

Librarian's twenty-sixth annual report for the year ending
December 31, 1930.

23683 vol. make up our book collection
1507 " were added during the year.
102,226 books were issued for home reading
4938 Lawrence residents were registered borrowers.
281 non-resident K. U. students were issued cards
267 " " H. S. " " " "
43 " " were deposit patrons
51 country patrons purchased cards.

Reading Trends

Popular fiction and the classified literature leads as usual. Mystery stories are still popular with western stories as a close rival. Biography ranks next, with current periodicals following closely. Our shelf of circulating magazines is scanned closely each week by many readers. There are ten selected titles which we circulate for three days and for which people wait impatiently for their chance to read them. Fine arts leads over travel this year, and useful arts follows closely after history and sociology. Religion and philosophy and natural science bring up the rear with philology almost forgotten as only 49 books were issued in that class.

Reference Service

We attempt to answer all questions. Information is asked on practically any subject. The distressed speaker, who is to appear before his audience in ten minutes, may want help in introducing the speaker, dedicating a marker, replying to a toast, making a little talk at the fathers and sons banquet or an address at a 50th or 75th anniversary. It may be a poem, or a quotation with only an obscure line to guide us. A member of the University faculty asked recently for old time temperance poems and was astonished and delighted to find them here. The library rose 100% in his estimation. A local landscape gardener has been poring over Bailey's Cyclopaedia of Horticulture all winter. He will be ready this spring to dress up your yards.

One farmer wanted to know if it was possible to feed bees. Some one had cut down the bee tree on his farm and taken all the honey. Many requests for books on dogs, how to train them and their diseases are made. Boys and young men shyly ask for our books of etiquette, especially in the spring.

Telephone and city directories are in demand by insurance agents and other salesmen. Club workers want reviews on our new books. We keep a file of clippings for these patrons. Some pronunciations are hard to find, but we stagger along asking here and there if we cannot locate it at once. Book titles often call for mental agility. A small boy asked in the juvenile department for, "Kidnapped bear". He really wanted, "Kidnapped by air", and he got it. An older reader asked for "Out of debt". The librarian handed him "Paid in full".

Hard times for the business concerns mean busy times for us. All fall and winter our reading rooms have been filled with men who are spending their time with our newspapers and magazines.

Had we not closed for a month last summer our circulation would have made a record, but as it was we fell short less than 2000. In the three days before closing we loaned over 4600 books extending the time to one month. The remarkable thing is, every book was returned.

The great demand is for new books; the average reader asks: "What have you that is new". We are trying to please and have something new for everyone who asks. Our patrons, as a rule, are very appreciative of this service and are quite prompt in returning the popular books that they may be passed on to others who want to read them.

Now if you have slept while I've been reading this it is just what our apprentice said you would do. She saw us laboring over long columns of figures and asked, "What for". When we said it was a report for the Board, she said, "Will they listen".

I thank you all for listening so attentively when I've had so little to say. Especially do I thank you for your loyal support in the administration of our library work this year.

Lillian J. Constant