

THE HOME LIBRARY.

In these days when even the best literature is inexpensive no home need be, nor should it be, without a library. I use the term library in the sense of meaning any collection of books, however small. I can not agree with the literary man who once decided that a person must have at least 2,000 volumes before he could claim that he possessed a library. If that were true, most of us would go thru life without ever having a collection of books sufficiently large to be called a library.

It is now generally considered that a library should be measured by quality rather than by quantity. The reader who has a single shelf on which stand 25 or 50 or 100 of the world's best books is the possessor of a true library. And it is within the power of any person possessed of only the most moderate means to acquire a library in this, the best sense of the term. Books that brains have toiled to produce, volumes of history, biography, science and fiction, can now be bought for as small a sum as 10 cents, on up to 50 cents, the price depending on

the binding and type, not the inherent worth. A small sum of money, set aside each week or even each month, will in a short time supply the shelves with many choice books.

A quantity of books does not make a library any more than the mere quantity of any one's reading makes a scholar. The scholar is he or she who selects a few of the best books and masters them. So do not gain the idea that the more books you buy, the nearer you are to owning a library, or the wiser you will be. On the principle that quantity makes the library, it would be easy to buy a few thousand volumes of any kind, but the result would be a mere collection of rubbish.

The first element, therefore, in acquiring a library is the art of selection. There are so many good books in the world, and we have so little time for reading them, that it is a waste of opportunities to spend any of that time on the inferior books.

An English author and student once compiled a list of the best hundred books, and other literary men have since prepared lists of a similar character, varying according to individual tastes. There are some books in each list which will not satisfy everybody. But in each case the principle was the same. A library must have foundations strongly laid, and the idea was to begin the building of a library with the best and greatest in the world of thought. It is safe to say that any person who will read the books selected by the scholarly men, as such books should be read, with studious patience

and thoroughness, will possess the "essentials of a liberal education," to quote Dr. Eliot, former president of Harvard University. But once the nucleus of such a library has been formed, that library will grow.

It is, of course, necessary to have in the home library an encyclopedia, a lexicon, a dictionary of dates, a reader's handbook, and miscellaneous reference books. There should be maps, too. It should also be borne in mind that in order really to assimilate the works of any of the older writers, a number of other books are needed. Many passages are sure to be met with which can only be made intelligible by a knowledge of the age in which the author lived, of its law, its religion, its manners, its customs, and its social spirit. In order to read Shakespeare or Milton, for instance, with fullness of understanding it is necessary to know much about the England of their day. Accordingly, history and kindred works must be read along with the classics.

Nor must it be forgotten in speaking of the older writers that there are many books of supreme interest published today. It is an admirable intellectual training for us to study the great masters of a past age, but it is equally necessary that we should not neglect those of our own era.—W. F. Purdue, Madison Co., Ind.

GAMES IN LIBRARIES.

A DIRECT and simple method of providing recreation for young people in their own homes is the circulation of games by the public library. The librarian in a Massachusetts town has circulated games for two years, during the winter months, with great success. On Saturday morning a game may be taken from the library and kept for one week.

There are picture blocks and building blocks for

the small children, and a collection of fifty games for the older ones, including dominos, checkers, parchesi, backgammon, baseball, net ball, pillow dex, jackstraws, the flag game, authors, birds, game of Shakespeare, classic wonders, and famous paintings; also, United States and other map puzzles, and jig-saw puzzles.

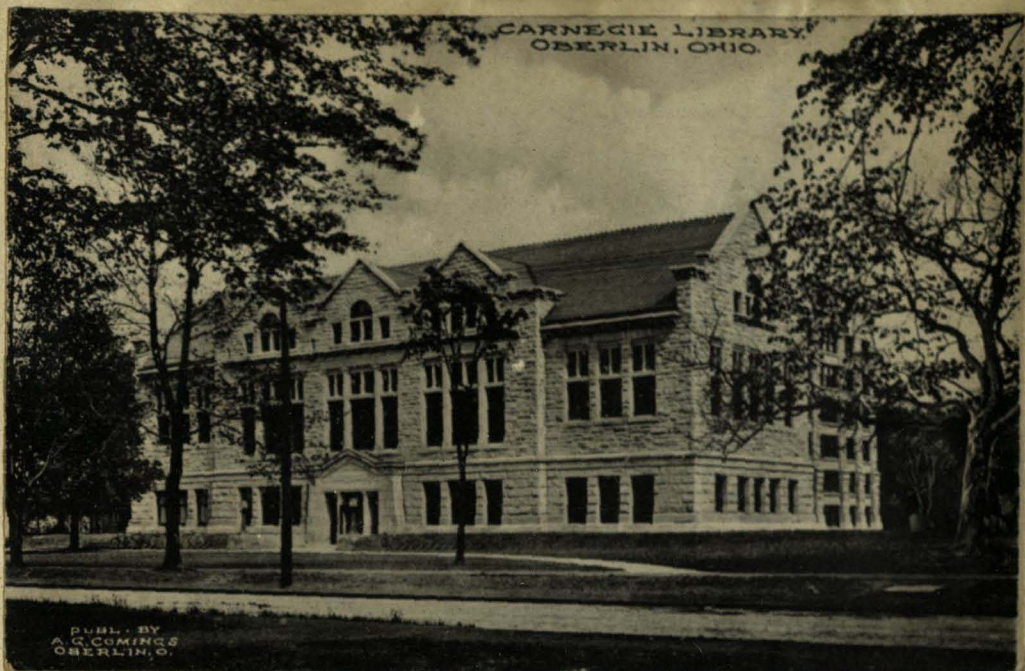
The librarian reports that the games have usually been returned in good condition, and that only one has been lost. Care is taken to avoid all danger from contagion, for games can be sterilized as easily as books.

Many people will no doubt be glad to know that they can give pleasure to hundreds of children by

presenting the local library with a good game. Children, too, may wish to add to the collection, in order that all the girls and boys in town may have access to a store of new games.

Reading is to the mind, what exercise is to the body. As by one, health is preserved, strengthened and invigorated; by the other, virtue (which is the health of the mind) is kept alive, cherished and confirmed.—Addison.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY
OSHERLIN, OHIO.



PUBL. BY
A. G. COMINGS
OSHERLIN, O.

Million for Memorial Library

AN ARCHITECT in Philadelphia has just announced that Mr. P. A. B. Widener will erect a million dollar library building for Harvard University as a memorial to his grandson, Harry Elkins Widener, who lost his life when the *Titanic* sank. Harry Elkins Widener in his will left his splendid library of three thousand volumes of books to Harvard University under the condition that the university provide a suitable building to house the same. The grandfather conceived the idea of providing that building himself immediately on the death of his grandson, but did not reveal the surprise till now. The building will be known as the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library, and will be of brick and marble to conform with the style of the university buildings at Cambridge. It will be three stories high, 275 feet long, and 210 feet wide. One room will be set apart to hold the collection of Harry Elkins Widener, which is now being cata-

logued by the librarian of Harvard. How sweet and strong the affection of grandparents for the grandchildren, and that of the grandchildren for the grandparents. This mutual devotion is one of the loveliest compensations of age. How beautiful to perpetuate this affection in the library building at Harvard, for the love and not the marble is the memorial. Christ forever marks the immortality of earthly love.

Whosoever this Gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her. (Matt. 26: 13.)

August 28, 1912

Louvain's Library.

There is a point of interest which is raised by the sentences passed by a court in Belgium on persons responsible for disorder when the new building of the Library of the University of Louvain was dedicated months ago. In all the controversy aroused by the inscription on this building, one important fact has been consistently overlooked. Yet it should have brought an end to the struggle and discussion long ago. The famous inscription, or any inscription except one setting forth that the building concerned is a generous donation of the American people, should not be placed on the library. The reason is that it has never been destroyed. Actually the new building has been constructed on an entirely new site, whereas the old building burned by the German troops is still erect. It was restored with money subscribed in France and Belgium. It is still in use by the university. It bears an inscription of its own recounting how it was ruined in 1914 and how it was rebuilt with the help of the French people. It seems inappropriate, to

say the least, to place the words, "Furore Teutonico Diruto" (destroyed by Teutonic furore) on a structure which did not exist in 1914, either on the present site or elsewhere.

Old Tales Always Dear

It is in my heart that grown men are but little children in the matter of tales, and the oldest tale is the most beloved.—Kipling.

Webster and Books

WHEN Daniel Webster was a boy books in the home were very rare. Indeed, he tells us that there were so few in the Webster household that to read them once or twice was nothing. They learned them by heart. Daniel was only a very small lad when he learned "Pope's Essay on Man," and he and his brother Ezekiel knew whole pages of the yearly almanac.

One night after they had gone to bed they got into a dispute concerning a passage in this latter prize, and Daniel got up and groped his way down to the kitchen where he lit a candle, looked up the quotation, found himself wrong, and went back to bed in such perturbation that he failed to make sure the candle was out. At two o'clock in the

morning the household was roused by a cry of "Fire!" and only the father's great presence of mind saved the house.

"Zeke and I wanted light," Daniel said later, concerning this incident, "but we got more than we were after!"

Daniel was always fond of poetry, and at the age of twelve he knew nearly all the hymns in the Watts Hymnal. His first novel, which he read about this time, was "Don Quixote," and he says that he never laid it down, or even once closed his eyes until he had read it from cover to cover. About this time, too, he read "Paradise Lost," and made the further acquaintance of Milton and of Shakespeare to such end that all his life he was able to quote their finest passages at will.

Webster loved the Bible, too. In late life he said: "I have read through the entire Bible many times. I now make it a practice to go through it once a year. It is the Book of all others for lawyers as well as divines; and I pity the man who cannot find in it a rich supply of thought, and of rules for his conduct. It fits man for life—it prepares him for death!"

"Womanless Library" Gift of Iowa Lawyer

THE general public read recently of the will of T. M. Zink, lawyer of Le Mars, Iowa, which left a fortune of perhaps \$50,000 in trust which will be used in 75 years from now for the establishing of a library wherein no women will be allowed to enter.



That does not mean that the contents will not fit in with all moral uplift, because the standard of books will be of the highest. One of the chief requirements is that the authors of all the books must be of the male gender. Of course the employees will be husky men. This unusual idea incorporated in the will of the lawyer was not a momentary whim but was the result of a lifetime of meditation. The city accepts his bequest with its alternatives, one of which is that the fund will not be taxable during the 75 years intervening. Another funny part is that the widow—yes, he was married—is allowed to live in the huge house so long as she pays her \$40 a month rent to the fund. She does not intend to contest the will. T. M. Zink was one of the city's leading lawyers. The widow declares that he was an ideal husband at home and although he was opposed to women in business, he never interfered with the domestic purchases.

January 16, 1931



PUBLIC LIBRARY, Wilmington.

—Stephens.

A Wonderful French Library

Following is an extract from a letter of Friday, Sept. 6, 1918, written by Capt. Albert W. Field, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Field, 226 North Eighteenth street:

I had a wonderful two hours yesterday in one of the best private collections of old books in Europe. The books have been collected by a druggist here in L—. But I must start at the beginning.

I had asked Prof. DeGret, an instructor in the college here, who is teaching French in the Y. M. C. A., about bookplates. He thought I meant book illustrations and arranged with the druggist to show me his collection. Dr. Franklin, a professor from the Georgia School of Technology, who is in our Y. M. C. A., went with us. The druggist has a beautiful home, with a lovely formal garden, on the edge of the town, and a view for miles and miles over the surrounding country.

His library is not particularly large, perhaps about five hundred volumes, but, oh, so beautiful! Some of his books are old fifteenth and sixteenth century originals. The illustrations are all steel or wood engravings and are surely masterpieces. In some of them are shown the proposed illustrations that had been rejected, as well as the accepted ones. But wonderful as the books themselves were, the bindings were still more so. Really I cannot describe them as they deserve. From the oldest to the most modern they were all of leather, exquisitely designed and tooled; others were both tooled and decorated with gold and colors. I wish I could spend a week studying them. Some were illustrated with color engravings. Think of it—printed in four and five colors and a separate steel engraving made for each color!

The druggist also had some old manuscripts, printed by hand on parchment by the monks, before type and the printing press were known. These were illustrated with water-color in the most elaborate yet delicate fashion. The colors were as bright as though hardly dry.

Our two hours flew by like two minutes. The druggist was very kind and very happy in exhibiting his treasures, and Professor Degret helped us when our French failed us.

That was an experience I would have missed had I been in France as a tourist. The French people are wonderfully kind and hospitable to all American soldiers, especially since our army has made its presence known so forcibly at the front. We are received with open arms everywhere.

Unique Book

192 by Kipling

NEW YORK.—The sale of the Martindell collection of unique and rare first editions of Kipling in London has discovered to Kipling collectors many works which were not known to be in existence, says a report by Doubleday, Page & company, Kipling's publisher in this country. Captain E. W. Martindell began the collecting of Kipling's works many years ago and has gathered together not only first editions, but the magazines and newspapers in which articles and stories first appeared, and also many portraits, cartoons, and pamphlets about the author. One of the most interesting of these is a pen-and-ink drawing, signed F. H. A., representing Kipling assisting at a flower stall of a charity bazar. Among the very rare items of the sale is a copy of "In Sight of Monadnock,"

which was privately printed in 1894. It consists of only eight leaves, the last page being blank, with the title on the upper cover, enclosed in a folder. On the title is an engraving of Mount Monadnock, New Hampshire, as seen across a lake. There is one copy of this in America, owned by Mrs. Livingston of Harvard. A unique item is "Echoes by Two Writers," a small volume of verse imitating modern English poets, written by Kipling and his sister Beatrice and printed at the Civil and Military press, Lahore, India, 1884. Although there are several copies in this country the Martindell one is unique in that it is a presentation copy to "Evelyn from R. K., Sept., 1884," and contains three stanzas of four lines each written by the author on the fly leaf."

Another Library Oddity

THE T. M. Zink, who has given a library to the town of Mars, Iowa, "for men only," stipulating that neither women nor books by women shall be admitted, had a forerunner in this form of sex antipathy, in a Russian woman, Mme. Kaissavov, who died in St. Petersburg some 30 years ago. A voracious reader, and wealthy enough to gratify her cravings in that direction, she accumulated an extensive library. But such was her hatred of the opposite sex that she would not allow a book written by a man to enter her house. On her death her library was found to comprise some 20,000 volumes, all written by women—probably the most extensive collection of its kind ever formed.

Ohio's Pioneer

Before State Was

MANY RARE VOLUMES

COLLECTION OF

By **ALBERT H. HUNEKE.**

The library—the supplement and complement to education.

The public library system of Ohio antedates even the founding of the state itself, for the first public library was founded in what is now Ohio while the Buckeye state was still part of the Northwest Territory.

In 1795, Colonel Israel Putnam brought to Belpre the share of the Putnam family library that had been left to him upon the death of his father, General Israel Putnam, who had collected a fine library of history, travel and belles-lettres. Using this collection as a nucleus, the settlers formed a stock company for the maintenance of this library, thus making it the first public library in the history of Ohio. The organization was known as the Belpre farmers' library and later as the Belpre library.

The history of the early libraries of Ohio has a romantic color which smacks of the peculiar democracy of the American frontier settlements. It is wholly in accord with our traditional ideals of the struggles for education made by the great of the nation.

"COONSKIN LIBRARY."

Such a story is the history of the celebrated "Coonskin Library," which is popularly considered to be the first public library in Ohio. In fact, it was the third collection open to the public, the first being the Belpre library and the second a public library in Cincinnati which was formed in 1802 by a sale of stock. Arthur St. Clair was one of the subscribers to this organization.

The "Coonskin Library" was not organized until 1804, in Athens county, however. The pioneers of Ohio, despite their rough and ready existence in the western wilderness, were not without an intellectual appetite, an appetite that hungered for satisfaction in the long evenings before the blazing log fire; an appetite cultivated from youth in intellectual New England.

Furthermore, the early Buckeyes could no more allow their wild habitat to deprive their children of an education than could the Pilgrims bear to have their native culture lost to their descendants by the encroachment of Dutch ways and customs. So with the combined ingenuity of frontiersman and Yankee they evolved a plan. Coin they had none, but the woods abounded in fur-bearing animals and the pelts of these furbearers were the only currency known to their neighborhood. So all the settlers in Ames township, Athens county, contributed skins to a common "fund" which was to be the original endowment for the Western Library association.

51 VOLUMES.

One Samuel Brown, going to Boston on a business trip, was deputized by the settlers to bear their "fund" east and purchase books with it. On Dec. 17, 1804, he returned with a Christmas present to the community in the form of 51 volumes. Ephraim Cutler was elected first librarian of the Western Library association. Thomas Ewing, who had contributed his entire accumulated fortune of ten coonskins to the "fund," said of this library: "It was well selected; the library of the Vatican was nothing to it, and there never was a library better read."

Within the next few years there were several more libraries established in Ohio: One at Dayton, another at Granville and a third at

Libraries Founded Established

TO BE FOUND IN STATE'S THOUSANDS OF BOOKS

Newtown. In 1816, the general assembly voted to appropriate \$3500 to establish a state library, and in the following year the Ohio state library was established by Governor Thomas Worthington, one year after the capital had been moved to Columbus.

The original purpose of the library had been to secure a place for the filing of maps, laws and documents or journals which might be sent from other states. However, Governor Worthington decided that a real collection of literature should be made and, while in the east on official business, he bought 509 volumes. These books formed the nucleus of the Ohio state library, and many of them are still to be found on the shelves of the present library.

FIRST LIBRARIAN.

One room in the old state office building, which was on the High and Broad street corner of the present statehouse grounds, was arranged for the state library. The

first librarian was John L. Harper, and he received \$2 per day for his services during the session of the legislature.

Originally the state library was not open to the public, but its service was limited to state officers, members of the general assembly and their respective clerks, and up until 1896 the patronage of the library was limited to state officials, former state officials and their widows, the state judiciary, teachers in state institutions and clergymen of Columbus.

A peculiar rule of the library regulated the time that a book could be kept, according to the size of the volume. A folio could be kept three weeks, a quarto two weeks, and an octavo or duodecimo one week. Fines for keeping a book overdue were also regulated by the size of the volume.

RULES CHANGED.

Until 1896, the governor appointed the state librarian, and the governor, secretary of state and the librarian constituted the library commission, ex officio. The Garfield library law, sponsored by James Garfield and Rutherford B. Hayes, both sons of presidents of the United States, was passed in that year, and the passing of this law marked the beginning of an era of greater usefulness of the library to citizens of the state. The Garfield law gave to the governor the power of naming a library commission consisting of three men for six, four and three years, respectively. This commission was to have the naming of the state librarian.

Rutherford B. Hayes, the son of President Hayes, was named for the six-year term; J. F. McGrew of Springfield for four years, and Charles A. Reynolds of Zanesville for two years. The first act of this new commission was to appoint Charles B. Galbreath state librarian. Soon thereafter the commission met and voted to grant the privileges of the library to all citizens of the state on equal terms. The library was cleaned and reorganized. A count of books revealed that there were actually 47,115 volumes in the library, 24,057 less than was shown by the register, which had not been checked for several years.

In his report for 1896, the librarian calls attention to the traveling library, then in its experimental stage, now developed into one of the greatest state organizations of its kind. In concluding his report, Galbreath says, "The classification and subsequent rearrangement of the books has shown that the library is deficient in many lines. The collections of United States publications, newspapers and periodicals are fairly good, but in American history and political and social science the library is very weak. Volumes of fiction are disproportionately numerous.

THIRD GREATEST.

"It is our purpose to complete the work already begun, to add, as appropriations will admit, to the departments of history and science, to increase the number of exchanges, to aid, within the limits of the law, other libraries throughout Ohio, and gradually to extend the privileges of the state library to the end that it may be in fact as well as in name, a state institution."

Following this policy throughout the succeeding years the Ohio State library has come to be all that its first librarian, under the new era of usefulness, wished it to become. Galbreath is now librarian at the Museum of the Ohio State Archaeological society, located on the Ohio State university campus. While state librarian, Galbreath made a very complete collection of early Ohio newspapers, which are still on file, but cannot be exhibited to the best advantage because of the crowded condition of the library. The Ohio State library now has the third largest collection of newspapers in the United States, and perhaps in the world, being surpassed only by the collections of the Congressional library in Washington and the library of the state of Wisconsin. Among the early newspapers in the Ohio collection is one complete volume of the Sentinel of the Northwest, the first paper published in the territory that is now Ohio.

EARLY DOCUMENTS.

There are many other interesting early documents which figured largely in the early history of Ohio and of the nation, and a number of valuable old volumes whose date of publication is back in the days when the art of printing was in its infancy and even before that art had been introduced into Europe. With Miss Alice Boardman, at present reference librarian and in charge of the genealogical department of the library, as guide, the writer made a complete

tour of the library. A more experienced and more interesting guide would be hard to find, for Miss Boardman has been connected with the state library 34 years.

As she led the way between tall stacks of books and through a labyrinth of bound volumes of old newspapers and magazines, she indicated the overcrowded condition of the library, and it could easily be seen that the neglected condition of the books, among which she had spent so much of her life, affected her deeply. She spoke of the new state office building, which is being planned, and told of the wonderful new quarters to be arranged in that building for the state library.

On the tour of inspection, Miss Boardman led me up the spiralling iron stairs to the second balcony that

clings to three walls of the main reading room. Huge volumes were piled all along the rail of the balcony for want of shelf space. From a shelf she took a massive volume, one of a set of 12, and opening the brass clasps, she showed me the first volume of Martin Luther's collected works, printed in Germany from 1539 to 1559, not quite 100 years after Gutenberg, the father of printing, had invented his movable type.

WORTH \$6000.

The 12 volumes were bound in hogskin on a wood frame and on the inside of both the front and back covers there were bookplates. These plates were done in color and each had one or more negroes' heads in the design. Miss Boardman said that the significance of these plates had never been determined. This set of books has been evaluated at \$6000, but the value of the books seems to reserve for them no more pretentious place in the library than the thousands of other volumes which lie, covered with dust, on the shelves and floor. The late William G. Deshler presented the collection to the state.

One of the most interesting volumes in the library is an old manuscript, a commentary on the four Gospels, written by a monk of the old Menonite Order in the early part of the fifteenth century. It is written on 200 pages of vellum, only slightly yellowed with age, in characters that are well nigh perfect. The volume must have been the work of a life-time or, as Miss Boardman pointed out, perhaps the work of two life-times, for the script in the end of the book differs slightly from that in the first part. The ink glistens blackly and the caption letters, in blue and red, are as unfaded as the day they were set down. This volume was presented by Robert Clark of Cincinnati and its repository is securely locked, although no more dust-proof than that of the Luther collection.

In the same case there is a copy of the famous Hennepin's Travels, the first published history of geography of the New World. This book was published in 1698 and it contains the first picture, a wood cut, ever made of Niagara Falls.

HISTORICAL PAPERS.

In this treasure lore of early literature there are also some very interesting historical papers. There are 19 letters of Major General Joseph Foose, commander of Ohio Militia in the War of 1812, in the correspondence of Governor Meigs. It was General Foose who introduced the motion to locate the capitol of Ohio on the east bank of the Scioto river. And here Miss Boardman told me an interesting fact about Columbus. Columbus was the first state capitol to be built on a site selected before

the capitol was named. Incidentally these letters are the only record of General Foose's service.

Mention must also be made of the autographed collection of the works of William Dean Howells, dean of American novelists and native son of Ohio, which was presented to the library in uniform bound volumes by the author as each book was published. In this collection is his famous "Poems of Two Friends" and his "Life of Lincoln," which was instrumental in securing his appointment to Italy in the diplomatic service.

The citizens of Ohio know comparatively little about their library and its workings. Following is an outline of the purposes and organization of the institution.

STATE-WIDE SERVICE

The state library board, in 1922, adopted the following as an outline of the function and the purpose of the organization: "The function of the state library is state-wide library service through the organizing of new libraries and improvement of existing libraries, and rendering of direct service to individuals and communities throughout the state until

adequate local service is established. The state library also has the special function of providing legislative reference and bill drafting service for the state."

In pursuance of this policy the direct-by-mail and traveling library division of the state system have had remarkable growth within the past three years under the administration of Herbert S. Hirschberg, state librarian.

The direct-by-mail service is for citizens of Ohio living in areas which have no library service. The number of persons in such areas is at present 1,788,022. This service is also used by people in communities where there are local libraries to obtain books and reference material that the local library cannot supply, but in these communities the person must apply through the local librarian. Ralph L. Thompson, loan librarian, says that this is done in order to encourage people to use their home libraries.

FREE SERVICE

Thompson and his assistants comply with scores of requests each day. The correspondent may ask for a definite book by a definite author, or he may know the title of a work and not the author's name. Much of the material sent out in this direct-by-mail service is reference material, and Thompson said that two-thirds of the requests are for references on anything from medical advice to recipes for the culinary artist.

mTcis

It is then up to the librarian to call his general knowledge of the subject in hand into play and send the correspondent a generous supply of references. The only charge for this service is the postage to and from the state library.

The state circulation has grown from 2189 volumes in 1922 to 23,367 in 1925. It now exceeds the city circulation which has declined a bit during the same period. The city circulation for 1925 was 19,778 volumes.

The Traveling Library Division, located at 135 East Long street, under the supervision of Miss Mabel B. Moore, chief, and Miss Isabel Nolan, first assistant, also has had a remarkable growth within the last few years. This department sends collections of books to rural schools, granges, farm bureaus, civic organizations, and the like, that are without library service. The collections are made to suit the individual need of the group and are sent for from three to nine months. Sixty thousand, three hundred and eighty-three volumes, forming 724 collections, were sent out by this department in 1925. Ohio ranks sixth among the states in the number of volumes loaned through traveling libraries.

ORGANIZING GROUP.

There is also, in connection with the state library, an organization division under the charge of Miss Julia Wright Merrill. This department promotes better tax support for libraries, and also encourages the establishment of school and county libraries throughout the state. Miss Mary M. Baker is the county organizer and Miss Estella M. Slaven is the school and children's librarian.

Representatives of this department visit local libraries of the state and make recommendations for improvements of personnel, collections, organization, and the like. Through this department students at the Western Reserve Library school are sent for two weeks each year to help in the organization of local libraries. Western Reserve is the only library training school in the state and Hirschberg says that "more training agencies are needed in the state and a better appreciation of the opportunities to be found in library work."

Another important department of the Ohio State library not commonly thought to be a part of the library is the legislative reference division. The function of this department is to prepare bills for the general assembly and assist the authors of various bills in procuring references. George A. Edge is chief of this department and Miss Esther H. Burns and Arthur A. Schwartz are his assistants.

Finally the organization of the Ohio State library is completed with the accession division under the super-

vision of Miss Jane E. Roberts and Mrs. Sarah H. Bilby. Miss Roberts' report shows that 33843 volumes have been added to the traveling and the main library within the past two years.

The present library board members are Vernon M. Riegel, chairman. Mr. Riegel is state director of education and his position on the library board is ex-officio. Mrs. Dwight J. Peterson, Toledo; Lank M. Smith, Bucyrus; W. W. Sunderland, West Carrollton, and Earl Leach, Lima, are the other members.

June 13, 1926.

Legalizing The Library.

So far as state law is concerned the depository of books in Cincinnati is not a library. Actually it does not exist at all. The legislation under which it was conducted for nearly 30 years was declared unconstitutional, at a time when plans were completed to erect a badly needed new building. Now the Library is being administered by a body that has no standing in law.

Any future plans for expansion, for a new building, must await legislation to make the Library something more than an educational orphan. A bill to make the Library legal will be introduced and sponsored by the Hamilton County delegation in the General Assembly. The act, which was prepared with the cooperation of Morrison R. Waite, Library Trustee, would provide for the establishment of county libraries wherever they are desired. Passage of this bill would immediately clear up the situation here.

It would also pave the way for centralization and expansion of libraries in the various counties. With good roads and quick transportation, the consolidation of the small-town and village libraries into a central depository of books would be of benefit to any county, and where use of the library justifies such service the book wagons now in use in this county could be employed.

Passage of the library bill would not obligate any county to establish a county library. Each could do so, or not, as its people wish. It would, however, give sanction to a movement that many counties will find desirable, and will clear up a regrettable situation in Cincinnati.

Humors of Lending Libraries

PROSAIC and serious though the business of lending libraries may seem to be to the average person, it provides at times an unsuspected fund of humor. There is, for instance, the juvenile borrower who writes to the librarian:

"Dear Sir—Please renew the book that I took out about two weeks ago, or it may be three. I forgot the author and title, but it was bound in blue, with a picture of a dolphin on the back."

And then there is the troubled reader who, holding out to the assistant the latest novelty in bookmarks, says, "I wish you would tell your lady readers not to leave fringe-nets in their books. I found a hairpin in the last book and a fringe-net in this, and my wife is getting a bit suspicious."

Perhaps, however, it is the people who unconsciously twist the titles of books they ask for who provide the librarian and his assistants with their biggest laughs, and in "Library Jokes and Jotting," Mr. H. T. Coutts gives some amusing examples of borrowers' quaint requests. Here are a few selections:

"I have come for Mr. A—. Will you please send him 'Indecent Orders'?" ("In Deacon's Orders.")

"Please renew 'The Prisoner of Zena Dare.'" ("Prisoner of Zenda.")

"Have you a novel entitled 'She Combeth Not Her Head'?" ("He Cometh Not, She Said.")

"I want Braddon's 'Trafal of the Servant.'" ("Trail of the Serpent.")

"Have you the 'Essays of a Liar'?" ("Essays of Elia.")

"I want 'From Jessie to Ernest.'" ("From Jest to Earnest").

"'Bunch of Screws' ('Bunter's Cruise')."

"Is the 'Stuck-up Minister' ('Stickit Minister') in?"

"'Kiss Auntie' ('Quisante'), if you please."

"A lady reader," says Mr. Coutts, "who had a passion for country walks used to arrange visits to charming rural spots, and sought help in the choice of them at the library. She asked the attendant to supply her with 'Notable Hamlets.' Until he pointed out to her the portraits of Henry Irving and other famous actors, included in the volume, she could not believe that it had nothing to do with rambles to famous villages.

Children often confuse the titles of popular books and will ask for such things as "Alison's Fables," "Good Liver's Travels," "Helen's Dairy," "Hollyberry Finn," "From Powder Admiral to Monkey," and "Sweet Family Robinson Crusoe."

EDGAR ALLEN POE, one of America's greatest writers, was born in Boston, Mass., in 1809. In 1811, at the death of his mother, he was adopted by a Mrs. Allen who gave him encouragement and the advantages of education. Poe turned to writing when he was 18. He fought a 40-year battle against discouragement and poverty to accomplish the work of a creative artist. "The Raven" is one of his best known poems.

EDGAR ALLEN
POE—

RECEIVED BUT
TEN DOLLARS
FOR "THE RAVEN"

—It is now valued at
\$200,000!



HAVE YOU A LIBRARY?

"BOOKS! those miraculous memories of high thoughts and golden moods; those silver shells tremulous with the wonderful secrets of the ocean of life; those love letters that pass from hand to hand of a thousand lovers that never meet; those honey-combs of dreams; those orchards of knowledge; those still-beating hearts of the noble dead; those mysterious signals that beckon along the darksome pathways of the past; voices through which the myriad lisping of the earth find perfect speech."

That is what a present-day poet, Richard LeGallienne says of books, and those of us who possess a personal library, no matter how few the volumes, know well how much it holds of entertainment, inspiration, encouragement, consolation. To teach a child to love good books is to give it something which will aid it throughout life. In another part of this number a mother speaks of giving each of her sons and daughters at Christmas, birthdays and other gift days, a book of recognized merit. This is a thought by which other parents may profit, for a child trained to the best in literature will not in later years turn aside for worthless print.

Because we believe so strongly in the value of good books great care is exercised in the selection of those which are used as premiums for *THE HOUSEWIFE*. While these must comprise an assortment to suit all tastes nothing which is unwholesome ever gains a place, and whenever a book of especial merit makes its appearance it is promptly added to *THE HOUSEWIFE* library. When "Anne of Green Gables" took the reading public by storm a few years ago, and when we were inundated by requests for it in book form after it had appeared as a serial in *THE HOUSEWIFE*, we made arrangements with its publishers to put it among our premiums where it has remained ever since, one of the most popular in the list. This year we are offering "Mother," by Kathleen Norris, the most charming, absorbing, wholly human document of family life that has appeared in years, with an exquisite love story imbedded in it. "Mother" is destined to be a leader among *THE HOUSEWIFE* books.

An older favorite, but always eagerly welcomed, and a treat in store for those who have not read it, is "Ben Hur" by General Lew Wallace, this is one to please father and big brother as well as mother and the girls. So too is "Farming It" by Henry A. Shute, "Caleb West" by F. Hopkinson Smith, "Abraham Lincoln" by Norman Hapgood—But there! It would take pages to go into particulars regarding the hundreds of good books in *THE HOUSEWIFE* library. Some of these, a limited number only, are listed on page 22, but the best way to become acquainted with them is to send first of all for the Premium List in which they are described in detail, then by a little missionary work among your friends put them on your own or your children's book shelf. Oh, yes, surely they will make the most delightful of gifts to those outside the family circle, but we are sure when you once get them in your own hands you will want them for yourself. In which case do a little extra work and get additional copies for the others.

Rare Volumes Printed From Wood Blocks

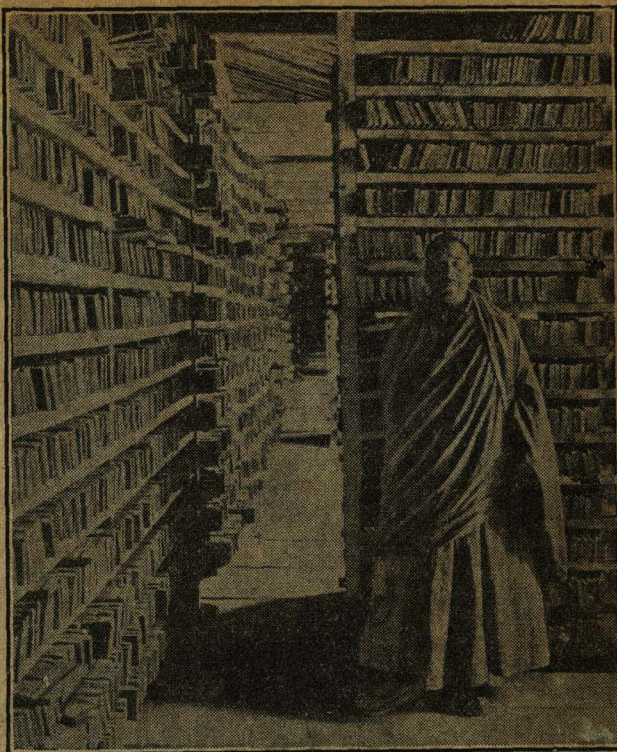
a Laborious Task

THE recent acquisition by the Congressional Library at Washington of 317 volumes of Tibetan classics brings to light one of the most novel "literary" uses of walnut wood yet discovered, for these unique books are printed, a single page at a time, from type carved by hand upon blocks of this material.

This ancient set of printing plates—for they are more than 500 years old—is in a marvelous state of preservation which throws an interesting light on the lasting qualities of well seasoned walnut. So far as is known, only two complete sets of these books are in existence.

These rare Tibetan classics, known respectively as the Kandjur, of 108 volumes, and the Tandjur, of 209 volumes, were obtained through Dr. Joseph F. Rock, leader of the National Geographic Society expedition to Far Western China and Tibet. During his long stay in Choni, an almost unknown principality nestling in the rough country which leads to the Tibetan foothills, Dr. Rock made a close study of the lamas (monks) living in the Choni lamasery.

Through the assistance of the ruler of that primitive land—a spot that has changed hardly at all during the last 600 years—Dr. Rock was able to obtain a large number of remarkable photographs. One of the most interesting is a view of one of the rooms in which is stored the many thousands of walnut blocks, the "type" of the sacred books. In the illustration reproduced here through the courtesy of the National Geographic Magazine, appears the official librarian, who has charge of the four library buildings that house this unique printing plant. It is his



When a wealthy resident of Choni falls ill, however, such short-cut methods are not deemed sufficient. Instead, the large "Chanting Hall" in the monastery is opened—for a fee of \$200 in silver—and the whole body of lamas (some 700) gather there, each with a half vol-

ume of the classics. The whole 700 begin reading aloud, every man repeating the words before him. In this way pandemonium reigns, but the whole 317 volumes are read between sunrise and sunset to the great satisfaction and comfort of the sick person.

duty also to supervise the printing of the sacred text.

The labor of 45 monks for nearly nine months is required to print a complete set of 317 volumes, which are then bound by hand, each volume having thin wooden covers tied shut with cotton tape. Each page is carved by hand on each side. The carving of each block required the labor of a skilled lama for four days. The lamas who print with these walnut type blocks receive the magnificent salary of five cents in American money a day for their labor (in Choni, it is reckoned at 250 "cash"). In addition the workers receive rations of barley flour, tea, and butter made from yak milk.

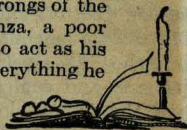
The Kandjur and Tandjur are important books to the people of Choni. Much religious significance is attached to the reading of these works, but even in this remote and primitive region, efficiency methods prevail. By placing the pages of the sacred classics on the frame of a prayer wheel, merit equivalent to repeating every word of the text is acquired by any one each time he turns this wheel.

February 17, 1929

A Good Book

"DON QUIXOTE," by Cervantes, is one of my favorite books. Don Quixote was an old man who lived in a Spanish village. He had read so many romantic stories of chivalry that he thought he should be a knight errant and right the wrongs of the world. He employed Sancho Panza, a poor farm laborer who lived near him, to act as his squire. In a very humorous way everything he put his finger into he made worse than it was in the beginning.

At the time when this book was written people were reading a great many stories about chivalry. Cervantes wrote "Don Quixote" as a satire on these and he succeeded very well in waking people up to reality.



The Calamity Library

ELIZABETH OSWALD

Within two weeks after the shocking disaster when the majestic Titanic went down with its precious human cargo, agents were hurrying from house to house taking orders for a book telling all about the calamity. Enterprising book firms, who make a business of such things, had hurried together some photographs and some facts concerning the tragedy of the sea, and putting them in an ornate binding were sending them broadcast to agents eagerly waiting for employment that is "easy and profitable." It is an easy and profitable employment to sell such books, for many people have an idea that it is a duty to buy and read them.

In many homes the collection of costly books might almost be called the "Calamity Library," so eagerly do people buy such books. Indeed these expensive subscription volumes often crowd out good books because they are so expensive. In one home every disaster that has happened since the couple set up housekeeping is represented, but there is a great dearth of books that really should be in the shelves. The Johnstown flood, the Chicago fire, the San Francisco earthquake and so on through the list, but not one really good book for the young people to read.

Little children with morbid curiosity will eagerly look at the horrible pictures in such volumes, but there is nothing gained in allowing them to brood over calamities. Many children are afraid to go to sleep at night after reading stories of horrible deaths, and seeing the pictures that go with them. The best way for boys and girls to hear of such things is to listen to father and mother relating the fine and heroic incidents that are always connected with such disasters. The giving up of life to save others, the care of women and children and all the other things that stir the blood to higher living—these are the things to be remembered, and not the terrible ones. There is enough that is horrible in the daily paper that tomorrow goes to light the kitchen fire, without preserving the sadness in a book that costs as much as a dozen good ones.

And another thing, the histories, so-called, are written in such a hurry that they are full of false statements and misrepresentations. Not that the publishers intend to misrepresent the facts, but the books must be hurried to the market before rival publishers are in the field, so that of necessity they are full of errors. Six months after the great calamity no one will want to buy a book, so everything is hurry-scurry to reach the public while the disaster is fresh in the mind. The price of all the books bought hastily after great disasters would fill the homes with good reading and tend to elevate thought and lives everywhere. So when an agent begins his little speech about knowing that we want to be informed about the "great happenings of the day" we politely tell him he is wasting his time and send him on his way. Reading about suffering does no good, and we prefer something elevat-

ing and refining instead of depressing and harrowing tales. That is the reason we do not own a single "calamity" volume, and never intend to as long as we live.

HAS TWO OLD BOOKS

Indiana Man's Possession Recalls Ancient Volumes

The account in the Times-Star a few nights ago of a Kokomo, Indiana man's two old books brought to light two local volumes of considerable antiquity. They are owned by Mrs. Ann Hughes Marks. One is a German Bible, published in 1647, and the other a "History of Florence" by Nicholas Machiavel originally written in the Italian and translated and printed in English in 1695. The Bible, especially, is in an excellent state of preservation, and the care and painstaking evidenced in the binding and typographical work are an object lesson to printers of today.

The books in Indiana made reference to, were a German Bible, published in 1732 and a French translation of the proceedings of the Council of Trent, published in 1577.

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT WORD?

BOOK.

In highly civilized communities the word "book" is as frequently used as the word "bread." In fact, the state of civilization to which a community or an individual has attained may be fairly measured by the number of times the word and the object "book" is used by that community or individual.

When books were first invented they were made of beechen boards, both among the Anglo-Saxons and the Germans. The Anglo-Saxon word for "beech" was "boc," and its German equivalent was "buch."

The name "boc" stuck to the object after the stage of beechen production, and the spelling was changed to its present form in the course of the development of the English language. In German it retains its original form, "buch."

It is well to remember that the continued use of the name of a tree to designate a book is not so inappropriate as it seems; for books are still made of wood—sometimes in more senses than one.

Libraries of Early Bible Times

MUCH light has been thrown on the literature of ancient times by the discoveries made by archeologists during the last two decades, especially in Babylonia and Assyria. While these have been largely fragmentary and disconnected, it was inevitable that a scholarly mind, in love with the subject, would some day assemble all the available data in a coherent and logical, if not chronological form, thus placing them at the service of all who are interested in the beginnings of literature. This has been very agreeably and skillfully done in a volume entitled "Biblical Libraries," by Professor Ernest Cushing Richardson, published by the Princeton University Press, which gives the history of libraries from 3400 B. C. to the middle of the second century A. D.

That there were libraries nearly 6,000 years ago is not only shown to be an historical fact, but all the indications point to the existence of similar collections at a much earlier period. It should be understood at the outset that the very ancient libraries discussed in Professor Richardson's volume were vast collections of books that differed in many respects from the modern conception of a library. Some of those ancient collections were literary only in a comparatively small degree, being mainly public documents, official writings or temple records and accounts, with here and there a tablet of real historical value, or containing biographical references, and occasionally dealing with the achievements of some monarch, or disclosing the laws and customs or the religious beliefs of an early age. Thus, Lugash had its tablet collection of 30,000 or more public documents, Sippara 50,000, and Nippur probably about the same number; yet these could in no sense be regarded as

libraries, since they had little or no literary character. But the Ashurbanipal (Babylonian) collection, though it does not exceed 20,000, is sufficiently literary to be regarded as a real library.

It is interesting also to know that many of these very ancient libraries were imposingly housed in specially constructed buildings. There were "houses of books," so-called, in the temples and in the schools, and there were crude receptacles, the equivalent of modern shelves or book-cases. There were regularly appointed librarians, too.

Many of the cities mentioned in the early books of the Bible are now known

to have had libraries. The vast numbers of tablets unearthed in various parts of Mesopotamia let in a flood of knowledge on life and conditions in Babylonia and in the land of Sumer. Ur and Haran, in Abram's day and even earlier, were religious and literary centers. It is not improbable that future research in these regions may disclose the remains of libraries or tablet collections of even greater antiquity than those already discovered.

There are many points on which the early libraries have yielded information that would have been wholly lost to the world, if recorded in any other less permanent form than that of the clay tablet. They tell us much concerning the earliest educational methods, the systems of banking and accounting and the forms of business correspondence. They had their multiplication tables, too, their genealogies of notable families, their hymns of worship, prayers and incantations, and, as in the case of the Babylonian libraries, accounts of the Creation and the Deluge, which had doubtless been transmitted through successive generations orally or in some other form, before they were ineffaceably fixed on tablets that have defied the "tooth of time."

LIBRARIES which had been flourishing in Egypt long before Abraham's visit (in 1950-1900 B. C.) are now known to have contained religious and medical texts, as well as annals and public records, covering a period, as Mr. Richardson estimates, of possibly 1,000 years. The "Pyramid texts," engraved about 2700 B. C. during the early dynasties, bore witness to the primitive custom of writing on papyrus, and to the existence of collections of religious literature of a period much earlier. The "Palermo Stone" (of about the same date as the "Pyramid texts") is a book of annals and indicates the existence of book collections dating back possibly to 3400 B. C. So far had the dignity and importance of the library, as an authentic record of a nation's history and intellectual progress, come to be recognized, that we find in some of the inscriptions mention made of Seshait "the Goddess (or Lady) of Libraries" (3400 B. C.). The library was called "the hospital of the soul," and the scribes of the hieroglyphics were the "masters of all secrets." Of the records written on leather and papyrus little has been preserved.

Another suggestion worth noting is that Moses, who was "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians," doubtless had access to the libraries of his day, and that the "book-chests" which the Egyptians made the repositories of their most precious writings may have been the prototype of the "ark" which was to contain the sacred writings of the Jewish nation after the Exodus. That the Israelites themselves had at least one sacred library from the beginning of their existence as an independent nation is evident from several Bible passages referring to documents of great importance, which were "laid up before the Lord," doubtless in the

ark. In later years, as the nation grew in power and influence, the "house of books" or "house of rolls" became a prominent feature.

IN the first century A. D., there were in Palestine several different kinds of libraries, viz., the temple libraries—a public central collection of archives in Jerusalem; local libraries of public archives in many cities; synagogue, school and private libraries. These were all in scroll and, in the case of the synagogues at least, were multiplied amazingly. Synagogue rolls were loaned out for purposes of religious and general instruction, and there were many schools at the houses of the scribes. Respect for books was taught, and every child had his own book. The synagogue itself was a sort of higher school, at which law and Jewish history were taught. On the whole, the author concludes, popular education in Palestine in New Testament times might be compared to conditions in New England, "when every family had its Bible and hymn-book and every child its primer—and not much else."

The one outstanding revelation in Professor Richardson's instructive volume is that throughout the ancient world, not only in the countries we have mentioned but in many others which he names, libraries were common to an extent which was quite unknown, until recent research established the fact beyond question. What revelations are in store as the result of continuous investigation must be left to conjecture. As he remarks, a high state of organization implies an evolutionary background, and from the character of the earliest libraries thus far discovered the existence of still earlier collections must be inferred. Whether they will be discovered or not is a problem for the archeologists. G. H. S.

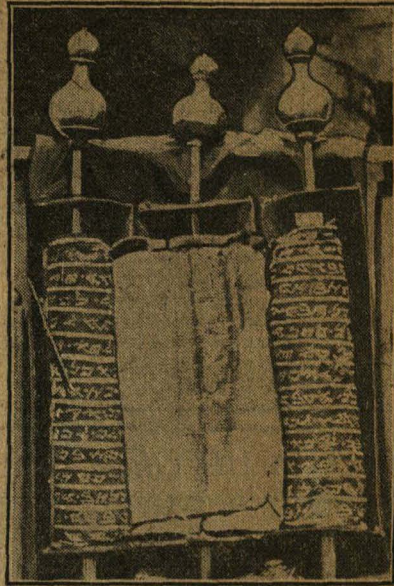
Book

What Kind of a book is the *Almanach de Gotha*?

It is a book of genealogical matters largely concerned with the royalty of Europe and the nobility. It is written in French.

World's Oldest Book

HEREWITH is pictured what is believed to be the world's oldest book the Samaritan scroll of the Pentateuch, which has been photographed for the first time. It belongs to the Samaritans who live in Nablous, Palestine. The sect is rapidly vanishing, only 150 members



of the tribe still existing. The scroll is guarded with the utmost care, and very few non-members of the sect have ever viewed it. It is asserted that the scroll was written by Abiehu, great-grandson of Aaron. The book is 70 feet long and is regarded a great treasure by Hebrew students.

DECEMBER 27, 1925

What are the inducements of library work for young women?—Ambitious.

For this information write to the Cincinnati Public Library, Cincinnati, O. Of if you contemplate going on and taking a library course at some library school, write to the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y., as to entrance requirements and the opportunities for a position when you have completed the course. At the Cincinnati Library the person passing the examinations must serve a six months' apprenticeship without pay before being regularly taken on the library staff. The beginners then start at \$30 per month, which amount is increased as the skill of the person increases. Those who have completed a library course start with higher pay. There are many opportunities for self-advancement in this field and it is a delightful one for a woman to enter.