; and that is to devise some effectual means of arousing communities from the apathy on this subject, in which so many of them live. The indifference is excused on the plea of hard times and increase of taxation. If a few thousand dollars for the period of three or four years were placed at the disposal of the Librarians' Conference, or of a special Town Libraries' Board, to be devoted through a secretary to enlisting committees of gentlemen in all the states to aid in the establishment of libraries, much would be accomplished throughout this continent. Perhaps some earnest librarians may be so fortunate as to find among their friends men of both solid wealth and wisdom who will be ready to create a temporary fund for the purpose. If the community has given for public libraries in this country the sum of 30,000,000 of dollars, a large part of it the result of individual benefactions, it is certain that if this suggestion is a wise one, it will not be long to wait for the means to be furnished for such an enterprise in behalf of town libraries.

The Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the editors of the LIBRARY JOURNAL be requested to publish in the course of the year copies of the two laws of New Hampshire and Illinois, for maintaining public libraries; and of the law of Wisconsin, entitled "An Act to protect public libraries." Also, Section 6, of the Milwaukee public library law on the power of trustees.

The resolution was adopted without dissent.*

Mr. JAMES L. WHITNEY, of the Boston Public Library, then read his paper on "Catalogues for Town Libraries."

(See p. 268.)

A. L. A. CATALOG.

THE SECRETARY brought up the subject of the A. L. A. Catalog, opportunely introduced by Mr. Whitney's paper. He stated that 200 more subscriptions at \$2.50 each, or their equivalent, would guarantee the work, and urged that the question be disposed of one way or other on the spot. He offered to be responsible for one-fifth, and amid the enthusiasm kindled by his appeal,

* We shall give these laws, together with Dr. Home's valuable index to library literature in the several states, in a later number. Eds. L. J.

the required numbers were taken, the announcement eliciting hearty applause.

Mr. JACOB SCHWARTZ's paper on "A 'Combined' Charging System," introduced by him in the Apprentices' Library, New York, was then read by Mr. C. A. Cutter.

(See p. 275.)

MR. POOLE offered the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:

Resolved, That the American Library Association recognize the importance of providing the National Library of Congress with new and convenient quarters, and recommend that Congress make provision for the construction of a new library building adapted to the present and future wants of the Library, and worthy of its national importance.

RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS.

The Committee on Resolutions then presented the following as their report, and they were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Association desire to place on record their grateful sense of the untiring energy and zeal of the various Committees that have labored so successfully for this third general meeting, especially the Reception Committee and its friends, who have so generously and so acceptably provided the recreative part of the proceedings.

Resolved, That the Secretary be directed to communicate the grateful acknowledgments of this Association for courtesies extended during the meeting, to the following organizations and individuals:

1. The Boston Medical Library Association and also the Young Men's Christian Union, for the free use of their halls.
2. Mr. George B. Chase, for his princely and hospitable entertainment of the members.
3. The Boston Public Library; the Boston Athenæum; the Mass. Historical Society; the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; the State Library; the Congregational Library; the Boston Soc. of Nat. History; the Public Library of Brookline; the N. E. Historic-Genealogical Society; the General Theological Library, and the Peabody Institute of Salem for their kind invitations to visit their libraries.
4. The several contributors of papers, not members of the Association, who have acceptably served our interests.
5. His Honor, Frederick O. Prince, Mayor of Boston, and the members of the City Government, for the civilities extended in behalf of the city.

6. The Trustees of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, for their reception.

7. The President and Fellows of Harvard College, and the Heads of Departments, and other officers of the University, for their kindly attentions.

8. The Honorable Thomas Russell, and other gentlemen of the Pilgrim Society of Plymouth, for the attentions shown by them.

9. The Trustees of the Bunker Hill Monument Association for the invitation to visit the Monument.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

The Committee on nominating Executive Board, reported the names of Justin Winsor, W. F. Poole, James L. Whitney, S. S. Green, and Melvil Dewey (who designate others and select officers), which nominations were unanimously approved.

THE SECRETARY.—The distinguished honors shown this Association by the city of Boston and Harvard University seem to merit a more permanent acknowledgment than our simple vote of thanks. It would be well to make the Mayor of Boston, and the President of Harvard College, *ex officio* honorary members of this Association. Besides this we have enjoyed at the hands of one of our members, the most enjoyable evening known to this Association,—a reception as successful and brilliant, as the most accomplished host and hostess, the most elegant home, perfect weather, and unspared expense, could make a meeting of our members with literary Bostonians. The least we can do is to tender with our thanks an honorary life membership to our host of Monday evening, Mr. George B. Chase. As it is well known to some of you, there have been considerable expenses attending the week, besides these hospitalities. These, with all the expenses of the excursion to-morrow, and the Association dinner at Plymouth, have been borne by gifts of the Reception Committee and friends. It is our rule that gifts of \$25.00 or more to the treasury shall entitle the giver to a certificate of honorary life membership. I wish to add to my motion that money given to the Reception Committee for the expenses of these meetings be treated as if given directly to the treasury, and that certificates of life membership be issued accordingly.

With special mention of Mr. Chase, the motion, including all these recommendations, was unanimously passed by acclamation.

THE SECRETARY also called attention to the Oxford Conference volume. He said:—Those who have seen the London Conference Proceedings know how full it is of those things in which every librarian is interested. Also, how

handsomely it is printed. This Oxford volume is from the same press, and, like the first, is full of interest. The Chiswick Press has, with great liberality, undertaken the risk of printing it, and we feel that we should do all in our power to help them place the edition. Subscriptions will be taken before publication at 18s.—though the price after publication will be 28s. The Press has liberally offered to supply any of our members with the London volume, now selling at 28s., together with the Oxford, at 10s. reduction, or both volumes for 36s. Subscriptions may be handed in to the Secretary or sent to our General Offices, and they will be forwarded at once to London. The books will be imported for libraries free of duty and delivered promptly at the lowest cost.

After explanations as to excursions to the White Hills at reduced rates, and as to the general excursion to Plymouth on the day following,

The Conference, at 10 P. M., adjourned *sine die*.

SOCIAL FEATURES.

MR. CHASE'S RECEPTION.

ON Monday evening, June 30, the first day of the Conference, the spacious and elegant house, No. 234 Beacon street, noted as having one of the finest interiors in Boston, of Mr. Geo. B. Chase (a trustee of the Boston Public Library and the Chairman of the Reception Committee), was thrown open by its hospitable owner to the members of the Conference and to the many distinguished Bostonians who had been invited to meet them. Among the latter were Hon. A. H. Rice, ex-Governor of Massachusetts, Hon. Leverett Saltonstall, Hon. Thomas Russell, Hon. Thomas C. Amory, Rev. E. E. Hale, Prof. E. J. Young of Harvard College, Hon. Dwight Foster, Dr. William Everett of Quincy, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Rev. J. P. Bodfish of the Catholic Cathedral, Councilmen Greenough, Parkman, and Wolcott, Rev. James Freeman Clarke, H. O. Houghton, Esq., F. E. Goodrich, Esq., private secretary to Mayor Prince, Rev. Dr. A. P. Peabody, W. A. Hovey, Esq., of the Boston *Transcript*, R. G. Fitch, Esq., I. A. Goddard, Esq., of the Boston *Advertiser*, and others beyond mention.

Mr. and Mrs. Chase received their guests at the entrance of their beautiful library room, and, after an evening delightfully spent in conversation, a handsome collation was served. The occasion was a most pleasant foretaste of the

good things provided by Boston hosts for their delighted visitors.

THE HARBOR EXCURSION.

The social event of the second day was the excursion, by invitation of the City Government, down Boston Harbor. The steamer "Rose Standish" left Rowe's Wharf shortly after 3 p. m., with a merry freight of librarians, their hosts and their friends, to the number of about 400. Besides His Honor, Mayor Prince, who was the official host, there were present Collector Beard, Hon. Henry B. Peirce, Secretary of the Commonwealth, a number of members of the Board of Aldermen, Common Council, and School Committee, Dr. S. A. Green, W. W. Greenough, Esq., Prof. J. L. Sibley, of Harvard, George B. Chase, Esq., Rev. J. P. Bodfish, of the Holy Cross Cathedral, John Russell Bartlett, of Providence, Mr. F. W. Christern, of New York City, Mr. John S. Lockwood, of Boston, and others. Brown's Brigade Band furnished enjoyable music.

A pleasant sail of about half an hour laid the party by the wharf at Deer Island, where a landing was made, and all disembarked for a visit to the Reform School. As the large party entered the chapel, they were received with music by the boys' band and in return the visiting band gave several selections from "Pinafore," which delighted the neatly dressed boys and girls ranged around the galleries. Several songs, including a number of "exercise pieces," were given by the children under the direction of Rev. J. W. Dadmun, the resident chaplain, and were heartily enjoyed. At their close, the dining hall was visited, and here an elegant collation was spread.

Mayor Prince called the company to order, and after Chaplain Dadmun had invoked the Divine blessing, spoke a few words of welcome. He said that when the American Library Association decided to hold its meeting in Boston the City Council, by an unanimous vote, requested him to extend to the members the hospitalities of the city. He had been puzzled to know what to do with them, however. He thought at first that he would show them the new park, with its winding walks, its shrubbery and its umbrageous nooks, but the park is mostly under water, and not in a very good condition. Then he thought he would take them to the Old South, but the Old South looks so like the Old Scratch that he abandoned the idea. Finally, he concluded that as the visitors were men engaged in running after books he would take them to see what the city does with those who run away from their books. He paid a high compliment to the Boston Public Library, which he considered

one of our most cherished institutions, and expressed great interest in the work of the Association. Its visit, he anticipated, would result in good to our city, and he hoped that the city's guests would come again. In inviting them to partake of the viands before them, he would give as a sentiment the remark which the ancient Benedict made to his wife on the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage—"May we become better acquainted!"

After the collation had been partaken of, the boat was again boarded, and after a delightful run some three or four miles beyond the Lower Light the boat was headed towards home, Rowe's Wharf being reached at 7 o'clock. The excursion was a perfect success.

THE ART MUSEUM RECEPTION.

On Tuesday evening the Trustees of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts threw open their spacious and beautiful building, which had been closed to the public for some weeks, during the re-arrangement of the collections, for a reception to the members of the Conference. The company was received by Hon. Martin Brimmer, President of the Board of Trustees, and General Charles G. Loring, Curator of the Museum. Among gentlemen present to meet the members of the Association were ex-Governor Rice, Hon. Otis Norcross, Adjutant-General Berry, and Rev. W. W. Rice, of Springfield. No speeches were made, and the informality and freedom of the affair made it the more enjoyable. The visitors strolled through the well-filled galleries at will, greatly delighted with their treasures.

THE VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE.

Wednesday afternoon was set apart for the visit to Cambridge and the collections of Harvard University. At or about 2.30 the members and their friends, in groups, took horse-cars at Bowdoin Square, and at 3 gathered in the Saunders Theater, in the Memorial Hall building. The floor and part of the circle of the hall were filled by the company. Here THE PRESIDENT took the chair, and introduced the President of the University, Chas. W. Eliot, LL.D., as follows:

Thirty years ago this very week a squad of Boston boys came here to Cambridge to undergo examination for entrance to college. I was among them. Among them also was a certain straight-backed youth, the youngest of us all, who had been nurtured on the milk of Harvard from his cradle up. In process of time his rightful inheritance fell to him here. In process of time I, having undergone a probationary period elsewhere, came back to the old haunts, to put myself

under the lead of that same youth, grown in fame and grown in name; and it is now with peculiar pleasure I introduce to you my friend and classmate and liege, the President of the University.

PRESIDENT ELIOT briefly but cordially welcomed the Association, alluding to the fact that the foundation of Harvard University might be said to have been the library of a young minister. He eulogized free libraries, and characterized them as a worthy experiment. Brought up at Harvard in physical science, he found a peculiar satisfaction in the word "experiment," and he felt inclined to accept Darwin's definition of a fool: "A man who never tried an experiment." Expressing his interest in the discussions which have occupied the meetings of the Association, he declared his belief that the written card-catalogue system, which has been largely introduced in libraries, is not the best system, being too difficult to be used. He would prefer printed slips to be pasted into catalogue books. In closing he repeated his words of welcome.

PRESIDENT WINSOR then said:

Reverting again to those memories of thirty years, there was one hand outstretched to me in welcome then, which I found again extended when I came to my new position, and which I now take as I lead forward for the honor you will bestow, the Librarian *Emeritus* of the University.

ADDRESS OF PROF. SIBLEY.

PROF. JOHN LANGTON SIBLEY, the veteran Librarian *Emeritus*, said he had very reluctantly consented to say a few words. He did not know why there should be such persistency to have him speak. Perhaps it was curiosity to see and hear an old man, who began library service earlier than any one present, and had got through before the American Library Association was inaugurated. He was employed in Harvard College Library in the spring of 1822, when he was a Freshman, and the years which have passed since cover about one-fourth of the time since the college, and of course the library, was founded. Then it began with the bequest of 320 volumes by John Harvard, who died in 1638. Soon afterwards 20 volumes were added by Richard Bellingham, 37 by Peter Bulkley of Concord, 40 "choice volumes" by Gov. Winthrop, and contributions from the magistrates and elders, besides several volumes procured in England through the Rev. Thomas Welde and the celebrated Hugh Peters.

Such was the commencement of the library, which for more than two centuries continued to be the largest on the American Continent. It was founded eight years after the first settlers came

here, while the spacious common was covered with woods and surrounded with a stockade for protection from wolves and Indians; and the college buildings, near where Massachusetts Hall now stands, were back of the village, which was laid out in squares, as may now be seen, near the banks of Charles River.

In 1654, these gifts were kept in "the building called the old Colledge, conteyning a Hall, Kitchen, Buttery, Cellar, Turret and 5 Studyes & therein 7 Chambers for students in them, a Pantry and small corne Chamber, a Library and Books valued at 400*li*." These with some additions constituted the entire college library and its conveniences, at the close of the seventeenth century. Though few persons would now accept the collection as a gift on condition of furnishing shelf-room for it, many of the volumes, being "choice books" of the time, did good service, and show the drift of the studies in those days.

According to the College Records the famous Solomon Stoddard, afterwards of Northampton, was chosen in 1667 the first Librarian.

In 1679, thirty-six shillings were paid to John Palfrey for one dozen stools "for the College Library." In April, 1695, it was "voted that six leather Chairs be forthwith provided for ye use of ye Library and six more before Commencement, in case ye Treasury will allow of it." In January, 1698, £4 10*s*. were paid to Thomas Fitch for "6 Russian chairs had of him last Commencement for the College Library."

But little more was done for the Library till Thomas Hollis, of London, in 1719, began a series of benefactions, the importance and value of which can hardly be overestimated. It has been said that his gifts to the College must in the whole have reached nearly £6000. "Besides founding ten scholarships, two professorships, contributing an astronomical and philosophical apparatus, and procuring Hebrew and Greek types and other donations, he gave special attention to the Library. He awakened such interest among his relations that liberal gifts from some six of the name of Hollis continued to come to the College till after the close of the century. He appealed to authors, publishers, and corporate bodies. Among the contributors were the historian, Daniel Neal, Bishop Berkeley, Richard Mead, William Dummer, Dr. Avery, Dr. Isaac Watts, and others. And so little was what constitutes the peculiar value of books appreciated that when Hollis had sent Bayle's Dictionary in French, it was proposed by Dr. Benjamin Colman, a member of the College Corporation, to exchange it for one in English. Hollis expresses his surprise for he says,

"Few, next to none of our valluable Students at London, who sincerely indeavour after knowledge, but they easily attaine to read French as well as Latin . . . it is very easy for one verst in Lattin to read French—and that sett of books are —esteemed very valluable."

The resources of the College were so small that books were exposed to great danger from being kept in a building used for other than library purposes. In the middle room on the lower floor extending through the Hall, the students dined in commons, six at a table, each carrying his own knife and fork, which he wiped on the table-cloth. The north-east room was the Kitchen, and the south-east the Buttery, where the Butler sold beer, cider, butter and bread to the students. The other rooms were occupied by Students and a Tutor, or were used for Lectures, for the philosophical apparatus, and on public occasions.

In the vacation of January, 1764, because the small-pox prevailed in Boston, the Legislature took possession of Harvard Hall; and it was burned with all its contents, except one or two hundred volumes. It contained the treasures and apparatus which had been brought together during a century and a quarter. "Harvard College suffered the most ruinous loss it had ever met with." An interest, however, was awakened throughout the country and in England, and about 12,000 volumes, of which more than 2000 were given by the Thomas Hollis of Lincoln's Inn, within a few years took the place of the 5000, or thereabouts, which had been burned.

For many years after this there were no important additions. The funds for supporting a Librarian and administering the library were very small. From 1813 to 1821, the salary of Andrews Norton was eked out by combining the income of the Dexter Lectureship with the appropriation for the Librarianship. So little was the Library frequented that the recitations and other exercises of the Divinity school were sometimes held in it.

In 1821, Joseph Green Cogswell, afterwards of the Astor Library, succeeded Professor Norton; his salary being supplemented by a private subscription, for which he delivered a few lectures as Professor of Mineralogy and Geology. He had already secured to the College the Ebeling collection of American History, to which was soon after added the Warden collection. He entered upon his duties with enthusiastic devotion, always working in his private room till midnight, and declining all invitations to parties and dinners among his friends, of whom he had hosts in Cambridge and Boston.

Till his time the Library had been placed on the

shelves according to donations. He began a new arrangement by subjects, and *distributed all the volumes accordingly*. All the titles of an Author, so far as practicable, he entered on one sheet; and from these sheets the catalogue was afterwards printed. This may be considered the first step towards cataloguing by cards.

In two years, with George Bancroft, he opened the Round Hill School at Northampton, and was succeeded in the Library by Charles Folsom, who was corrector of the University Press. As the books had been distributed, "but not marked" to their places, applications for them were made on the day before they were taken, in order that the Librarian might have time to find them.

On graduating in 1825 I was appointed Assistant Librarian, with a salary of \$150 a year, the Librarian's being \$300. At the end of the year the two salaries were united, and Benjamin Peirce was appointed on a tutor's salary, which was perhaps \$600. His wife aided in supporting the family by boarding students. With uncommon activity and energy he devoted himself to the work, and in a few years died a martyr to the labors of the Library.

Mr. Peirce was succeeded in 1831 by Dr. Thaddeus William Harris, whom Professor Agassiz emphatically declared to be the best entomologist in the world. He took a room in Massachusetts Hall, and commenced his work on the same salary as Mr. Peirce. In a year or two his devoted wife joined him, dismissing her servants, though she had a large family of children, determined to share his economy and live within his means, which were so small that he once told me that he ate his bread without butter because he could not afford it. His duties and labors increased, and at times I lent him a helping hand. Various appeals to the Legislature, as well as to the community, for a suitable building that should be fire-proof and more capacious than the upper part of Harvard Hall, in which the books were kept, met with no response. Finally, after consulting the heirs, a legacy of Gov. Gore, which had been accumulating during his widow's lifetime, was set aside for the erection of Gore Hall, which, by the strictest economy and gratuitous services of Prof. Treadwell, was made ready for occupation in 1841.

At that time the Library contained about 41,000 volumes. It was open for consultation from 9 o'clock to 1, and from 2 until 4, on the first four secular days of the week, and on Fridays in the forenoon. There was one hour when the Sophomores on Tuesdays and the Freshmen on Wednesdays took out books, and one on Mondays

and on Thursdays for Seniors and Juniors. There were no shelves in the galleries, and Gore Hall was considered large enough to accommodate all the additions that would be made during the century. The total income from the permanent fund for purchasing, repairing, and binding books was exactly \$250 a year.

From this time I became permanently connected with the library. The Librarian and the Assistant Librarian struggled on with its poverty as well as they might. Before a book could be bound there was a question whether it could not go unbound a little longer, and if it could not, whether it should be in half-calf or half-sheep, the one being a quarter of a dollar cheaper than the other. I began to beg for the library. Appeals were made to authors for their books and pamphlets. I asked people to send whatever they had that was printed, whether they considered it good for anything or not. "Clear out your garrets and closets, send me the contents." And with such earnestness did I plead, that I literally had boxes and barrels sent to me, and once I received a butter-firkin. Almost always I got something precious which I had for years been trying to obtain. Even the butter-firkin contained an unexpected treasure. Collections of books and libraries in the course of time were added. I acquired the name of being a sturdy beggar, and received a gentle hint from the College Treasurer to desist from begging, which I *as gently* disregarded. Long before the century closed it was found necessary to shelve the galleries of Gore Hall, to fill all the vacant places, and provide a larger building. Gore Hall, designed to accommodate the additions for the century, was full. The 41,000 volumes were quadrupled and became 164,000, and there was about the same number of pamphlets. Instead of \$5000, which at 5 per cent. yielded \$250, the permanent fund was increased to \$170,000.

My connection with the Library had lasted longer than that of any other person on record. I had given to it the greater part of a long life; it had taken precedence in all my employments and pleasures, and I had the satisfaction of finding that during the last 36 years more had been done in the way of funds and books than by all other persons since the foundation of the College. And as the infirmities of age and impaired eyesight came upon me, no one but myself knows how much my labors for the library were lightened by the devotedness of one who led me by the hand when I could not see, who penned my annual report when I was unable to read, and gave me hearty comfort and encouragement, without a

murmur or complaint. And though the cloud that rested so heavily on me was partly removed, my vision was still so imperfect as to require that the care of the library, from which I parted as from an old friend, should be committed to some one who would consecrate to it his whole time and undivided attention, and on the foundation which had been laid build a superstructure which at the close of the century might as much surpass our expectations as the present prosperity exceeds what was anticipated when I first came to the Library. And since my resignation, two years ago, I have had the satisfaction of knowing that my wishes have been more than realized in the appointment of a successor who brings to the office talent, learning, efficiency, and, more than all, deep interest in the profession, to assume the duties from which I could not retire without a feeling of sadness.

As the veteran librarian drew toward the close of his remarks, his voice grew thick with emotion and tears were in his eyes, and genuine and prolonged applause was accorded him as he took his seat.

The exercises of welcome in the Saunders Theater being closed, the party were led by Mr. Winsor to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, by invitation of the Curator, Prof. Alexander Agassiz. The company being seated in the lecture-room, Prof. Agassiz, with the aid of the blackboard, described the buildings as they are and as they are to be, and gave a sketch of the arrangements in the various departments. The analogies of classification with library cataloguing and arrangement were noted with interest. Prof. Agassiz spoke in particular of the synoptic room, in which on the floor a general view of the animal kingdom could be had, through representative types arranged in classes, while in the galleries similar specimens were grouped to exhibit the *fauna* of the world at each geological epoch. The resemblance of this cataloguing of the world's life to the classed and accessions catalogue in a library was remarked. Prof. Agassiz alluded feelingly to the experiences of his father, who was told, twenty years ago, that this synoptic room could not be made, and this reference to the venerated Louis Agassiz and his success was received with applause. In other rooms, he continued, each class was shown more in detail, and at the entrance to each was painted the great divisions, showing the relation of every room to the others.

A general inspection of the specimens followed, the visitors wandering about in self-constituted investigating committees. A large proportion spent

considerable time in the rooms devoted to entomology, where Dr. H. A. Hagen entertained them interestingly.

The Peabody Museum of Archæology was next visited, the company being received here by Mr. F. W. Putnam, the Curator, who gave a description of the place, which was subsequently made subject to a general inspection.

In the absence of time to visit the Observatory and other collections of interest, to which courteous invitations had been given, the company proceeded to the University Library proper, Gore Hall, where Mr. Winsor acted both as host and conductor.

After an interesting examination of the new book-room and cataloguing offices forming the extension, the party returned to Memorial Hall and took tea with the President and Fellows of the University in the great dining-hall. Among those present, in addition to the hosts and the members of the Association, were Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Judge Sanger, Rev. Edward Abbott, Mr. Horace E. Scudder, Mr. Arthur Gilman, Col. T. W. Higginson and Mr. Henry Van Brunt. The supper was served in elegant style and was properly appreciated.

After due time had been given to the material part, THE PRESIDENT remarked that a certain modest bard—and who in this presence would not be modest?—had handed him some verses entitled, "In a Library," which appear to have an appositeness for this moment. Whatever seems bad in them, ascribe to the reader of them. He then read the following, the compliment to Mr. Longfellow being the signal for prolonged applause:

IN A LIBRARY.*

A DAY of work was done! The creaking door
Shut out the scholar, and the library wore
The stilly gloom that evening comes to spread
Through alcoves peopled with the living dead!
Pacing the hall, no loneliness I felt
Could bide unwelcome where such spirits dwelt,
When suddenly the air was thick and shone
With gleams that showed me I was not alone.

With strange transforming every book had pressed
Its phantom kin to clasp it to the breast.

I challenged one, that seemed of all the peer;
"Canst tell me," said I, "who's the truest here?"

[*The authorship of this poem is referred to the department of "Pseudonyms and Anonyms." It was learned that Prof. Winsor had been mysteriously absent from his usual avocations for a significant hour or two some days before, and the poem was in his handwriting; but Prof. Winsor observes that he never can read any one's else hand, and so was obliged to copy the poem.—EDS. L. J.]

At this there came a presence to the front,
That bore the aspect of the battle's brunt;
I heard a chariot rumble o'er the ground,
And felt Earth tremble as if Jove had frowned.
A form erect lay ope the ruddy page,—
I read of Helen and the Grecian rage!
"No, no," I cried, and thus my warning ran,
"I crave the kindness, not the ire, of man."
And still the phantom forms sped lordly by,
August or meek, in shape and tread and eye,
Until a being of more wondrous mien
Than any else that drank of Hippocrene,
Came like a pageant, like a myriad man,
And held the book of life for me to scan.

I turned the page and read—what shall I say?
The universal record, grave and gay—
Of Hamlet, Romeo and the fat Sir John,
Ophelia, Portia—need I now go on?—
All living, dying, both the false and true
Came to the bidding ere I lost my cue.

Alas! I know this affluence of art,
But tell me, if you can, of Shakespeare's heart.
We feel the genius, but we miss the man,
Who kindles love through all life's varied plan.

Again the wavering scene was swiftly changed,
As now my vision o'er the phantoms ranged;
I seemed to see the mountain and the lake
And one that loved them for the rose's sake.

He held his tablet to my eager eye,
And, as I turned, a rainbow spanned the sky;
I read the legend, dear to Nature's seers,
The meanest flower gives thoughts too deep for tears!

But still it seems I wore a look that told
I had not read the volume writ in gold;
But when I cried, "O bring before my face
The good Ben Adhem of the tuneful race,"
A murmur rose, as if to give me proof
The test had come,—and hung beneath the roof.
And backward as the serried phantoms swayed
A form came forth with purity arrayed;
It seemed at once a sterling, manly face,
Charmed to the lineaments of woman's grace.
I took the proffered book and read to feel
That sweet accord, from which is no appeal.
I stood entranced, as each and all have been,
And read the story of Evangeline!

THE PRESIDENT continued with representing how, either wittingly or unwittingly, certain ladies had at critical periods controlled the destiny of his life. He closed with calling for a round of applause in honor of the lady of the Presidential Mansion, who had fixed his future in Cambridge. Mrs. Eliot was at the table, and a hearty recognition of her was given, all standing.

After tea, at about 7 o'clock, the party took horse-cars for Boston in time for the evening session.

THE PLYMOUTH EXCURSION.

The regular sessions having closed on Wednesday evening, the fourth day, Thursday, was given up altogether to pleasuring and sight-seeing. The party, numbering about 150 ladies and gentlemen, left Boston in two special cars attached to the train leaving the Old Colony Depot at 8.40 a. m. A ride of less than two hours took them to Plymouth; and they proceeded at once to Pilgrim Hall, where they were welcomed by Hon. Thomas Russell, President of the Pilgrim Society, who spoke as follows:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—It is my pleasant duty to welcome you on behalf of the Pilgrim Society to this Hall, and to an examination of the memorials of the Fathers, which have been placed here by the pious care of their children. We have not a great library, but we have a few rare old books, which are precious because they were once owned by men "of whom the world was not worthy." It is something to see the volumes that cheered the long winter nights of Elder Brewster and of Governor Bradford. It is good to lay our hands on the Bible in which the name of John Alden was written by his own hand.

Perhaps, you will not find as much Mayflower furniture as you expected, but you can find that anywhere. We feel sure that ours is authentic; and to make our confidence seem less strange, we can show you an excellent citizen, who knew an old man, who had seen the first-born of the Pilgrims.

We can show you some of the domestic utensils of our fathers. In the language of Rufus Choate, here are "the very platters, from which they feasted, and thanked God."

Here is the sword of Miles Standish,—perhaps some of you can read the characters upon its blade. He was the standing army of the Colony; and it is worthy of remark, that he promptly withdrew to Duxbury, so that he might not intimidate the electors, or (as he did not belong to the church), that he might not be intimidated by the elect.

But I must remember that there is much to be seen, and little time for seeing. And that worthy and swarthy gentleman (pointing to the picture of Samoset) has established a precedent upon this spot; for, on a similar occasion, his only speech was: "Welcome." Yet, even that word is unnecessary, when Americans visit Plymouth Rock. From whatever state or territory you have come, as Daniel Webster said on Bunker Hill: "Wherever else you may be strangers, here you are all at home."

At the conclusion of this speech, which was heartily applauded, Major Morissey announced the points of interest to be visited, and then time was given the guests to examine the curiosities in the hall, and Mr. Whitman of Plymouth kindly pointed out the most interesting of them, and explained the two historical pictures which hang at either end of the hall. The next point of interest visited was the Rock, and on the way a stop was made at the old Winslow House, built by Edward Winslow, a quaint old house with the same carvings and staircase which were brought from England to finish it, when it was a grand new house. Another stop was made at the residence of Mr. Hedge, where several relics of the Mayflower were shown, the most interesting of which was a Latin commentary published in London in 1617, and brought here by Elder Brewster, its owner. After visiting the Rock, the most of the party went to the old burial ground, but a few, who were unable to endure the heat, took refuge again in Pilgrim Hall or went to the Samoset House to rest before dinner. The court-house was visited and some old records shown, which were explained by Mr. Whitman.

At Burial Hill several little explanatory speeches relative to objects of interest and historical facts were made by residents of the town. The Pilgrim Monument was the last point visited by those who were still able to hold out against a thermometer at 101° in the shade.

At 2 o'clock, an excellent dinner was served at the Samoset House.

After the dinner had been disposed of, THE PRESIDENT said: I told our good friend Judge Russell, coming down in the cars, that we should have no speaking at the dinner; but somehow our friends here have been so kind, the tongue that has got to wagging does not easily come to rest. You know children talk of the old cat's dying as the swing comes to a pause. This final speech of mine will have all the faltering characteristics of that feline subsidence.

Under two circumstances I am always at home. I am always at home with librarians, and always at home in Plymouth. Therefore I am now doubly at home, and for five and twenty years I have never missed, if in the country, a yearly pilgrimage to this spot. I was not exactly born in Plymouth, as our friend Col. Higginson explained the other day, but both my parents saw their first light across the bay, within sight of yonder rock. When you were on the Burial Hill you had pointed out to you Clark's Island, where the Pilgrims first landed, and where they spent their first Sabbath, as an inscription upon a rock there points out.

On that island, before the middle of the last century, my great-grandfather was born. I remember the old gentleman, and he died forty years ago, when I was a youngster, and he was a nonagenarian. He never had but six weeks' schooling in his life, and that he got by rowing to Plymouth in the morning and rowing home at night. You see before you in your President an example of the way in which a good, old, honest, hardy stock can degenerate in three generations.

We began our rounds of sight-seeing here in Plymouth, with the mellifluous sentences of our friend, the Judge, filling our ears. I could tell you, if there were time, how bad a Judge he is; I could tell you of the criminal a second time convicted, who gave as an excuse for it, that he could not resist the opportunity of hearing once more one of Judge Russell's fascinating sentences to the penitentiary. But the weather is hot, and time is short. We have thanked our good Plymouth-eans, and another tongue can charm our ears before we leave, and I ask that adopted son of theirs, whom they are so ready always to put forward as their spokesman, to say a parting word to us,—the Rev. Dr. Briggs.

The reverend gentleman kindly regretted that so unwelcome task was put upon him as to speed the parting guests, and in a few words expressed the satisfaction the people of Plymouth had felt in welcoming the association. They trusted to have the opportunity to renew the acquaintance.

THE PRESIDENT thanked him for his kind expressions, and proposed a sentiment of sympathy with the spirit which the descendants of the Pilgrims had so sedulously cherished for more than two hundred and fifty years.

He had a right to claim acquaintance with that spirit, for, as he entered Pilgrim Hall this morning, he read the names of six of his ancestors on that rather lugubrious drapery that surrounds the fragment of the rock. On his right sat a young lady (his daughter), who, by virtue of another lady on his left (his wife), could add two more names to the number. So you see, added the President, I believe in mixing the children of the Pilgrims up, though hardly after the fashion of our old acquaintance, dear little Buttercup.

The party were presently obliged to hurry to catch the 3.40 p. m. train, which was to take them to Boston and thence on their several ways beyond. The train was the scene of general leave-taking, and at 5.30 the party separated at Boston, after "the pleasantest Conference that had ever been held."

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EDITED BY CHARLES A. CUTTER.

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PRELIMINARY articles: "The A. L. A.," by R. B. Pool, in *The Watchman*, Chicago, May 15;—"The care and growth of libraries," in *Utica morning Herald*, July 1 (urges publishers to greater uniformity in the sizes of books);—"The library meeting," [by J. Winsor], in *Bost. d. Adv.*, June 30, ½ col.:—and in *Nation*, June 26, ½ col. [by C. A. C.].

¹ "No doubt reading has become among the dangers as well as the opportunities of New England civilization,—but the remedy for the evil is generally more reading, and that will be the result year after year. We shall always have more readers rather than less, and they will slowly read better books rather than worse, and better newspapers too. The newspaper is the chief library of millions of Americans, but it must rest on a solid background of real libraries and great ones, or else it will cease to attract readers. The best newspapers are those that make most use of the library, and the librarian's best ally is the newspaper."

² "A visiting librarian may be permitted to congratulate the reception committee upon the perfect entertainment they provided for the members of the association. It was hospitality, pure and simple, descending to the smallest detail of our comfort and convenience. . . .

"The schoolboy does not concern himself with the imprint of a book, and if he stumble upon it he is set back, as was the little boy who once asked of a librarian in my hearing for a book of Horatio Alger's entitled *Bost.*, 1873. As long as Mrs. Anser reads 'Cometh up as a Flower,' so long will Matilda Anser devour, in and out of school hours, 'Not Wisely, but too Well.' . . .

"I have in mind a town of not more than five thousand inhabitants in the state of New York, where for several years the closest relations have been maintained between the teachers and the library. Once a week the teacher agrees to meet her pupils in one of the rooms connected with the library. In accordance with a plan previously arranged, a course of study is carried on for an hour, the teacher examining, with the scholars, the best books, and criticising in a manner suited to their comprehension the inferior ones. These library hours are looked forward to with the greatest interest by the children."

³ "When the desired volume can be had it will be taken out, and when it is not to be obtained the applicant will, in almost every case, either content himself with another work of the same class, or go away disappointed. It is highly improbable that, because Mrs. Southworth is not to be had, he will take Thackeray, or, because he cannot obtain Dickens' 'Tale of Two Cities,' he will ask for Carlyle's 'French Revolution.' . . . Persons so constituted might be supplied with novels through an eternity of time, and the only change in any way probable would be an increase of appetite for the food upon which they fed. To supply such people with the amusement they desire is simply a waste of public money without we change our theories of government and decide to support horse-races, circuses and base-ball matches at the expense of the public, for the pleasure of all who may care to witness them. As far as the benefit of the community is concerned,

Full reports appeared in the *Bost. d. Adv.*, July 1, 2½ col. [1st day]; July 2, 2½ col. [2d day]; July 3, 1½ col. [3d day]; July 4, ½ col. [4th day]. Similar reports appeared in the *Bost. Journal* and *Bost. Post*. There was a summary report in the *N. Y. d. Tribune*, July 3, ¾ col.; and a humorous account in the *Gardiner [Me.] Home journal*, July 9, 1½ col.

Remarks upon the meeting and its results appeared in the Boston letter of the *Springfield republican*, July 3, ½ col.¹; in the *Boston Sunday Herald*, July 6, ¼ col., "A running commentary," signed C. H. B[otsford]²; in the same paper, ¾ col., "Fiction in libraries," [by Osborne Howes]³; in the *Nation*, July 10, 1 col., [by C. A. C.]⁴;

the money that now goes to gratify the tastes of a certain grade of readers of public library books might with great advantage be spent in the support of a free theatre for the performance of standard dramas and tragedies, or in which concerts of a high order might be given. . . .

⁴ "The Third Library Convention has been the most successful of all. The fault of this, even more than of the London Conference, was that the papers were too many and too long, and that there was not enough discussion. The Convention took no action, decided nothing, and the general impression left on the mind of the listener was that there are two sides to everything; that it is not so easy to decide just what is best to be done in regard either to the building or the catalogue or the book-supply. Whether one shall build on one floor only, with the disadvantages of high ground-rent and wide dispersion of the books—the latter evil to be remedied by telephones and railways—or whether lofty buildings shall separate the books vertically, with a remedy and an expense in elevators, is not yet settled. Housekeepers know the advantage of a single story; but a lot 200 by 800 feet is not readily obtained in the centre of a city rich enough to need a large library. The expense of foundation and roof increases in almost exact proportion to the superficial extent of the building; and there is no compensation in any diminished cost for the side-walls. No doubt the Providence Depot would be better than Bunker Hill Monument for a library, but in this matter, as in regard to fiction, a middle course would have got the most votes if the librarians had voted.

"The second day was the most interesting and the most profitable. The great fiction question was not left, as it might have been, just where it was before. Three ideas—only one of them absolutely new, to be sure—were brought forward with unusual force. It was urged by Mr. Adams that a city has no right to use the tax-payers' money to furnish mere amusement. It might have been replied that it has as much right to provide entertainment throughout the year as on the Fourth of July. But it must be confessed that we are coming here dangerously near the *passem et circenses*. Another argument of the advocates of fiction—that it is an assistant of the police, and keeps the people from the street-corners and from grog-shops—if pushed hard, leads to the municipal establishment of coffee-rooms and Holly-Tree Inns. Mr. Adams would exclude all fiction that is not educational, leaving the rest to the circulating libraries, so that the public libraries should contain only standard literature; a course which he confessed would reduce their circulation one-half. He might have added that in some communities it would breed an unpopularity for the libraries that would reduce one-half the means at their command for the purchase of the

in the *Bost. d. Adv.*, July 2, ½ col., "The Uses of Public Libraries" ⁵; in the same paper, July 21, ¾ col., "How many novels a week?" ⁶; and in the *Literary World*, July 19, 1½ col. ⁷.

UNITED KINGDOM ASSOCIATION.

MANCHESTER CONFERENCE.

THE third English Conference of Librarians (second annual meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom) will be held, as previously announced, in the Manchester Town Hall, Tuesday to Thursday, September 23d to 25th. A report on the free libraries throughout the kingdom is being prepared, and papers have been promised on "The Amendment of the Free Library Acts"; on "The Employment of Women

standard literature. Mr. Adams's forcible views will hardly prevail, but they may support the more moderate suggestions of Mr. Green, that the quantity of fiction be gradually diminished with a view of substituting better reading, and his original proposal that fiction branch-libraries be established in quarters of the city which cannot yet bear a very high standard, the main library and the branches in better neighborhoods being left comparatively unprovided with light literature. The third noteworthy idea was Miss Bean's, that school children should not be allowed to take out more than one novel or story a week. The evils of the present unlimited reading of stories by children are very great. The mischief done by sensational stories in diverting their thoughts entirely from their school studies, and occasionally—very seldom—sending a boy to sea, or off on a tramp, or inducing him to join a band of juvenile pirates with their headquarters in a lumber-pile, have been sufficiently insisted upon. Quite as much harm is done, to girls especially, by the reading of unsensational, idealless trash, and of what a clergyman lately complained of as 'silly pious stories.' It is a favorite idea that the young novel-reader is going to develop into the lover of sound and improving books. But children who skim a volume of this milk-and-water every day and remember nothing of it the next, are sedulously cultivating non-attention and non-retention to an extent that is more likely permanently to incapacitate them for anything better than a newspaper. It is a serious question for educators, because the process is going on by wholesale. Miss Bean's remedy would be more promising if it were not certain that the children would club together and lend one another the books they borrow, and so get their daily dissipation as easily as now. The true remedy would lie in parental oversight if parents were not themselves offenders. There is, in fact, no single remedy."

"It is noticeable how small a proportion of the time is occupied in considering what is technical and professional and how large a proportion in considering means of making libraries useful and popular."

⁶ "The general disposition of the librarians seemed to be to throw the responsibility in this matter on the parents and teachers. Here, of course, in theory it belongs. But it is only too clear that teachers would be quite overtaxed if we threw on them much responsibility where they have no absolute power. And it is even more clear that in many instances parents are not competent to make the proper restrictions. It

is easy to see that there must be many families in every town where the hard-worked and ignorant mother is so glad to have her big boy sit down every evening with a book, rather than loaf round the saloons, that nothing would tempt her in any way to check his reading. A remedy is to be sought, if possible, in the library administration. The librarians in the smaller towns are not unwilling to undertake this. That kindness and loyalty which make them the most popular people in their villages do not fail them here. But it is clear enough that very little can be attempted in this way by the librarians or their assistants where the number of daily issues is to be counted in thousands.

JULY MONTHLY MEETING.

THE ninth monthly meeting of the second year of the Association was held on July 4, at 8 p. m., at the London Institution, Mr. W. H. Overall in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed as correctly en-

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"For the ordinary work of the library the rule now established in Boston, that a book may be changed every day, is undoubtedly the best rule. There will constantly be good reason for the exchange of a book in twenty-four hours, or even in less time, after it was taken. But if a boy or girl is found presuming on this rule to secure for a long time a daily novel, it would be a simple precaution to change his library card, which itself bears the witness to his excess, for a card which should give the privilege of one book a week only, and to keep him on such short commons till his morbid appetite was corrected. Indeed, no plan could be contrived which would more relieve library administration at the point where it is hardest pressed than the issue of cards only good on Monday, similar cards for Tuesday, and so on for each day in the week. The cards of restriction could be issued on this plan, and the severe rush of Saturday could thus be mitigated.

"As the thing stands, many judicious parents are obliged to give directions that no library cards shall be given to their children. They adopt, perforce, a system of prohibition. But such parents would, probably, find no reason to object to a system which permitted the same children to take one book a week from the public library."

⁷ "The librarians have fairly established their high calling among the learned professions, and it will require the influence of but few such conferences to confirm the place of library administration among the sciences. The noticeable fact to us throughout the proceedings was the attention paid to what we may call the soul of public library administration in distinction from the body of it. If the views which prevailed are allowed to shape the administration of the public libraries of the country, the organization which evokes and disseminates them is entitled to the rank of a public benefactor."