



Gratia A. Countryman and Family Papers.

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Lions Club - Sept.

I am honored, but at the same time embarrassed because you have from me your whole noon hour and have not limited me to any branch or phase of library activity. Long hope that an enthusiast like myself may not weary you with too much speaking.

I am also embarrassed by the advertisement in last night's Star of my 42 years of service and the suggestion in last night's journal that older teachers & employees be forcibly retired. This may be my last appearance.

But in spite of these long years in building up a big city institution, I am still as much of an enthusiast for the value of our type of education which a library reaches as I ever was. And ~~at the Public Library~~ with more open eyes & mind than ever.

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One of the oldest known bits of writing in the world is on a piece of papyrus in a Constantinian Museum. It is written

"Also times are not what they used to be, Children no longer obey their parents and every one wants to write a book."

They seemed to have been tackling the same problems then as we have today. With that evidence ^{early} book making and Solomon's long ago statement that "of the making of books there is no end." let us face the production of print as it is today. You no doubt can visualize somewhat the thousands of different periodicals + newspapers and house organs and government documents and books. ^{as you have experienced them} But you do not have to face the whole output as a

library does. Just the list of
American newspapers fills a volume
three inches thick. The U.S. Catalog
of books is a volume four or five
inches thick.

This past year the U.S. issued
some 10000 new titles; Great
Britain more than 12000, to say
nothing of other nations. The best of
~~which~~ whose output we never
buy in the original tongue.

Walter Pater says that if
we become stereotyped, we die.
I am sure that no real library
or librarian can become
stereotyped in the face of this
enormous production of print.
And the constantly changing
subjects in which people are
interested. And one of the first
and most important services which

④

a library performs is to face
this enormous output and to
select as judiciously as possible
those titles which seem to
be the best of their kind, and
to bind up a body of material
which is useful for the present
moment, and which should be
preserved for the coming years.
It is no light responsibility.
~~When book budgets are limited~~
I will not go into the methods
of the careful consideration
given to it by a trained and educated
group of people. Only to say that
to bind up year by year the
resources of a big library, to
foresee the demand and to have
the material there when needed.
to have the best and most
authoritative on every subject, to
be ready ^{at} ~~mail~~ - up-to-date

(5)

information, in the shape of
books, magazines, clippings
picture or whatever, is more
of a task, and more of a real
service than the casual
patron who comes to the desk
and finds what he wants can
imagine. And so you go from
department to department, to
the reference department with its
handbooks and encyclopedias, its guides
and indexes, to the art department
and music department, to the
technical department, the educational
department and even the children's
department and find the care with
which the library has tried to
choose the best, and never
~~succeeded in keeping up to~~
~~up to date~~, up to date material
I am sure you will realize

⑥

that wading about in the
overwhelming mass of printed
material and making judicious
selection, building up and
carefully indexing our resources
is one of the first and most
important services of the library.

But the collection of books
for people to come & use
has been the task of a
library from time immemorial.
The idea of the modern library
is something quite different, it
is a dynamic force in education.
But it is a striking fact that
over 3,300,000 books went out into
the homes of pupils in 1930. It is
a striking fact that 180,000 people
had borrower cards at the present time.

~~It means that the library is~~
~~providing opportunities and~~
No one can possibly estimate
the amount of information and
Education that is represented by
the amount of reading;
~~But~~ Mr Lane has been content to
develop departments and special
opportunities at the Central building
Mr Lane has a definite policy
of extension centers -

- Branches
- Schools
- Business Houses
- Hospitals

Mr Lane is trying to be what the
Carnegie Corporation says that libraries
should be - A real Community Intelligence Service

I have said that a library is
a dynamic force for education. (8)

But I think that most people
think of Schools when they think
of Education. Education

means to most of us, formal
instruction definite courses,
institutions to which young people
go until they are graduated or
have reached some definite end

We are thinking in larger terms
than that now a days. We
know if we come to think
about it that Education - the

very best part of education
comes after we leave school
- from life, from experience
from reading. When we
really think about it, we know
that formal education is just

lays the foundation and (9)
that real education is the
growth & development of all
the powers of mind, spirit
and body throughout a life time

It is with this life long growth
that a library is concerned
and it is to furnish an
opportunity for such growth
that a library exists. (Reading
Advisory
Service)

I believe that the public
library has a great part to
perform in the years just
ahead. We cannot avert
our attention from the
fact that the machine has
come to stay, that a shorter

week and a shorter
 day are in prospect, and
 that leisure time will
 be much increased. The
 opportunity for self development
 will be here, ... It is the
 vision of every librarian who
 looks the future in the face, to
 so develop the opportunity
 for self development that every
 man and woman may come
 into contact with them and
 may feel the challenge and
 stimulation of educating himself.
 It is a thinking intelligent
 community that Mpls. wants
 and your library is working constantly
 with that end in view - a thinking
 community.