



Gratia A. Countryman and Family Papers.

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~~I am sure the~~ ~~fact~~
~~for the purpose~~
~~The Social Welfare~~ ~~of the~~
~~Library~~

How the Social Welfare of
the Library can be advanced
been the question uppermost in
the minds of those who are
Controlling the growth of our Public
Library. In the minds of many
Public Libraries ^{Public Libraries} are educational institutions, ^{but simple}
in the minds of others it is ~~not~~
~~of a~~ ~~institution for general~~
~~mental~~ ^{only} a source of pleasure and
mental recreation where the
latest novels and magazines can
be borrowed free of charge.
The Library answering both of these
descriptions, it is both for pleasure
and profit, it studies to meet
the needs both of the scholar and
the mental pleasure seeker.
But the modern library is more

than that - it is a great social
institution, playing its part in
the social regeneration of the
community. Not ~~simply~~
~~standing~~ for the education
of the people only, but for the
elevation ^{and} ~~and~~ refinement of the
people. The modern library
takes a new position, and stands
with other great moral agencies
for the uplifting of society.

The modern librarians believe
in using all the facilities
of the library toward this end.

Otherwise the Public Library
of today would not justify what
it costs. This means that the
library should be in contact with
every study all parts of the
community, and should put itself

into sympathetic relations.
Every walk of life. Should
our library be useful to the
Art interests of the city, Yes it
should ^{and should} have material and
Convenient equipment where
Architects, woodcarvers, ~~and~~ designers and
^{Artisans} of all kinds, and artisans of all kinds
can find the most beautiful
things to enrich the city and
improve our taste.

Should the library help in the
musical growth of the city, Yes
it should have, and hopes
sometimes to have collections
of musical scores and piano
rolls, to loan to the music lover &
music student. ~~and~~ ~~It should~~
and so to bring within reach, ^{of all} by ~~the~~
~~help~~ free distribution, that luxuries
otherwise unobtainable. Our
Library has just begun to loan a

~~Just~~ musical scores to the great
delight of many people, but our
usefulness to the community in
this direction is very limited.

It goes without saying that
the scholar should find the
material he wants along any
line, that the teacher, and
the club woman, and the
University, or High School student,
and the minister and the
newspaper reporter, in search
of information, should find it
at the library and that their
wants should have been foreseen
and the material ready at their
call.

Then there is the business
man, the workman, the
man out of employment, the
foreigner, the children, all
with special wants of their own

and all with an equal
claim upon the library.

Whether it be a design for
a stained glass window, or the
City Charter of Detroit, or the
Wizard of Oz, that is wanted
the person who wants it should
find the library prepared to
furnish it.

But now, the Librarian
may study this varying Community
may analyze their wants, the
Library Board may ~~be willing to~~
furnish the necessary books and
material, and ~~to~~ pay for the
necessary attendants to serve
the people, the equipment
may be fairly adequate, but
there still remains the problem
~~of~~ the solution of which
differentiates more than anything

else, the modern library from
its earlier type, ~~the problem~~
~~reaching the people for whom~~
~~this preparation is made.~~ By what
methods shall the library and
with its helpful influence reach
the people. It is true that
there are thousands of people
who in the city who have
never heard of the library. If
they have, they do not ~~feel any~~
~~claim~~ know that it is free or
that it ~~could~~ contains anything
useful to them. There are
hundreds of young men & women
who have had no opportunities,
who never dream that the
library could give them pleasure
recreation ^{or} ~~fast~~ good education. The
librarian may have prepared
faithfully for the foreigners
in our midst, but there are
thousands of foreigners who have
yet to learn what a library is

It evidently is not enough to prepare the feast, and await the guests, we must go out to the highways & hedges and invite them in. The scholars will find the library without urging but as long as there are only 60000 borrowers in the men women and children, in this city of 300000, there is ~~a big~~ something ~~field~~ for the library to do. The library cannot wait for these people to come to it, the library must go to these people, and here is the great opportunity for social usefulness.

I like that phrase social usefulness, it expresses just the service which I hope the Duplis Library render. Let me detail to you some of the method by which the library is going out to find the people

First there is the Central Building itself, which is kept open until 10, 00. at night. There are newspaper reading rooms, containing also trade journals, professional Engineering magazines, literary religious and professional magazines which one can keep himself to, without asking permission of any ~~one~~. Then there is a pleasant reading room with easy chairs and big windows containing about 10000 volumes of all kinds which any one can take from the shelves at will, with no assistant around to tell him that this is against the rules or that that cannot be allowed, It is as open for his enjoyment as his own sitting room at home. Then there is a big quiet reading room where the student can consult dictionaries and Encyclopedias & atlases without asking anyone's permission - can

just take them down to use
them. Or if he needs assistance
there is an assistant who will
find any material on any subject
which he wants to ^{in the library} learn about.
Besides there is the large
Art Book Room, considered one
of the best collections of Art books
in the country open for every one
to use.

Then it is the easiest thing in
the world to get a card to draw
books. No one is asked whether
he owns property - but only if he
is a resident, no one ~~needs~~
get the signature of a guarantor,
his own signature is all that is
asked as a guarantee. And
instead of one card he gets
two, or if he is a teacher or minister
his card draws six books, or if he
goes off on a summer vacation, he
can take ten books away with
him. I know of no public library
where there is less supervision.

less red tape, less precautionary
measures, less suspicion; and
this attitude is the most gracious
invitation which the library can give
and is not without its fine
social influence. Even the
major sometimes buy a few books there.
Within the last year, the library
has been making special exhibitions
of its beautiful books, and has been
giving free lectures on popular
subjects, just to make the invitation
more alluring and to influence
public taste into better channels
of reading. For this purpose the
Board have bought a magic
lantern of their own.

~~Leaving the Central Building~~
But the Central Building cannot
accommodate all of the people.
However attractive it may be.
The city is large and distances
are great, and the library like the
school must live where the
people are. So the Branch library
formed on the same plan and
~~is distinct~~ and conducted in
the same spirit as the main library.

the Central Building. There
are at present eight of these
Branches, presided over by a
competent librarian, with
reading rooms and reference
volumes. Besides the
Branches, there are eleven
delivery stations, where books
are delivered from the
Central library. This makes
twenty points in the city
under the direct care and
administration of the Library
Board. This part of the
work has grown with great rapidity,
and yet it has not kept up
with the city. Here is the place
to widen the social usefulness.
At several points where we have
delivery stations, the circulation
is so large that the drug as to
rival some of the regular Branches.
Instead of a drug store station

there should be good Branch
Reading Rooms at these points.

Then it is unfortunate that
the Branches are situated
in rented buildings built for
stores, except in the case of
The North Branch & Pillsbury Branch.
These stores are fairly large
and commodious, ~~and~~ but are
not sufficiently lighted, ~~not~~
usually being long narrow rooms.
Neither can they be made
convenient or attractive as
a room for a building planned
~~for~~ for library use. We need
attractive cozy, inexpensive
little branch buildings in
all parts of the city, and
twenty-five of them would be
none too many at this present
moment. Mr. Walker made a
plea before the Board of Tax Levy
for this very thing, but it was
unsuccessful. The lack of money
is the only reason why we do not
at once widen in this direction.

But failing of this, ~~there~~
~~are ways by which we~~ we can
do the next best thing to reach
the people.

When Mr Wade comes and asks
if he can loan a few books for
his colored settlement, of course
he can loan them, and use them
to interest his people in good reading.
He can probably use them to better
advantage than we could in that
district. Miss Crosby has a
few hundred books to assist
her new library venture, and she
can reach people with our books
that we could not.

Hope Chapel also a splendid
circulation of library books, which
we loan to them for that purpose.

Down at Fort Snelling the
Y.M.C.A. is doing some good work.
Among the soldiers, they needed
books; we couldn't put a branch
or station there, but we could
loan them several hundred books
for those men to read, and we did.

In ~~the first~~ ^{large} engine houses
of the city - have a group of men
often idle for days together; in
at least eleven of these we have
placed a small ~~group of books~~
library, which is changed frequently.
Then ^{there} are the many factories, where
hundreds of employees congregate,
when night comes they are too
tired to hunt up a library, so the
library has gone to them, and in
a number of factories, telephone
exchanges &c, we have placed
books for them to use.

And the children, we are
doing much for them. In the
main building is a large room
devoted to them with a large
collection of books on low shelves.
There are low tables & chairs,
picture books, dissected maps &
stereoscopic pictures. In each
branch there is either a children's
Room

or a children's corner, with
their separate collection of books.
Even the stations have a special
collection for the ~~collection~~ ^{Children}.
But the work for the children
is done ~~to~~ best through the
teachers, so in the ^{outlying} ~~outlying~~ schoolrooms
about 5000 books to be circulated
in the homes from the school-
room,

Then there is the foreign
peoples among us.

Churches.

We have always had French
German and Swedish & Norwegian
books in considerable numbers.

~~Then we added a few Hebrew~~
~~at the same time Italian & Spanish~~
~~also, to some extent.~~ Then a
few Hebrew, a few Russian,
and lately a few Bohemian, and

Syrian, and now a request for
some modern Greek.

~~But then only the~~ But we
have only touched the outside
edges of this foreign problem —
the lonely newcomer ~~at~~ among
us, who came through the library
in the midst of that difficult period
of amalgamation with us.

I have not touched upon the
Story Hours for the children, which
are intended to draw the children
and give them a new interest in
good reading, and I have not
spoken of the free illustrated
lectures, ~~the~~ which are designed to
interest people in something better
than the latest novel, or the
various personal invitations which
are sent to various Landcrafts and
Traders. But enough has been
said to show that the library

realize a few of the opportunities
social usefulness, and know
that at every point they should
be widened.

In Capitulate, the library has
~~eight~~ nineteen branches & station
eleven ~~for~~ engine house libraries
fifteen or twenty school libraries
numbers of factory and settlement
libraries, in all of which we
labor to ~~improve~~ through
carefully chosen lists of books to
improve the moral & educational
tone of the city.

~~I~~ I submit that the
showing is creditable, yet
there are only 6000
people using the library drawing
books, Mr. Lunt half done the
work. You who are nearest the
social work for this people let us
know ~~where~~ there is an opening. We
surely ~~let~~ cooperate with you.

any Public Institution must
justify itself as a Civic Benefit
~~before it merits~~ How does the
Public Library justify the expenditure of the
People's money. - Every citizen has a right to
ask that. It was the question asked
regarding public schools - now the problem
of education at public expense has been so
justified that we not only have an education at
public expense, but make it compulsory up to
a certain age. ~~The public utility of the~~
~~Library is still questioned in many minds.~~
The expenditure for Parks used to be questioned
and they were only kept as beauty-spots, with
"Keep off the grass" signs. Now we realize that
Public Health & public morals demand
recreation places & are now believe in
playgrounds with equipment for a good time,
because recreation & pleasure prevent
crime & brings about good citizenship.
Let us look at the Library.