

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

To the Board of Directors of the Lawrence Free Public Library,

Herewith is presented my report of the work of the Lawrence Free Public Library during its 14th fiscal year, ending December 31st., 1918.

The resignation, in March, of Mrs. Nellie G. Beatty as librarian removed a most honored and efficient leader. The Board of Directors and the public recognize the value of her work, which has developed the resources of this library and made it what it is.

The honor of carrying on the work falls upon her assistant, who, with the help of the Board of Directors and the Library Staff will strive to follow out many of her wise policies.

We have been most fortunate in securing as assistant librarian, Miss Marie Hostetter, who comes to us with experience in library methods.

Miss Francis Carter continues to give her efficient service to the public at the main desk.

Mrs. F. B. Hildinger has been added to the staff for the evening hours.

Our circulation has again fallen, being 6056 less than in 1917. The chief cause is the lack of new books in both departments. Increased reading of newspapers incident to the war, and various war service activities have claimed much of the time which has heretofore been given to the reading of books. The circulation of duplicate copies of magazines also tends to diminish the number of books borrowed.

The epidemic of Influenza kept many from coming to the library, which was not closed a day on account of the prevalence of this disease. Those who came did not linger long. The books received special care in order to prevent the possibility of contagion.

On account of the devotion of the club women to Red Cross and other relief work the club programs have been simplified and thus brought less research in our library. However there has been a general and insistent call from the public for books and magazine articles upon the European war and its many avenues of service and relief work

The High School and grade pupils have used the library to

its fullest extent, in their search for topics of current interest. Many special collections of books and magazines have been placed for their use.

Bulletin boards and walls have been flooded with constantly changing posters and bulletins sent from departmental headquarters at Washington. Special war bulletins have taken much care and time of the staff.

The new "Have you read" bulletin board calls attention to some current magazine articles of special value. Upon this are also placed clippings and illustrations of the most important events of the day.

Handsome posters have been made and placed in the Children's Room for the special anniversary days. These are the work of Miss Hostetter and the gift of the staff.

The Intensive Campaign of the American Library Association for books for our Soldiers and Sailors during the week beginning March 18 brought 1060 books to our library. Following this books were constantly brought to the table kept for their reception. From these a careful selection was made and 1225 volumes suitable for a soldier's library were prepared with bookplates, pockets and cards furnished by the American Library Association. (95 National Geographic Magazines were added and all shipped to Camp Funston.

Requests for books continued to come and the public responded to our call for more. In August 252 volumes were sent to Detachment Headquarters on Mount Oread for the Officer's Training School. In October 150 books were sent for over-seas service.

In November Mrs Roxana Beecher Preuszner presented to the library a collection of 75 books, with the request that all appropriate volumes be loaned to The Soldier's and Sailor's Club War Camp Community Service at the Community House opened for their use. These formed part of a collection of 105 books loaned to this club. Upon the closing of the Club rooms in December these were returned to the library where those given by Mrs Preuszner will be found upon our shelves. The remainder will be sent with others brought by the public in answer to the recent call for books for our Convalescent soldiers. Thus the Lawrence public has furnished 2616 volumes for War Camp Service.

During the campaign for books for Soldiers and Sailors the Lawrence papers have been liberal in giving space and also in

During October and November the High School sent eighteen classes to the library for the course of instruction in library methods. The pupils were especially alert and anxious to acquire all the information possible, which has made them more independent in the use of the library.

The deficit which has been carried since the repairs to the basement of the library in 1915 has been wiped out during the year. This is a cause of rejoicing to all concerned. The one regret has been the curtailment in the purchase of books. This loss has been felt most keenly in the Childrens Room, not only by the children themselves but by the grade teachers as well, since they need more fresh material for use in the school room.

The adult department has suffered also, especially in the lack of new Non-fiction.

May I urge that these needs be met since the deficit is now disposed of.

The most notable gifts of the year were The Stoddard Library in 13 volumes, presented by Mrs SW.H. Sears, World's famous orations in 10 volumes presented by Mr.F.H.Billings and Best of the World's Classics in 10 volumes, presented by Mrs.David Mackie Jr.

A flood of war books and pamphlets was received from Sir Gilbert Parker, W.MacNeille Dixon and others. Most of these were not accessioned as being of short lived interest. However they were of vital importance during the war, receiving much attention on their special shelf.

The total accessions for the year were 880, 682 by purchase and 198 by gift. Of those purchased 67 were from the Perkins Memorial Fund.

The year's accessions distributed in the various classes are as follows:

Adult bound periodicals	110
Adult fiction	433
Adult non-fiction	194
Reference department	51
Juvenile fiction	533
Juvenile non-fiction	550
Juvenile bound periodicals	7
Total	880

The number worn out and lost was 107, 56 adult and 51 juvenile, leaving a gain of 773. This is 449 more than the net gain in 1917.

The total accessions divided in classes are as follows follows:

Adult bound periodicals	1954
Adult fiction	3927
Adult non-fiction	15980
Reference department	536
German department	392
Juvenile fiction	1139
Juvenile non-fiction	1340
Juvenile bound periodicals	<u>158</u>
Total accessions	15426

There were 114 volumes of current periodicals bound and 303 miscellaneous volumes rebound, a total of 417. This was 161 more than in 1917, and 277 less than in 1916.

The purchase of The messages and papers of the presidents in 23 volumes is our most extensive addition of the year. This includes President Wilson's speech of January 8th, 1918, and this last volume has been of particular interest and value to the reference department. By the purchase of this new set of books the library is now registered with the Bureau of National Literature and is thereby entitled to receive succeeding volumes as they are published.

The list of donors of books is as follows: Dr. A. M. Wilcox, Dr. E. Bumgardner, Miss Prudentia B. Gowell, Mr. F. H. Billings, Mrs. L. H. Perkins, Mr. C. G. Dunlap, Mrs. J. E. Jewett, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Morris from the Maud Shearer collection, Mr. Paul Ewald, Rev. R. W. Sanderson, Mrs. D. L. Rowlands, Mrs. David Mackie Jr., Mr. Guy Walling, Mrs. W. H. Sears, Mr. C. A. Dorsey, Mrs. Mary Parker Peek, Mrs. W. B. Dalton, Miss Virginia M. Pendleton, Mrs. R. B. Preuszner, Sir Gilbert Parker, W. Macneile Dixon and the authors and editors of various works.

Mr. George Innes has for over two years presented the London Graphic to the library. This magazine has had a large reading. This courtesy of Mr. Innes is greatly appreciated.

The circulation statistics are as follows:

Adult fiction	28977
Adult non-fiction	6428
Juvenile fiction	5912
Juvenile non-fiction	<u>4150</u>
Total	45467

The total circulation for 1917 was 51523, making a loss of 6056 for 1918.

The comparative statistics for the two years are as follows:

Adult Fiction . . . 1917	31,531
Adult fiction . . . 1918	<u>28,977</u>
Loss 1918	2,554
Adult non-fiction 1917	8,531
Adult non-fiction 1918	<u>6,428</u>
Loss 1918	2,103
Juvenile fiction 1917	7,557
Juvenile fiction 1918	<u>5,912</u>
Loss 1918	1,645
Juvenile non-fiction 1918	4,150
Juvenile non-fiction 1917	<u>3,904</u>
Gain 1918	246
Loss 1918	6302
Gain 1918	<u>246</u>
Net loss 1918	6056

The largest monthly circulation was in January and numbered 4521. The smallest was in August and numbered 2818.

The circulation of duplicate magazines numbered 1485, a gain of 27 over last year.

The 7th registration of borrowers cards now numbers 3377 adult and 799 juvenile, a total of 4176, an addition of 1539 during the year

This is 395 less than the 6th registration at the corresponding time.

The Children's Story Hour was held on Saturdays from January 12 to March 9th when our story teller, Miss Etta Smith left the City to enter war work. The attendance was very small owing largely to the devotion of the children to war relief work and then their gardens.

This season on account of the epidemic of Influenza the Story Hour has not been held. Arrangements are now completed for a course

in story telling by Mrs. Humble, to begin next Saturday. There has been no publication of the Annual Report and Booklist since 1915. The Board voted to publish this pamphlet biennially instead of annually as in the past. This vote has been rescinded on account of high prices and lack of funds. The continuation of this pamphlet in the near future would be appreciated by the patrons of the library.

Since the close of the war we again take hope that the appropriation asked of Mr. Carnegie for the needed extension to the library may receive attention. If this is not forthcoming other plans for securing funds should be made.

In August the addition of two sections of book stacks, accommodating 800 books, relieved the tension of crowded shelves temporarily, but with the accessions of the year the condition is about where it was before. There are still other available spaces where stacks can be erected for the books which we plan to purchase in the near future.

For the kind consideration and splendid cooperation of the Library Board during this year of changes, the librarian is most grateful.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia S. Edwards
Librarian.