



Gratia A. Countryman and Family Papers.

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Mr Eastman calls this distinct
new trend 'The emergence of the
Reader'.

We had a period when we studied
technique, methods of cataloging, methods
of charging systems. This practical
side will always be with us, but it
no longer consumes our energies.

We have had a real missionary
enterprise on our hands, when we
have been enthusiastic about
extension work - more branches,
more expansion, reaching out to
find readers, to carry books to
them. We put books in factories.
We develop hospital work, we
establish classroom libraries and
School Contact. We are never
tiring hunting for avenues to
enter with the lamp of learning.

We have been missionaries
in the larger way of County
libraries, travelling libraries, we are

bound to reach these Country
Districts - We will go right on with it.

But now we come to intension
work for the reader, each reader
not classes of readers. We are
thinking of him more and more
as an individual, with mental
capacities and tastes different from
any other.

Mr Wheeler of Baltimore presented
a paper in the Madrid Congress
last year. He called it
"Methods for making known to
inexperienced readers the facilities
and resources offered by the library"
He says that Amer librarians have
been undergoing a marked
rearrangement in their more
intensive and purposeful services
to individuals. He talks about
the "forgotten man in the mean streets"
and why he is or is not using the

- ③ library. He has worked out a Chart (1934) showing the average in typical cities as follows.
- 30% of population are registered borrowers
 - 30% are prospective users.
 - 10% have no desire for books
 - 10% no time to read
 - 10% hard to get books
 - 5% too young
 - 5% illiterate -

This makes a basis for study. What are the needs of these groups. We should not be satisfied until we know, and our keeping 100% in contact with the Community groups. Miss Tompkins estimates that 50% of the population have some reading habits - but why. Perhaps we have not enough of the right books. Perhaps there are not published enough simple attractive interesting books. and Perhaps we do not spend enough

(4) of our book money, for these
simpler books to attract these
people. There are studies of this ^{interesting}
Our newly developing interest
in the individual reader has
led us to such studies as
Miss Felsenthal's "Reader
books on many subjects".
As to Prof Gray's study on
the Reading interest and habits
of adults."

~~I am mentioning them, not to
introduce a discussion, but to call
attention to the growing interest
in the reader.~~

Mr Compton of St Louis has
written a little book called
"Who Reads What" He examined
the records of borrowers who took
out certain books. For instance
who reads William James, the
found laundry workers, machinists
grocery & dry goods clerks, a

⑤ worker in a soap factory etc
Who reads the Classics: well
Among readers of the ^{Homeric} Odyssey
he found a hair dresser from
Ethiopia, a saloon-keeper, a field
engineer, a printer, a ~~printer~~
an advertising solicitor, a nurse etc
and so on. This would be a
most interesting study for
any of us to make in our
own libraries

But I am mentioning these
studies, not to discuss the
results of them, but to show
how the interest in reading
taste of individual readers is
occupying a new place.
The new reading guidance, the
specific reader's advisors, the
new emphasis we are placing
on adults is proof of this new trend

⑥ The ^{simple} made, in common with
a number of other libraries,
a study of the occupations
four persons. It was a
revelation to find ~~how many~~
the four largest percentages
of laborers, workers in mechanic
trades, taxi drivers, nurses,
cooks, factory employees, clerks
is than I dreamed.

^{my own each make} Surveys and studies of our
people, whether they read
or not, where they live,
what they do, and why the
library fails to interest so
many of them. ^{we may be} ~~we may be~~ ^{also} ~~also~~ ^{with} ~~with~~ ^{people} ~~people~~
failing, and we must know why
and how* we must know our
readers and what they need. We
must study the non-readers, and
find out how to attract them.

~~We~~ We keep a record of the things asked for
which we cannot buy ^{any more}