

A. L. A. COUNCIL.

Stenographic Report of Meeting of the Council of the American Library Association, held at the Hotel La Salle, on Wednesday, December 29, 1920.

The meeting was called to order by the President of the Association, Miss Alice S. Tyler, in the East room of the hotel, at 2:30 P. M. Miss Tyler presided as chairman of the meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, I feel that our program for the afternoon is likely to be very full. I am sure that we are all ready now to proceed at once to the subject of the afternoon. Mr. W. N. Sanborn, librarian of the public library, Bridgeport, Conn., is to give us a paper on "The Field and Function of a National Professional Organization", and I have given him the liberty to modify that title to suit his presentation. After his paper I hope we may have quite free discussion.

PAPER BY MR. W. N. SANBORN.

MR. SANBORN: Madam President, members of the Council, by way of introduction I want to say that in correspondence with Miss Tyler, after the subject was assigned to me, she asked me also to consider, not only what a professional organization does, but how it does it, the func-

tioning as well as the functions; so in the second half of my paper I will deal with the functioning as well as the functions of a professional organization.

(Mr. Ranck then read the following paper:)

THE CHAIRMAN: It is a great compliment to Mr. Sanborn that we have a room full of people and there are many persons standing. I trust that there are many persons here now who are waiting to at once rise and speak on this very interesting subject which has been presented by Mr. Sanborn. We did not arrange for speakers, because we felt sure there would be many who would want to speak spontaneously. So I hope we may hear from many.

MR. H. H. B. MEYER (Washington, D. C.): I would like to characterize Mr. Sanborn's paper as admirable in every respect. It seems to me he has reviewed the most important subject which is before the A. L. A. at this moment. In giving a definition of a welfare organization and a professional organization, he has clearly set before us the issue. From my experience on the executive board during this past year and widespread conversation with members, I am quite sure that we are now all convinced that we are a professional organization and not a welfare organization. So that I think that part of the subject can be admitted. Starting from there, what we really need now is a revision of our constitution, and the outline which he has presented certainly will offer a great deal of matter for thought to any committee that

may be appointed to continue the work of Mr. Bishop's committee. Mr. Sanborn has drawn examples from existing associations which parallel our own in its professional aspect.

The subject of regional associations or subdivisions of the A. L. A. seems to me to be a very important one and to offer an opportunity for re-organization that will really strengthen the association from every point of view and make it more essentially democratic. I have had a little experience in one or two of those professional organizations from the membership end of it in the past year, and I know regional associations are, in most instances, very active throughout the year. The number of meetings they hold depend entirely upon their own wish. They can have many or few, as they choose. There is usually an annual meeting, to which delegates are sent, and they carry on the general work of the organization. In any revision of the constitution I should like very much to have the regional feature emphasized. I know in and around Washington we would like very much to have a regional association or subdivision that would take in, say the states of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and the District, and I am quite sure nothing would so advance the interest of library affairs in that region as a local

organization, a subdivision of the A. L. A.

MISS MARY E. AHERN (Chicago, Ill.): I had a conversation with someone in the hall this morning who seemed to misunderstand my position with regard to regional meetings and I am very glad, indeed, to take the privilege, if I may have it, of coming in right after Mr. Meyer and saying I most heartily endorse what he has said about regional meetings. My only contention was that we could not have the A. L. A. as it is now organized, a good, active, strong body, sending out its influences to all parts of the country, and at the same time have its membership divided into regional associations unless there was some sort of a change.. There is no question but that the regional association is coming. I have felt so keenly and strongly on the subject that on my own accord I have been carrying on correspondence with various people over the country. I had a strong letter this week from a librarian in the state of Nebraska who points out the fallacy of their belonging to a state association and belonging also to the A. L. A., with nothing in between. My own preference had been for one strong national association; ~~but~~ I may say when I read this letter from the Nebraska librarian I had a complete reversion to the other point. It seems to me, in considering this

question of re-organization of the A. L. A. along constitutional lines, that there is a very definite, very clear duty on the heart, on the conscience, may I say, of the members who have the welfare of library work at heart. We must think of the work as that of today. We have addressed ourselves to the task of making it better. I have myself been under obligations to Mr. Sanborn for many years for many kindnesses, but I want to state here that it has been a long time since I have heard a paper at the A. L. A. Council which showed me how I could go out and clear up some of my own mistakes; and I am perfectly willing to say to Mr. Sanborn that he has shown me that here today. I hope, Madam President, that those who feel really approval, even, --and I know nobody could disapprove---will give us the benefit of their feeling, because this is an important thing. We are commencing to coalesce a little more strongly than we were a year ago, and it is for everybody to come in now and support this idea of having the best library organization that we can have. I am sure those of you who have been with me these many years in lines of effort for library betterment in this country will welcome an opportunity, in the last part of our career, to pass on to those who will take it after us, something of quite as much value, at

least as that which we received from those who went before us. (Applause.)

MR. P. L. WINDSOR (Urbana, Ill.): I can only echo what Mr. Meyer has so excellently said. I think the paper expresses my own sentiments regarding the professional aspects of our organization better than anything I can think of myself. I can't see anything better for the association than to have the membership read and digest and to organize ourselves along the lines of this paper. It agrees with all that I have in my mind on the subject..

THE CHAIRMAN: In some detail, I am sure, there will be disagreement. We must have an interesting meeting by having some disagreement. I see a number of gentlemen on their feet in the rear of the room, which means some of them are going to speak. I very much dislike to call on people, but I was brought up in an old fashioned prayer meeting atmosphere and when the brethren failed to respond they were called upon. Mr. Yust is on his feet, which means, I think, that he is going to say something.

MR. WILLIAM F. YUST: Madam President, I was unfortunate enough not to hear the paper. Inspiration has not struck me yet.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seriously, the president feels very

strongly that this is our opportunity to talk about fundamental things, and I am grateful to Mr. Sanborn for presenting this matter to us so clearly and fully. We are at this time half way in the process of revising the constitution. The vote was taken at Colorado Springs and will be again taken at the meeting at Swampscott. That does not prevent further revision of the constitution, if, in the judgment of the members, there should be another step taken, if the members feel that there should be a really representative body developed in the Council, it seems to me this is a splendid time for us to discuss it. It may be that, when we have before us Mr. Hadley's suggestions regarding the chapter idea, it will be more specific. The chair, I trust, may be pardoned for speaking somewhat at length on this subject, because I have for several years felt very strongly that there should be some strong organic connection between state associations and the American Library Association, so that we can bring about state representation in the Council meetings. I should like to hear your opinions regarding this part of the topic.

MR. WILLIAM J. HAMILTON: Indiana is very anxious to become a part of the A. L. A. with such an organic federation. We are not satisfied at all to have 350 or 400

members of our Indiana Library association and from 100 to 125 members of the A. L. A. We want to take part in some joining by which every single member of the I. L. A. can become automatically a member of the A. L. A. The executive committee of the I. L. A. met two weeks ago, instructed the head of that committee to await action of the A. L. A., and then to draft action for the state association next fall; and I am very, very certain that any plan which is presented by the A. L. A. for such a federation will have the hearty approval, not only of the executive committee, but of the I. L. A. as a whole and practically all of the members of the state federation. We want to be a part of the national organization. We are not content with our state association alone.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is a report that we are interested in hearing, getting the attitude of the state associations on the subject.

MISS AHERN: I think it would have a little different coloring from the large library centers, for instance Greater New York or Chicago. I would like to hear Mr. Hill on this.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have been expecting to hear from Mr. Hill, but I have been rather disappointed up to this point.

MR. FRANK P. HILL (Brooklyn, N.Y.) Madam President, for the last thirty-five years I have attended many A. L. A. meetings and committee meetings at which the revision or re-revision of the constitution has been discussed, and never, I am quite sure the records will bear me out, have I entered into discussion, and I am not going to begin now. But I have a suggestion to offer at this moment to the effect that what the Council is interested in is how we are going to stand in that new constitution; and perhaps if we have that part of the revision presented it might start some of these people discussing what they really want to know.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MISS AHERN: May I rejoin there? I did not mean to bring Dr. Hill into a discussion of revision. I think my memory is better on some things, ^{on revision} than is his just now, but---I ^{do not} understand it is ~~not~~ a revision of the constitution we are discussing, but the question of representation in the A. L. A. Would there be or would there not be some angles of this that would be of ~~interest~~, a different kind of interest, say in New York City or Greater New York ^{from that} ~~than~~ in the State of Nebraska?

DR. HILL: I should hope not.

MISS AHERN: That is all right.

DR. HILL: I should hope that we would all have the same interest.

THE CHAIRMAN: The matter of regional meetings has been discussed briefly and there is a point in connection with that that I think we ought to consider. I am very sure that Mr. Hill would have something to say if we were to talk about having more library meetings than we now have.

DR. HILL: Oh, surely.

THE CHAIRMAN: As I recall he has discussed that topic a few times, and surely if we are to continue to have the annual conferences, the mid-winter meeting, the various state meetings, and then project a series of regional meetings, we would have even a greater number of meetings to attend, with the increased cost of travel, and so forth; so that that is a practical question, and I do not think we can talk about regional or group meetings very intelligently unless we do think of the possibilities of the conferences of the American Library Association being held biennially instead of annually. That, it seems to me, must of necessity be a part of this question. If, for example, we should have a half a dozen regional meetings one year, with a great conference of the

American Library Association, might that not be one way to satisfy this need, which is evident, for group meetings? I would like to hear from some of you on that subject. Miss Robinson, what do you think?

MISS ROBINSON: I think it might be a move in the right direction, because I feel that, in Iowa as probably in all states, the state people do not come in touch with the A. L. A. If they could get together in regional groups they would feel they were more closely connected with the A. L. A. and would be able to attend meetings, which they cannot attend at a distance. I think we in the Iowa association will be heartily in favor of group and regional meetings, which would bring us closer to the A. L. A. and the A. L. A. closer to us.

THE CHAIRMAN: Remember the regional meeting would be an A. L. A. regional meeting. It would be a regional organization, but the A. L. A. functioning in a group instead of in one unit.

MR. MEYER: My own idea of the regional meetings is that they would rather reduce the total number of library meetings, in that a number of states would combine and have one regional meeting. It seems to me that there is a tendency on the part of library commissions---perhaps I am venturing on a subject that I know very little

about---there is a tendency on the part of library commissions to do a good deal of work that has previously been done by the A. L. A. and the state associations. If they continue to move in that direction there will be less reason for so many as forty-eight possible state organizations, with forty-eight meetings every year. If we can combine a half a dozen of those state meetings into one regional meeting, we will have reduced the total number by five, if there are six states joining in the regional meeting. That would be a start in the right direction.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wheeler, I know you want to discuss this subject.

MR. J. L. WHEELER: That might, on the other hand, have a tendency to cut down attendance of the librarians from the smaller libraries who have to travel a long distance.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think there are women librarians here who know a good deal about the way the General Federation of Women's Clubs functions---a really great national organization. I think Mrs. Earl is going to say something about that, as to the value of a biennial meeting versus an annual meeting.

MRS. E. C. EARL: I had not thought of saying anything,

but I heartily approve the biennial thought. I do not approve giving up the state meetings. I think that would be a mistake. I think often commissions are misunderstood. As I look at the question, Mr. Meyer, I think the state associations and other things you mentioned take their cue from the commissions.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Earl, will you not speak on the function of the alternating year of state meetings and the general organization?

MRS. EARL: You mean the Council meeting coming on?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, I mean the general federation one year and the various state meetings the odd year.

MRS. EARL: Well, I don't know that I can say anything about that. It is just the fact that the general federation meets each alternate year and the state meeting the other year, and then they come together in this national meeting, which gives us the inspiration for the coming year in the state; is that what you mean?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MRS. EARL: And it has worked admirably among the club women in their organization, and I don't know why it shouldn't in this organization. The only feature that I see in this plan is that I can't be a member of this body that I have been so long interested in because I am

not "professional." (Laughter.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Will you answer that, Mr. Sanborn?

MR. SANBORN: By "active membership" I don't mean necessarily a librarian---

MR. HILL: We would not think of putting Mr. Bowker out or putting Miss Ahern out.

MISS ANNA A. NAC DONALD: As our state federation of women have organized, it has seemed to me it has worked effectively. It may be a little different in each state. Our state federations have annual meetings. They send delegates to the biennial meeting, as I understand. The state is divided into districts and the districts have regional meetings. It is an honor to me to go to a biennial meeting. I have heard reports in the tiniest civic club in villages of three or four hundred people. It comes straight down to the little village where there is a federated club. When San Francisco women were fighting for certain things I met, in little villages, women of those villages who were aiding the women of San Francisco and fighting for them. Now, why can't we keep our state organization? Because, when the state is separated as Mr. Meyer has mentioned, it had better combine, being more effective. New York can probably afford two clubs that will be worth while.

We have to work up state pride; keep your state meetings organized. Your regional meetings depend upon your population, the number of libraries, to inject the A. L. A. through it all. So it isn't this state or that state, but it is the whole of the people of the United States.

MR. CHARLES E. RUSH (Indianapolis, Ind.): May I raise the question, how such a proposed national, democratic organization could transact business with dispatch if it met only every other year?

MR. SANBORN: Every other year was not what I had in mind, but if we have an executive committee, it does not say that we can't have a Council meeting, which is a representative assembly. We meet now twice a year. We could meet every year instead of twice a year, or we could meet as many times as the Council might be called, if it was a matter of policy. If it was a matter of ordinary business, my suggestion was that all matters of business, publication and everything like that should be left to the Executive Committee, except where there was a change of policy involved.

THE CHAIRMAN: The meeting of the council in the General Federation of Women's Clubs is in the alternate year.

There is always a very important meeting of the Federated Council in the year when there is not a General Federation meeting, and that would apply in this organization in case there should be sufficient interest in the biennial idea for it to be adopted.

MR. SANBORN: A reorganization of this sort means a conference of the whole A. L. A. is a conference, not for the transaction of business, but for conference purposes. The Council transacts the business. The American Medical Association has a very good subdivision of the two things. It has a Scientific Assembly, I think it is called, as well as the American Medical Association, and the Scientific Assembly has an entirely separate officer who arranges all conferences and programs and the president of the American Medical Association does not preside at those meetings. It is a rather interesting subdivision. If we had the biennial meeting it would be a conference meeting, with a Council meeting as often as necessary for the transaction of business.

MR. RANCK: Madam Chairman, I think the matter of details of the constitution, while important, are not so important as some other features. I am a member of a good many organizations and I have come to the conclusion that in many cases handling the business is more important

than the form of organization. I might say with reference to voting by mail, there are advantages and disadvantages in that method. The Alumni Association of my college elects what we call an alumni council, which represents the alumni and all of the alumni affairs of the college are attended to by a board of trustees, &c. They are elected by a vote by mail that goes all over the world. It has been my honor to have been chairman of the committee that handles the details of getting that mail vote out and so on. The thing that has interested me is that it has a tendency to bring to the election---nominations are by mail vote, also, as well as the election. There are two sets of ballots, a nomination ballot and an election ballot. We have had to change our methods somewhat to meet the situation. I think you might be interested in the practical working of a thing of this kind. We found this: That well known men, not necessarily because they were interested in the affairs of the college or the organization, were the ones most likely to be nominated and they were likely to be elected, but we couldn't get them to attend to the business of the organization. They wouldn't come to the meetings, and we had to amend that provision, that

any one who did not show up at the meetings after a certain number of times without an excuse, the nominating committee or persons who handled that did not consider him for re-election, to eliminate the drones or the non-workers. That is a practical matter in the handling of a thing of that kind. We have also found that it is extremely difficult to get by that method unless there is a concerted, organized effort on the part of a small group to get men who are really interested in the work, to get them nominated and elected. You have got to set up an additional lot of machinery to get it before that body, which is scattered all over the world; so that there are some real, practical difficulties in the handling of a thing of that kind, which, on the face of it, I will admit, is about as democratic as you could make it. So much for that.

My own feeling about these various meetings is this: That we need the state meeting very much---the state association. There are local problems within the state that come up and need attention right straight along and no group of states could handle them within the state. We need that and must have it. How you get it is immaterial. Personally I have always liked the organization of the American Medical Association. I think it is perhaps

the most effective---it certainly has the most political power of any professional organization in this country, without doubt, in my mind. I know, because I have worked with a lot of those men in two states and I know how they can put their hands on various things to get them through the legislatures. It is a powerful political organization as well, as a powerful professional organization.

As far as national meetings are concerned, personally I think the library interests of this country are of sufficient importance to-day and are of such growing importance that we need an annual meeting of the American Library Association rather than a biennial meeting. (Applause.)

MISS _____: I would like to speak a word for the smaller libraries. The inspiration that we get from the annual meetings of the A. L. A. and from all of these meetings, is not any more than we need to carry us across the problems of the year, and I think, if we are going to strengthen our profession, we need to consider the small library rather than the large library.

DR. BOSTWICK: May I revert for a moment to the question of the regional associations? I think a mistaken impression has been taken up by some of the members. I certainly had no idea of advocating doing away with

state library associations, not for a moment, but there are a good many states not strong enough to maintain them. There is where the regional association can come in. We can even go beyond that. Some of the engineering associations have local organizations. Some years ago I know they had a local organization in New Orleans. A few engineers down there simply organized a branch of the central organization and to all intents and purposes, although they were confined practically to New Orleans, they were a regional organization. My idea of the regional organizations is not that they shall do away with the state societies, but that they shall provide an organization where there is not sufficient strength to maintain a state organization.

DR. BOSTWICK: I am under the misfortune of having just come into this meeting and I do not know everything that has been said. We have had a protracted meeting of the Publishing Board. I am very much interested in this question of regional organizations. I am afraid that I will repeat something that has been said already. My idea about regional organizations is that we should encourage the formation of local groups of members of the A. L. A. in small localities, wherever we possibly can. Those groups can be formed perfectly well without any authoriza-

tion of the A. L. A. For instance we have in mind the formation of one in St. Louis at a very early date, probably within a few weeks, and we shall do it whether we are authorized to do so by the A. L. A. or not. The people who were born in Ohio can get together in St. Louis and form an association in St. Louis, and the people with red hair and blue eyes can get together and form an organization, and I can see no objection to people belonging to the American Library Association getting together and saying that they will further the interests of the A. L. A. in that locality. But I can see the wisdom of our laying down a few brief suggestions for their work and the way in which the organization should be carried on. I think that would make for homogeneity of such organizations after they were formed, and I think if we don't form them that local organizations will be formed which will interfere with our work. Some have already appeared. On the other hand we have some strong staff organizations in some of our libraries which are good things. But I believe that if we can form these organizations and restrict their membership to A. L. A. members, instead of saying, "What is in it for us in the A. L. A.?" they will say, "How can I get into this?" There are no conditions except that you shall be members of the A. L. A.

I think they would come running to get into the A. L. A. so that they could join their locals.

THE CHAIRMAN: The chair is very anxious to see this local association formed in St. Louis so that we may have an object lesson of how it will work.

MR. HILL: Is it to be red-haired or blue-eyed?

(Laughter.)

DR. BOSTWICK: That is immaterial.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have no desire to protract this discussion any longer than there is active interest. It seems to me there are some points that might well be brought out.

MR. J. C. M. HANSON (Chicago, Ills.): Is it too early to ask questions?

THE CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. Sanborn will be glad to answer any questions.

MR. HANSON: The question I have in mind is this: Some of us in this room are members of various organizations, the Geographic Society and the I. L. A. We are, also, members of the Chicago Library Club, which I think, in numbers, probably equals the I. L. A. I understand, then, that we are allowed to elect a member to the Council from any association, whether it be a state association or

a city association having a membership of something like fifty or more?

MR. SANBORN: That is Mr. Hadley's amendment, which is to come up for discussion later. I do not think I am the proper person to answer that question. I suggested that there be some regional division, with representation in the council, but I did not go into details. Mr. Hadley's amendment, which was sent to the Council, takes that up in detail. I should think that would be answered in the discussion of that resolution.

MR. HANSON: That is probably a detail that will come up later, then.

THE CHAIRMAN: It will be discussed in connection with Mr. Hadley's recommendation.

MR. HANSON: I was afraid there might be complications, because many of us belong to other associations and we might have too good a chance to get into the Council.

MR. HILL: What objection is there to doing away with the constitution altogether?

THE CHAIRMAN: We would be glad to have you present reasons for it.

MR. HILL: The reason is that it always takes, in the course of about once in five years, some two or three days of valuable time of the membership of this organization

to revise the constitution, and I believe the American Library Association could get along---I am speaking seriously---without any constitution, except that it might be two or three paragraphs, that would allow it to stand up by itself, and then have a set of by-laws that could be changed from time to time and revised, perhaps once in two or three years, that would not take any time at all.

MR. RUSH: Madam President, there is something to think about in what Dr. Hill says. Go back to the history of the American Library Association and you will find one important influence in our organization. The organism of the association has been often strengthened by the proper effort to have the right kind of organization. The organism is more important than the organization.

MR. _____ RICE: There is such an organization known as the Russian Soviet. (Laughter.) I want to ask, what steps will be taken between now and the time of the annual meeting to formulate these recommendations made by Mr. Sanborn, so that they may be definitely discussed, point by point, for inclusion in the constitution? That is what I want to know.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Executive Board will at once appoint

a committee on constitution and by-laws to succeed the committee which put such splendid work on this last year. We greatly regret that all three of the members of the committee absolutely refused to continue on the committee; so that the board must now appoint a new committee, and that committee will take this matter under advisement. Might we hear from Mr. Roden? We would be glad to hear from you, Mr. Roden.

MR. CARL B. RODEN (Chicago, Ills.) I have not been able to form any idea as to details of Mr. Sanborn's recommendations, but it seems to me that we might pause a moment and consider whether we are so very certain that we want to draw this straight and sharp line of cleavage between a welfare organization and a professional organization. There was a little tone of reproach in at least the implication that we are, of course, a professional organization and we must not be a welfare organization, and that any future constitution that is framed must be framed so that this thing that has happened cannot ever happen again. I am not so certain about that. I was on both sides of what happened last year. (Laughter.) And the positions that I took up successively were both the result of convictions which, at least, endured for the moment. It doesn't seem to me that we are up to the

cross-roads, the point of departure, where we have to decide whether we shall have to be either one or the other, whether we shall have to reorganize ourselves so that we can never extend any efforts or use any of our resources, whether they are those which we raised through such ordinary machinery as that to which organizations usually resort, or through such extraordinary means as were admitted unsuccessful during the last year---whether we must sew ourselves up so that we can never employ any of the instruments that come to our hands for what is not welfare work, but the extension of the gospel that we are trying to preach over the country in the places where it is not the function of any one else to preach that gospel. The A. L. A. was not trying to do welfare work a year ago. We had done that, perhaps, during the war, but that was an extraordinary occasion to which no one took exception; but a year ago, with the Enlarged Program, the A. L. A. was not attempting to do welfare work, and there is no particular occasion for arousing alarm over a repetition of that sort of an occurrence. If the constitution, as outlined by Mr. Sanborn, is framed so as to make it impossible for an executive board, in an emergency, to commit the association to a policy, then I think that constitution ought to be received with hesitation, and

after very serious deliberation; because this is a national organization of which the membership is scattered over the entire country, and in which a representative meeting is difficult to get, in which we must, in the very nature of our organization, entrust its conduct and the formulation of its policies to a few persons in order to make the thing work at all.

We must also not forget that a year ago an assemblage not very much larger than this adopted a policy which was afterwards repudiated by the entire association and that neither the officers nor the committee on constitution and by-laws today should take any expressions from the small collection of all members, from possibly a restricted section of the country, any more seriously or perhaps half as seriously as they were taken a year ago.

We are a professional organization, of course, theoretically, and we all think that we are, yet we all know that the programs in our meetings for the past generation have departed more and more sharply from the consideration of professional topics; that it has been left to small section meetings, to persons who were willing to admit to one another that they were interested in the same subject, to get together in small groups in order to maintain the professional spirit for which the A. L. A.

says it stands so emphatically; that the meetings had been meetings on large generalities; that the program topics have not dealt with matters of technique or professional practice; that we have left catalogers off because it has not been taken seriously by the A. L. A. that such a thing as cataloging, to quote only one phase of a large subject, should be a matter of serious discussion by the A. L. A.; by no means; it had to be done in small sections. If we are no longer a professional organization, let us get back to a revision of the kind of subjects that we discussed in our meetings rather than by revision of the constitution that will forever debar us from being anything elseq (Applause.)

MR. SANBORN: I would like to agree with what Mr. Roden has said, but I think he misunderstood what I said in the paper. I think there is ~~nothing~~ whatever in the suggestions made there that were copied entirely from the constitutions of other professional organizations which would prevent us, at any time, going through a history similar to what we have been through in the last three years. It means the Council would, at any time, have power to determine the policy of the association, which would become a welfare organization, and it could raise any amount of money by public subscription or anything else through the

Council. I think at Chicago a year ago we thought it wise that there should be two distinct bodies, one to form a policy and the other to execute the policy; but there is absolutely nothing in the suggestion I have made which prevents us forever from rendering direct service. In that constitution I think we would be geographically represented. We have had three votes on questions and we have gotten different results each time. Now, with a different policy, we would get the opinion from all sections of the country.

I think Mr. Hill's suggestion is excellent and I agree with him most heartily. I spoke of constitution when I was thinking of by-laws. The N. E. A. constitution was so arranged that there was no amendment to the constitution at Salt Lake City last year, although there was complete reorganization of the association. The by-laws were completely revised at Salt Lake City, which made it a new institution. I think if we do revise our constitution, that we should have only a few brief paragraphs, and put all of the other matters I have referred to in the by-laws.

THE CHAIRMAN: Shall we continue this discussion further or shall we simply turn aside for a brief time and have the

recommendations from Mr. Hadley regarding the points proposed by him in his presidential address at Colorado Springs? The chair is inclined to think that that is so nearly a part of this general subject that it might be well to have that presented now. I will ask the secretary to read that for the benefit of those who have not seen a copy of it.

(The secretary thereupon read former President Hadley's recommendations.)

MR. BOSTWICK: Madam Chairman, I read these recommendations of Mr. Hadley with a great deal of interest and I have thought of them considerably. It seems to me they are too elaborate. It seems to me that what we want here is something extremely simple, similar to what I spoke about a while ago, with some regulation by the A. L. A. It seems to me state chapters of the A. L. A. are a great mistake. They conflict with state organizations. The associations I proposed would be in towns where there are now no associations. Once in a while, in Chicago or New York, where there is a strong library club, there might be some conflict between the local chapter and the library club, but the idea would be to have them coalesce. I believe the fewer conflicts we get of this kind the better. You are sure to have conflict where there is a state chapter of the A. L. A.

The state chapter would pass one thing and the state association would pass another thing. It seems to me it would be better to encourage the formation of state locals, which would have back of them the A. L. A. without the intermediary of state chapters.

MR. HAMILTON: I don't agree with Dr. Bostwick as to the danger of misunderstanding between a state chapter and a state association. I think a large number of the state associations would be perfectly willing to merge themselves, to lose their identity and become a chapter of the A. L. A. As long as we can do our work within the state we don't care particularly whether the name is Indiana Library Association or Indiana Chapter of the A. L. A. I don't believe there is any danger of having two organizations.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let us hear further from members of the Council who have had communications in their hands.

DR. C. W. ANDREWS (Chicago, Ills.): My objection to Dr. Hadley's suggestions is far more radical than has been voiced so far. He evidently has in mind the restriction of the interests of the American Library Association to merely the public library. If his proposition to eliminate elected members of the Council carries, except so far as ex-presidents of the association may represent such inter-

ests, or perchance the elected presidents of the state chapters or representatives of the state chapters, there will be no representatives of state and college libraries, university libraries, reference libraries, special libraries, the catalogers and various other lines; there will be nothing but employees in the Council of the association, and we might better change the name of the association to "American Library Employees" instead of American Library Association. It will not be those who represent all library interests of this country.

THE CHAIRMAN: May the chair ask Dr. Andrews why he says it would be confined to public libraries? Do not the other libraries belong to the state library associations?

DR. ANDREWS: No, they are not represented as such at all. They are a small number. I am speaking of Massachusetts and ^{Illinois,} the two state organizations of which I am a member. As I understand, most of their meetings are devoted to subjects of public library interests. I believe in this way we would be narrowing to very small limits the interests represented on the Council of the A. L. A.

MR. SANBORN: Mr. Andrews has not been in the room all of the time. I think there is a serious objection to Dr. Hadley's suggestion as it exists. Having received that

before I finished writing my paper I tried to obviate that as other associations have done. We have a Catalog Section, a League of Affiliated Associations in sections, a College Reference Library section, and in the suggestions I made I believe there should be a representative from each of those sections in the Council as well as geographical representation. That is modeled after the American Medical Association and other associations which are subdivided into sectional as well as geographical organizations.

DR. ANDREWS: That will largely meet my objection. If the University libraries and the catalogers are represented in the Council, then the Council will retain its present breadth of interest, and any recommendations made by them would have back of them all of the association's influence.

_____ : In Iowa the College Librarians are considered and we take pains to elect a college librarian every two or three years as president. On our board of directors, one of the officers is always a college librarian, and we have representatives from other librarians of the state.

MISS AHERN: I don't suppose the general public is interested in our Illinois situation, but I would like to

know where Dr. Andrews got his impression that the *J. L. A. is*
erroneous
made up of public libraries and that

~~impression~~ that the university librarians, catalogers, classifiers, children's librarians and trustees are not in the Illinois organization and good, strong workers.

He does not come to our meetings often enough to be *correctly* ~~better~~ informed. (Laughter.)

DR. ANDREWS: May I suggest that a census of the present Executive Board of the A. L. A. be taken and see what libraries other than public libraries are represented on it?

THE CHAIRMAN: The president may be permitted to answer. The present Executive Board consists of a representative of a library school, which is connected with a university; a representative of the Library of Congress; the librarian of one of the large college libraries; a representative of a very active business library and a librarian of a large endowed reference library, and I believe two librarians of public libraries.

DR. ANDREWS: Then I stand corrected. There has been a very agreeable change.

THE CHAIRMAN: Shall we hear other discussions regarding the recommendations of ex-president Hadley? Regarding the representation of the state library associations, the point which has been under discussion, it would seem that if a local chapter, a state chapter or a local library

association would elect representatives to the Council, they would nominate from the body and would just as likely nominate college librarians as public librarians or whoever would seem to represent that association adequately from the point of view of that particular election. That point, it seems to me, is clear. Several persons have called my attention to the fact that the basic membership of the association is too low, and I quite agree with that. Mr. Hadley and I have exchanged some letters on the subject. It seems to me to make the basic membership the one representative from the association having a membership of fifty or less, could very properly be placed much higher, because the "or less" would enable the small state library association to have one representative, even though it had only fifty members; so it could easily be a basic membership of one hundred or even 200 or less, and then additional members for additional hundreds. The question would be to keep down the total of the Council. That, it seems to me, is the question involved in this consideration, as to how large a council would be created by this method. I wonder if any one has given thought to that and can give us the result of that thought.

MR. RANCK: It seems to me it would be a valuable thing

for the A. L. A. in its revision of the constitution, for the secretary's office to take a census, if you please, of all of the library organizations in this country, including the A. L. A., the state organizations and library clubs. A good many of them are duplicate members of all three. But as far as my knowledge goes, in each organization there is a number of persons who are members of an individual organization only; and this brings up the matter, which has not been referred to, a matter of importance in a good many places, and that is the question of expense and dues. To what extent will it be necessary to increase the dues in the American Library Association if they were federated in this way? The American Medical Association handled that by increasing the dues of the membership and so on all along the line. That is a very important matter. There are in our states a large number of libraries---I was at a library the other day in Michigan where the librarians in a town of about 6,000 people---the library is open six nights a week; the librarian works six nights, and until recently she worked six nights a week. It is a library such as that where the question of expense of membership in such an organization as this is a matter of consideration.

THE CHAIRMAN: There is an important point which Mr.

Ranck has brought out. Would it be a wise plan to work toward an annual membership which should be inclusive? I am going on the theory that this state chapter idea might be practical. It may not be. If we could have a membership which is inclusive, for instance, place the membership at, say \$4 a year or even \$5 a year, which would include the membership in the state chapter and the local chapter, retaining a part for the local, a certain amount for the state and the remainder going to A. L. A. headquarters, making one membership due for professional library membership---is that a practical thing? Is that a feasible thing? Do not other national organizations do this, and will Mr. Sanborn tell us whether he has found that is practical?

MR. SANBORN: I think that is done in the American Medical Association, as I remember its constitution---it has been long since I went over it; but that is done in some associations. The American Institute of Architects, I believe, allows the chapters to charge individual dues, but the one due does not cover the whole thing, although no one can join a state chapter unless he is also a member of the National Institute. There are two separate dues, his dues to the National Institute and his dues to

the state chapter, which are settled entirely by the chapter. I think both ways are used in those associations. You asked a moment ago about limiting the Council, how large it should be. The N. E. A. does not seem to have been worried about that. They allow one for every 100 members in the chapter. The American Medical Association limits the Council as a whole, and after certain ex-officio members are admitted, because they are in the medical department of the United States army, for instance, then they apportion the rest of the delegates to the existing chapters. It might be fifty for one year and one hundred for another year. It is re-apportioned every three years, so that the number of delegates is shifting, so as to keep the Council at a total of 150, re-apportioned every three years.

MR. SMITH: Under our present organization do we not have an arrangement whereby state associations are affiliated with the National? They make a certain payment, do they not, and have representation on the Council? How is that?

THE SECRETARY: Most of the large, active associations ---I can't say offhand; probably somewhere between twenty-five and thirty of the associations are affiliated with

the A. L. A. and the dues they pay amount to a considerable item in the National Association, I think ten cents a hundred, and some member of each of those organizations is a member of the Council, and they are so listed each year.

A MEMBER: How do they do that?

MR. _____ PRICE: Each member of the local chapter pays his annual dues in to the local chapter and a certain portion of that is sent to the national organization. In most organizations the membership dues are \$3.00 a year. Under an arrangement, made I think several years ago, the dues to the American Association for the Advancement of Science were made \$5.00 a year. In most of the local academies it is \$1.00 a year. Any member of the local academy can have his membership in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The National Association fee of \$5 is collected by the secretary of the local association, who remits \$4.00. The members of the local association are not necessarily members of the National Association. But it has resulted in two things: Increasing the membership of the local association by bringing in those people who were members of the National Association but had not cared to keep the local membership,

but yet increased the locals by getting the locals to drum up membership for the Association for the Advancement of Science. So if we could increase our membership, we could have an increased due covering both dues in the local and the A. L. A. Then we could have our local association practically, acting more than as in the past, as a drumming-up agent of the A. L. A., but of course our dues would have to be larger.

THE CHAIRMAN: It will take time to bring about such a radical change as we are discussing here, even if we wish to do it. The question now is whether we are at the point where we are willing to face the necessity of raising the dues in the American Library Association. We are burying the past. We are recognizing the fact that we are not going to have two million dollars. We are forgetting that, but we do need money to carry on the normal activities of the American Library Association. I think a good many of the members feel that the dues are much lower than they are in many similar national bodies. Now, the question is whether it is not a perfectly logical and reasonable way to have a larger income to increase the dues? Isn't it a fair and just thing? We all want to increase the activities on the part of our national body, and this is a reasonable way to have a larger income

without any hardship, it seems to the chair. We are making a great effort to increase the membership. Each of you will help in this. You are helping in this, interesting others in joining the association, but wouldn't it be the right thing and the fair thing for us to consider increasing the dues, although this is a bad time to increase anything in cost? The dues, as you know, are quite nominal, \$2.00 a year. Would it be proper to increase the dues, after the first of the year, to \$3.00? It has been proposed by some that there should be a membership based on whether or not one received the publications. There are many members of the staff of large libraries who may not care to own the publications of the association, the proceedings, &c. They have access to them in the library, or they are not deeply enough interested in the details to care for them. Would it not be interesting to have two types of membership, with a fee, say of \$4.00 for members who wish to receive all of the publications of the association, and a \$2.00 membership fee for members who wish to join and do not care for the publications? I am throwing this out as one of the suggestions that have been made to us, and I would be glad if you would discuss this question of the feasibility of increasing the membership dues.

MR. HAMILTON: I should like to ask, if we had an automatic arrangement, an obligatory due covering both our state and national association, with an increase, would there be any possibility of a saving for the individual by such a joint due?

MR. RICE: In connection with what you said about a higher fee to those who get all of the publications, it might be pertinent to say that the National Education Association now has that kind of an arrangement. Those who wish the annual proceedings, a large volume, must pay \$5 a year and others the fee of \$2 a year. I think that has helped matters out very much in the N. E. A.

MISS AHERN: Mr. Sanborn, have you seen in any of the other organizations, in looking up the matter of dues, where the life member paid anything more than the initial amount?

MR. SANBORN: I was not looking for that in particular, but I do not remember seeing anything about a life member in any of the constitutions. I wouldn't want to say anything about that. It has escaped my notice if there was anything about that. For instance, in the American Institute of Architects, I think it is \$25 a year, but it is a great professional asset to belong to the American

Institute of Architects. It has a commercial value. They have it on their stationery and it means that a member passed a rather rigid examination before being admitted to a chapter, and he is an architect of standing. So it is worth something commercially to belong to the American Institute of Architects. And so with the legal profession. You have got to be a lawyer of some standing before you can belong to the American Bar Association. An association of standing can charge more dues than others.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is a subject which, it seems to me, has a very direct bearing on the general discussion we are having. Is this not a perfectly proper way to fix our income? Is it not the proper time to consider increasing the membership dues, and how it may be done?

MR. ANDREWS: I think Miss Ahern's point is well taken. I have always felt that the life membership dues in this association were altogether too low. Perhaps some of the members of the association may not know that I am a life member. Therefore I have always been in favor of raising, at any rate, the life membership dues. And I have said, in order to be myself in good faith, that I would meet any increase which was voted by the association, although they could not make that obligatory, as no such action could be

retroactive. I think they ought to be increased. But \$25 for life membership is too small, even if your annual dues are only \$2, because it does not pay the interest on it. It does not pay the cost to the association of each member of the association. I went into that at considerable length. I believe, first, you ought to raise your life membership rate, and, also, I believe, you ought to raise your annual dues. As an expression of my good faith I will offer to meet any increase that may be voted for life membership.

THE CHAIRMAN: We would like to hear from Mr. Strohm.

MR. ADAM STROHM (Detroit, Mich.): Madam President, I shall not have very much to say. I am very glad to be converted to Dr. Andrews' opinion about life membership. As far as membership dues are concerned, I would like to raise the question about a certain kind of membership, namely, the institutional, which, I think, is \$5. We had a meeting of the executive board in Cleveland about a week ago, and in discussing the continuation of the Merchant Marine, we had the benefit of a clear exposé of a very strong, independent organization, known as the Great Lakes Carriers' Association. I had heard a great deal about it, because the president of the association is a Detroit man, but I never quite knew on what basis their prosperity

rested. It was bound to be quite shrewd, because both the president and the secretary are Scotchmen. They are not in any sense dependent upon the annual revenue of these carriers. Their whole economic structure is based upon the dues of the members of the association, and those dues, again, are regulated by the tonnage of the carriers, the boat owners. It is very easy to find out what the tonnage is. It is almost impossible for anybody to cheat the one who computes the tonnage, and they get the money. I raised the question informally with the Executive Board. Doesn't it seem proper that the big tonnage institutions should pay a little more than the institutions representing 50,000 inhabitants-- not only the question of resources; but surely, in the larger cities, speaking for Detroit, I think that the municipal governing intelligence is improving and asking for trained minds in every line, from the mayor down, and it has very fine results. It is exacting more from such an institution as the library. It is putting us on our mettle, and it is also in a position to give such credit to us as we deserve and not countenance us merely for political purposes. If that is true, it seems to me that the big libraries can well afford to contribute a little more for the very necessary personnel and crew

that they must have, trained men and women who must come out of the profession. If that is so, if we are to gain more by supporting the association, let us pay more, according to our benefits. And I would like to see the institutional membership in some way graded, according to the "tonnage", whatever that is, inhabitants, appropriations or ability and nerve to get the money.

THE CHAIRMAN: This matter of the increase of membership, which means an increase of revenue, has, as I have said, such a practical bearing on the present situation, that, without committing yourselves in any way to a policy, I wonder if you would favor an increase in the membership dues? How many here would favor a reasonable increase in membership dues of the association, beyond the present \$2?

(A number of those present raised their hands.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. That is a very favorable showing and I think it will help out the committee in framing the by-laws within the next year, even if we undertake the larger revision that has been discussed.

MISS LINDA A. EASTMAN: May we not also include in that an increase in the dues of the life members? Being a life member myself I would be glad to propose that.

THE CHAIRMAN: I believe a number have expressed their belief that it should be practically double. Will you hold up your hands, indicating that you believe life membership should be increased? Would you be willing that it should be doubled and that life membership should be made fifty dollars? Let us see a show of hands on that.

(A number of the members raised their hands.)

MISS AHERN: May I offer a suggestion, that instead of making it fifty dollars for all who are in---the \$25 might be increased, but I believe some who hold a life membership would not be able to pay \$50---wouldn't it be well to allow the people to double their life membership or let their life membership expire at the end of twenty-five years? I think if we should get one hundred more life memberships for, say \$35 or \$40, it would be more than if we had a less number at \$50, but I am perfectly willing to pay \$50.

THE CHAIRMAN: It would seem to the chair that it would not necessarily be retroactive. It could be so arranged that the matter could be put up to the present life members as to whether they would wish to increase their membership by an additional \$25? If so, there would be nothing compulsory about it. It would mean that the fee should be \$50 for future life members.

MISS AHERN: I do not believe I am in favor of making the entrance fee for life membership \$50. I am perfectly willing to pay another \$25 for my life membership, but I believe there are people who would be scared by the \$50 fee for life membership.

MR. F. W. SCHENK (Chicago, Ills.): When I became a life member I figured it on the basis that \$25 would bring in 3 per cent, and that would be 75 cents a year. Deducting one dollar a year from the principal would make the dues to the association actually \$1.75 for twenty-five years. The reason I became a life member was because I wanted to be sure to pay my dues. It seems to me the same theory should apply in the life membership. If the dues are \$4, fifty dollars would be reasonable for life membership; if it is only \$3, thirty-five dollars or forty dollars would be reasonable. Dr. Bostwick suggested to me that you have to figure that on the annuity basis.

DR. ANDREWS: I think if the association will divide its membership into those who want membership and those who want the proceedings and those who don't, have different amounts, I think there could be a difference in the dues of life membership as suggested.

DR. BOSTWICK: It seems to me the remark by Miss Ahern as to life membership expiring caused too much merriment.

After the first twenty-five years of life membership expires, let the member take another life membership for \$25.

MISS GERTRUDE FORSTALL: (Chicago, Ills.:) In line with what Dr. Bostwick said, I became a life member with that idea in mind, because a friend of mine was advised to go out of the profession at a comparatively early age, and I decided to become a life member when the question of dues came up to me. I became a life member three years ago. Probably twenty-five years from now I may not have eye-sight enough to read the proceedings, but I do not want to be put out. If we must pay \$25 more, it is a serious matter with salaries such as they are now.

THE CHAIRMAN: This discussion has, I am sure, given us much help in the next step toward certain changes which seem to me to be necessary. If there is no further discussion I think we will close this and proceed to another topic. At the Colorado Springs meeting some things happened that I am not very clear about in my own recollection, but I do know, from the minutes of the meeting, that there was a motion from the floor at one of the general sessions that a committee should be appointed from the Council to report on the Publishing Board at the next

meeting of the Council. In compliance with that action the chair appointed a committee from the Council, consisting of Dr. Bostwick, Mr. A. S. Root and Mr. Malcolm G. Wyer, and I will ask that committee if it is now ready to present a report to the Council on Publishing Board matters.

DR. BOSTWICK: The way that your committee understood this question was that the point under discussion was whether it was constitutional or advisable for the Executive Board to appoint a publisher to take charge of the publishing work of the association, and that was the way that we discussed the question at the meeting of your committee. It was decided by the committee to recommend to the Council that this matter be referred to the Publishing Board for such action as, in its judgment, might be proper.

THE CHAIRMAN: What shall be done with this report?

Moved and seconded that the report be adopted.

THE CHAIRMAN: May I ask Dr. Bostwick if he will put that report in more tangible form?

(Dr. Bostwick later submitted the report in writing as follows and the report was adopted:)

The committee appointed to report to the Council on the constitutionality or advisability of the

employment of a publisher by the Executive Board, begs to report its recommendation that this matter be referred to the Publishing Board for such disposition as in its judgment may seem proper.

(Voted.)

ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK,
Chairman.

MISS AHERN: Madam Chairman, I have the greatest confidence in all of the members of this committee, but I have, perhaps, some curiosity as to what happened. I was acquainted with the motion when it was made, that a committee from the Council investigate the subject matters relating to the Publishing Board. Did they make an investigation? Did they do anything or have they decided not to do anything and let the Publishing Board take care of it? Is the Publishing Board to carry on the work which the committee was appointed to do? If so, shall the Publishing Board investigate itself?

DR. BOSTWICK: I may say that this was not at all the way in which this matter came up before the committee. Indeed, it must seem obvious that the chairman, being chairman of the Publishing Board, could not accept appointment on a committee which was to investigate the board. That is not the way it was put up to me.

THE SECRETARY: A motion was passed at the board meeting

at Colorado Springs, requiring the Executive Board to put into the hands of a commercial publisher the publication of the A. L. A. books and pamphlets. The matter was brought before the conference at Colorado Springs and was referred to the Council. Later the Executive Board reconsidered the matter and postponed the matter indefinitely. However, the thing is before the Council because of the action that I have just reported. The question before the Council, referred by the association, is whether the association or the Publishing Board shall place the publication of its affairs in the hands of a commercial publisher. There was no motion to appoint a committee. It has never been before the Council before except as a matter of reference from the association. It has never come up at a Council meeting. The President thought it advisable to appoint a committee in order that somebody might make a recommendation. She did appoint a committee. The committee was not to investigate the Publishing Board or the publishing activities, but was to make a recommendation to the Council concerning the matter that was referred to it.

MISS AHERN: How could the committee make a ^{recommendation} ~~investigation~~ without finding out about cost, service, time and all the rest of it?

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chairman will say that she was not a party to this investigation of Publishing Board matters last year. She has inherited this, along with a great many other inheritances. It has appeared to her that there was a rather thorough investigation of Publishing Board matters made at the instance of the Executive Board by Mr. Melcher. That report was acted upon by the preceding Executive Board. Then this other matter that our secretary explained came up before the association itself regarding the employment of a commercial publisher. The matter was presented to me, as I remember, that this action had been taken and that a Council Committee should be appointed. The Chair appointed a Council committee, and very properly, it seems to the Chair. included on the committee the chairman of the Publishing Board, with two other members of the Council, Mr. Root and My. Wyer.

MISS AHERN: What have they done?

THE CHAIRMAN: They have made the report which we have just listened to. Are you ready for the vote, or is there any further discussion?

(There being no further discussion, the report set forth on pages 51 and 52, presented by Dr. Bostwick, was adopted by a vote of 19 to 1.)

THE CHAIRMAN: There is a matter that the Executive Board feels should be presented at this time, not because the constitution requires it nor because there is an obligation. This is not a meeting of the American Library Association. It is a meeting of the Council; nevertheless the Executive Board feels that all members of the American Library Association are entitled to information, and I want to assure you that we wish to give out information, notwithstanding the fact that there have been implications that information has not been given as generously as it might have been. The Executive Board has been, as you well know, very much occupied at its meetings with the question of the finances of the association. We are presenting to you a summary of the present financial situation, not as an official report, but as information. We will ask Mr. Twedell to give a summary of the present financial situation. Mr. Twedell is, of course, our treasurer. As you well know, we have been dealing with a series of funds more or less involved, and we trust that the brief statement Mr. Twedell will make will give you the outstanding facts.

MR. TWEDELL: The Finance Committee prepared a statement in regard to the Enlarged Program and the Books for Everybody fund, which we supposed was all that was wanted.

I have a statement in regard to the War Service fund, as of December 24. This is simply for the expenditures to December. We are compiling the expenditures arranged by subject, which is some little task and which could not be prepared for this meeting. Doubtless I can give further information if anybody desires it.

(Mr. Twedell thereupon read the financial statements presented by him.)

THE CHAIRMAN: The Executive Board, as you will recall, had a legal opinion on this matter before taking any action in regard to meeting this obligation, and the authorization of the Executive Board to use the first war fund in cancelling this debt was verified by this legal opinion, but we did not have absolute control over the United War Work fund. That is why we referred to those two funds at that time, but they are now merged. Any other inquiries?

MR. ANDREWS: I would like to ask, how long will our War Service fund carry on the activities which the association wants to carry on, abroad and here? I would like to ask the secretary to answer that question.

THE SECRETARY: The answer to that question changes every twenty-four hours, unfortunately. We have been trying most energetically to stop certain of those activities

for six months. The hospital service is not yet stopped. We don't want to sacrifice what has been done, so it is being carried on week after week and month after month. The money on hand will carry the Paris operations on after a fashion until July 1, when they will be put on their own basis. The money in hand will carry the hospital work--- it might be stretched to a couple of months, but there is reason to believe that from other sources money will be provided to carry the service over a longer period. The Coblenz work has already been officially transferred to the Army, with authority, day before yesterday, to continue one assistant six months, which was yesterday changed on Mr. Carlton's recommendations to the continuance of two persons two months to train the army personnel to carry on the work. The Merchant Marine Service has been closed as an active, going concern, and the books and papers have been held pending the organization of an independent merchant marine organization, which will be financed by ship-owners and others interested in it. Mrs. Howard is interested in that and will endeavor to create the other organization.

THE CHAIRMAN: The Executive Board, in its several very long meetings, has sought to work out the conclusion of this work with absolute fairness and without jeopardizing

the activities as far as possible, and the board owes a great deal more than I can express to Mr. Meyer, who has acted as chairman of the Transfer Committee. He has worked in season and out of season, in conference in New York with those who, we had hoped, would take over this work. Will Mr. Meyer say a word?

MR. H. H. B. MEYER: There is not much that I can add to Mr. Milam's words. He has covered the ground pretty well. There are only those four activities remaining in which we have any interest. In fact only three, because the Merchant Marine will be taken over, and the others, we hope, will be taken over by the government in due time.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is a very modest statement by Mr. Meyer. The Public Health Service has disappointed us. We had definitely understood that they would take over the hospital service, but at the last moment, when our resources were nearly exhausted, they found that they did not have funds to take the work over without having decisions by the State Department. So the Executive Board are anxious not to lose the momentum of this splendid work. The men in the hospitals are so dependent upon the library service that it would be a calamity to stop this service now. The outlook is fairly hopeful for the marine

interests to be taken care of as Mr. Milam has suggested.

MISS ROBINSON: Is not the hospital work much more important than the Paris work?

THE CHAIRMAN: The question is asked whether the hospital work is not much more important than the Paris work. There might be a difference of opinion on that, but I believe all are agreed that for every reason the hospital work should be continued just as long as possible.

Question: What does the Paris work cover?

THE CHAIRMAN: We shall continue the work of the Library in Paris for a few months, until the Paris organization can finance it. The American Library Association has already turned over to the American Library Association in Paris, Incorporated, the books and good will of that institution and have provided for its support up to July 1.

MR. MEYER: May I make a brief statement in connection with the Paris Library? We committed ourselves to a certain expenditure for the Paris Library in order to give them an opportunity to get on their own feet. What was done was done at a time when we firmly expected that the Public Health Service would take over the Hospital Service. We have committed ourselves, in other words, to a certain

extension of our activities in connection with the Paris Library and we have engaged service that has to be taken care of. Under the circumstances we felt that we could not withdraw what we had committed ourselves to in connection with the Paris Library. I think there can be no question that the first claim on whatever money we have left is the Hospital Service. The only encroachment that we can make on that is for the obligations which we incurred. Concerning the activities of the Paris Library it is considered by the members of the association I have talked to as being a very important result of the work of the war activities. It gives us an outpost of American Library activity in what is considered by many people the center of civilization, in Paris. It is not going to be a means of supplying reading for American people or English speaking people passing through Paris, but it is hoped to be made a library that will furnish bibliographers and librarians with information concerning matters abroad and also to furnish information about activities concerning library work in America.

DR. BOSTWICK: Is it solely an organization of American residents?

MR. MEYER: It is hoped to create an endowment, to raise enough of a fund to carry on the activities of the library.

MISS AHERN: I had a report which Mr. Carlton made to the trustees of this Paris Library. It showed that they were performing regular duties of library service as we understand it in America. Personally, as I came in contact with the people in Paris who are interested in the development of French education ~~for men~~, they said to me, "We hope you will be able, when you go home, to leave us this library and help us carry it on in such a fashion that we can offer an object lesson to our people in Paris of what you mean by your library service." They did not have such work in Paris. I was taken to see what they call their public libraries, and they are not such as we have. They wanted us at that time to leave them an object lesson of co-operation between school work and library work. I was heartily in favor of that and I used what little opportunity I had to further this thing. I believed in it earnestly until I had Mr. Carlton's report, and then came a stop to a certain degree. I don't believe the things Mr. Carlton has in mind for that library to do are the things which we had in mind when we proposed that library, and as far as I was able to see they were not the things that the people of Paris were asking for. I heard from Mr. Utley that during

his stay in Washington as the Secretary of the American Library Association he received from Czecho-Slovakia an inquiry and a letter from the Queen of Roumania and inquiries from other European countries about our books, and evidently they were greatly impressed by them and there is a call for libraries as carried on by our American librarians. But now Mr. Carlton has in mind and makes recommendation to his trustees that they make out of this library in Paris such a collection of books as will make in Paris a center of research, to study and exemplify the development of Anglo-Saxon civilization. I, for one, don't think that the spirit of the American Library Association goes that far. I have many feelings on the subject, not the least of which is that in other circles than America, they might better help this idea of a center of research. Most of the material that we use in the study of the development of civilization we get from Europe. What is the use in Americans going across the channel, on one side, and across the mountains on the other to advance Anglo-Saxon civilization? This is the first time I have not said "amen" to anything Mr. Carlton proposed. I don't think this is a good thing for the American Library Association to start out on, but, of

course, we are about through. At the present time I believe it is an American corporation, is it not?

THE CHAIRMAN: It was incorporated in America, but local representatives are on the board.

THE SECRETARY: Appointed by the American Library Association.

MR. MEYER: I had in hand recently a letter from Dr. Gutheim, in which he emphasized the very feature that occurred so strongly to Miss Ahern. He said we had an outpost of library service. He said it was very refreshing to see the library service that is there and contrast it with other methods. This does not necessarily mean that American funds are to be used to create special collections.

MISS AHERN: I said what I did because some times — things develop in enlarged programs and so on ^{when} ~~and~~ you don't say right out what you mean.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is the time to "say out" what you mean. The president is anxious for you to express yourselves.

THE SECRETARY: The organization is made up primarily of the American and other English speaking people in Paris. Five members are elected by the American Library Association, five members by the life members or patrons of the local organization and five members by the annual

members of the local organization. This local organization was incorporated under the laws of Maryland as The American Library Association, Incorporated. The formal transfer of all books, papers and control was made by the American Library Association to The American Library Association, Incorporated, in Paris.

DR. BOSTWICK: The use of the books is free?

THE SECRETARY: The use of the books is free for circulation. There was a conference held not long ago and Mr. Seger convinced all those present, including the present secretary of the A. L. A., that an absolutely free library was out of the question. However, they have a number of scholarship memberships which are given free to worthy students who cannot pay the ten franc initial membership.

DR. BOSTWICK: This does not show what an American library is now, but what an American library used to be, about 34 years ago.

THE SECRETARY: When it is properly endowed they hope to make it free. They don't know how else to finance it.

MR. _____ WEBB: I have been wondering how the campaign in France came out.

THE SECRETARY: I think the total collections were around 250,000 to 300,000 francs and the campaign is now

being concluded. There was a great deal of delay, particularly on account of the slowness of the organization and other matters which have made campaigning rather difficult in many places.

THE CHAIRMAN: You probably know that Mr. Seger, who is President of the Board, is Allen Seger's father and the royalties from his books go to the library. We will pass on now. Another committee which was appointed by the Council will be asked to report, and that is a committee on the Library Workers' Association. The Council was asked to appoint this committee to confer with a committee from that association, and that committee consists of Miss Tobitt, Miss Donnelly and Miss Pratt. As no one of the three is here Miss Bogle will give the report.

(Miss Bogle read the report referred to above.)

THE CHAIRMAN: This does not require a vote if she asks postponement.

There is another matter that the chair would like to bring to your attention, the question of the practicability of the Council creating a committee on committees. If you by any chance did read the last bulletin of the A.L.A. you may have noticed a two-column dissertation by the president on "A. L. A. Committees, Active and Inactive." This was written after a deal of struggle with the

appointment of committees for 1920-21. After a very careful study of the constitution and by-laws I found, to my amazement, that the provisions regarding committees were extremely meagre, and that nowhere, as far as I have been able to find, is there a statement as to the duties of those various committees. Recently I have had inquiries as to the duties of the committees and I was unable to respond in any definite manner except from my own conception as to what might be accomplished by these committees. It seems to me it is a matter of great importance, in order to accomplish any results through committees, that the committees ought to begin their efforts by knowing what the tasks are that are ahead of them. I see no way to accomplish this except by having a committee to discuss committee duties, have them discussed in the Council and reported upon. I am strongly of the opinion there are many things the Council should do and might do, and this is one of them. So I would very much like action at this time, if you deem it proper, regarding the appointment of a committee on committees, that would formulate briefly the duties of each committee and report at the next meeting of the Council as to the advisability of continuing inactive committees. The chair does not see any value whatever in having our hand-book

encumbered with dead committees.

MISS AHERN: Does not the constitution give you the power to appoint committees?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, I can appoint committees, but if someone will make a motion for the appointment of a committee on committees, I will appoint it.

MISS AHERN: I will make that motion.

Motion seconded.

DR. ANDREWS: Would it not be better to do this in the form of a by-law, stating that committees not reporting for two years are thereby deceased and buried under the by-law? One thing that is bothering the chairmen of committees is that there is no provision for stationery, and the by-laws should be amended in some way to provide for an appropriation by the finance committee in the budget. I know that is a matter that bothers the chairmen of committees and the secretary. I would like to move, in order to get what the president wants, the appointment of a committee to draft a by-law as to the relation of committees which are not permanent.

THE CHAIRMAN: The chair believes a motion was made and seconded before Dr. Andrews spoke, that the chair shall appoint a committee on committees, to report to the Council

as to the duties of the various committees.

The motion, as stated by the chairman, was thereupon unanimously carried.

DR. ANDREWS: That committee can, if it choose, adopt my suggestion.

THE CHAIRMAN: The matter will be brought to the attention of this committee, as suggested by Dr. Andrews, regarding the inclusion in the by-laws of a provision for retiring inactive committees and providing for the expense of active committees.

The chair thanks you, one and all, for helping to make this an interesting meeting.

On motion, seconded and carried, the meeting was then adjourned.