

LIBRARY IS BIG FACTOR IN LIFE OF COMMUNITY

Portland Institution Works Hand in Hand With Schools; Further Development Planned.

The average person's idea of a public library used to be that it was only a collection of books for the pleasure of the idle man or woman who needed a fascinating story to fill in a few moments when there was nothing better to do. But with the turns of Time's wheel, the average person is no longer the individual that he used to be. He has become an investigator of social problems, a discoverer of new phases of life, an experimenter in new ways of doing things. And one of his great discoveries is that the public library which has kept pace with him, rightly administered, is an important factor in the problem of public education. He only needs to spend an afternoon of even a quiet day in the various departments of the Portland public library to realize the truth of this statement.

The modern public library, as shown here, is many-sided in the highest sense of the term. To the general reader, anxious to continue the education left in an unfinished state by a few years of regular schooling, it offers assistance in every line. Not only are the books for such work available, but the library also offers courses of study may also be obtained. To the special student assistance is given upon every possible subject from the history of art to the growing of apples, from the making of a dress to the building of a railroad.

QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED

In the reference department questions of general nature are taken in charge by a corps of assistants especially trained in research work, and neither time nor effort is spared in furnishing the desired answers to the inquirer. Students and teachers make use of the facilities offered in debate work and many other phases of their school activities. Club women ask for help in planning programs, ministers call for the latest commentaries, journalists seek for multitudinous facts for the modern newspaper columns, foreign trade agents come in to locate obscure portions of the globe; every hour and minute of the 124-hour day of the library's opening is filled with similar requests.

The technical department is interested in all trades and the specialist in all industrial occupations. The personnel of the readers in this department are at any hour of the day range from the man who works out a new trade route in foreign commerce to the one who patents a new paring knife; from the student of the room equally available and of direct benefit. There is no phase of the community's industrial interest in which this department does not make a constant background for fancy dresses.

Artists and architects, students of the history of art, workers in industrial art of all types find the fine collection of the art room ample assistance for their particular lines of work.

In the new music room a rapidly growing collection for musical study is available to all students of music.

EDUCATION IS AIDED

The school department aids in general education by a widespread distribution of books throughout the county, for every school within the city and county is supplied twice a year with small libraries for the home use of the pupils. It takes between 40,000 and 50,000 books to supply the needs of these libraries. Multiple by the number of times each book goes out to a home in a half year and some idea may be obtained of the educational influence of the library. The high school libraries in Portland also come under the jurisdiction of the school department. At least 100,000 books per day in each of the six large high schools added to the reference work in each school library makes for an educational influence that is not surpassed by any other factor.

To the older members of the community the library thus becomes a continuation school of highest importance. And to the younger individuals, through the agency of the children's rooms in the central and branch libraries, it offers the best in the beginning of education. By its circulation of only the best in children's books, its story hours which are a stimulus to the reading of books, by its club activities which are always connected with books, by its instruction in the use of libraries in which it co-operates with the school department, the children's department performs a valuable educational work in the most readily impressionable period of the individual's life. It illustrates in the highest degree the general policy of the library whose aim is to establish a standard of excellence in both the materials furnished and in the service rendered.

DEPARTMENTS GROWING

All of the departments of the library have in the last year continued the growth which has characterized them in former years. Records of circulation of books and of the activities of the library are the chief statistical measures of work accomplished, show that the library is greatly increasing its importance as an instrument in building up a public-spirited citizenship is one phase of its work in education which should be enlarged upon. Through its circulation department, its children's room and its branch libraries in all parts of the city, it furnishes books which are good citizen makers—useful, informing and entertaining books which touch home and personal interests, which illustrate and exemplify the highest ideals of American citizenship and make of the immigrant a better voter and a better citizen.

The club rooms, which furnish meeting places for the activities of various organizations in the community, make of the institution a true people's university. With the coming winter, ranging from pet stock associations to the University of Oregon extension classes occupy the interests of a great diversity of people. For the coming winter, observations already made insure the use of practically all of these rooms for every night of the month, with the exception of some evenings which are always held open for casual meetings which may develop as new interests arise.

TO TRAIN WORKERS

With all of these and many other activities which cannot even be mentioned in a short account of its work, the Portland library is planning to increase its importance as an educator by taking a step that to many people, unversed in the usefulness of the library's general work, will seem a more definite educational asset. This is in making of definite plans for the development of a

DRESSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS



ILLUSTRATIONS Nos. 1, 2 and 3 are appropriate dresses for the younger high school girl. Illustrations Nos. 4 and 5 are good designs for the stout young girl. (Lines, length-producing; materials plain and soft colors; quiet.) Illustrations Nos. 6 and 7 are appropriate dresses for the older high school girl.

By Miss Mary Van Kirk, Instructor Housework, Oregon Agricultural College.

Are you planning to enter high school this fall?

If so, should you not begin now to help mother plan and select the clothes you will require for your new school life?

What will your needs be? What type of clothes should you choose to fill those needs? These are important questions, much will depend on the answer given to them. You will want to represent the best type of American girlhood. One of the surest tests of good judgment and refinement in a girl is her selection of clothes.

The representative high school girls of today are making a stand for good taste and democracy in the clothes they wear to school. They know that school room walls and blackboards do not make a consistent background for fancy dresses.

library school, which it is hoped will be in partial operation by another year. The demand for library service is increasing so much that we must have an increased number of workers with a wide knowledge of books and the ability to make these of greatest service to the community. To meet these requirements special training is necessary. Even for the person of good educational background a course in the technique of library science and administration is highly desirable. Portland is so far from the eastern library schools that aid from them in the way of furnishing workers is only of the most casual nature, and the field for workers is so great that the very few library schools of the Pacific coast are vastly inadequate. These reasons and the desire to add to the number of vocational opportunities for young women (and young men, too) all furnish compelling motives underlying the initiation of the

movement to found the new library school. While its present plans for a continued growth along all lines already developing, and with the organization of this new educational feature, Portland's public library will increase its usefulness to the extent that every desirable phase of the community's life may be fostered and every individual may be encouraged to go with that education which makes for life at its best.

Prof. French to Leave

University of Oregon, Eugene, July 31.—Professor A. N. French, former professor of education at the university, has been elected to the position of head of the department of sociology at New Hampshire State college. R. D. Hetsell, former head of the extension division of the Oregon Agricultural college, is president of New Hampshire State college.

Salem College Grows

The Capital Business college of Salem, Or., which has been under the management of Professor W. I. Staley for the past 30 years, has had a very prosperous year. Williamette valley business men have made many more calls upon this school for stenographers and bookkeepers than could be supplied the past year and Professor Staley says that requests for office help are still numerous.

Christie Hall, a students' residence, contains a chapel, gymnasium and billiard room and bowling alleys. The rooms in Christie Hall are comfortably furnished and the cuisine is excellent. So far has the university gone to provide for the boarders that a poultry farm and dairy are operated in connection with the school, in order to insure the freshest eggs, milk and butter for the table.

Students from all over the United States attend each year, a large percentage being non-Catholic.

This school is listed among the educational institutions where ex-service men may receive state aid.

Fall term opens September 7.

Visitors welcome. Take St. Johns car. For catalog address the Reverend Eugene P. Burke, Portland, Or.

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