

LIBRARY CARRIES MESSAGE TO KEEN LOVERS OF BOOKS

Clearing House of Information Visited by Thousands of All Ages; Circulation Gains.

Through the hushed corridors of Portland's Public Library hurried citizens daily make their way to shelves of red-bound wisdom, slender youths stroll about discussing thrillers and philosophy—wide-eyed children tip-toe in to learn the latest news of Cinderella, while outside, on the cold stone benches reserved to the memory of some ancient sage, tramps and lovers pause for an hour's contemplation. This is the center around which the diverging and opposing ends of community and civic life revolve.

Here the dilettante finds his latest recipe, the politician his line of attack. **CIRCULATION GAINING**
Two little does Portland know of the continual work and enterprise that keeps this great institution running. Every day behind the scenes of the association Miss Anne Mulheron, librarian, and her staff of assistants are striving to enlarge the field of the institution's benefits.

Through their efforts and those of the board of directors and other interested persons Portland's library boasts the largest per capita circulation of any library in the country. In Multnomah county this year the per capita circulation was 7.7 per cent with a total of 2,153,967 books in circulation, making an increase over last year's quota of \$1,000. This has been accomplished through a system of advertising the wares of interest to certain classes and through a plan of personal contact with the individual reading public which allows the library to more closely follow its demand.

LIBRARY WELCOMES
Every person applying for citizenship in Portland receives a letter from the library inviting him to make use of the reading rooms and Americanization volume in his preparation for the approaching examination. When the naturalization court meets a representative from the library is present personally to meet the newly-confirmed Americans and to impress upon them the advantages open to them by the association. During the year parties are held in the rooms of the library and its branches for the classes in naturalization. This brings the alien students to the building and acquaints them with its purpose under friendly and informal circumstances.

WOMEN'S CLUBS OCCUPY OWN HOMES



Above—Portland Woman's club building on Taylor street, completed this fall. Below—Civic clubhouse at Ashland, which was dedicated this month.

quest by persons of mature years. "We deem a book immoral," said Miss Mulheron, "that makes vice attractive and easy." The book committee is composed of William H. Brewster, Richard M. Montague, Jonah B. Wise and Miss Mulheron.

5000 BOOKS ADDED
A campaign last summer which resulted in the acquisition of over 5000 books to the library shelves was the enterprising and successful "Give

Books to the Library," drive conducted by the association. "Portland citizens responded generously to our plea," Miss Mulheron said. "Several large individual gifts were made at this time, a valuable insurance library was donated, also 500 juvenile books."

A novel plan of financing and establishing branch libraries was worked out this year by the residents of University park district. Last year this branch was housed inadequately, and because a suitable building was not

available the library decided to abandon the idea of maintaining a branch in the district. But residents of the community were unwilling to have their library taken from them and the plan they devised to keep it there has caused comment from libraries all over the country.

Through silver teas and jitney dances enough money was gathered together by the residents to buy a lot. Upon this investment they were able to borrow the money to erect a bungalow

if they are reading to the library association with a five-year lease. At the end of this time the building will be completed free from incumbrance, and if no longer needed for a library can easily be converted into an attractive community center. The building cost \$23,000, and is called the University Park Library.

BOOK WAGON FEATURE
When summer comes books in the suburban schools are no longer available to the children and the grown ups of those districts. To give these people the advantages of summer reading the Library association sends out a book wagon laden with volumes of interest to country residents of every age. The truck travels daily during the vacation months and is accompanied by two librarians and a page. There are 23 stops on the course. Miss Gladys Bette is in charge of the work. Branch libraries have been established in country stores and garages as a result of the interest in reading awakened by the daily passing of the book truck.

MEETING ROOMS
The Central library has eight meeting and lecture rooms open to the public free of charge. Organizations of housewives, debate clubs, music societies, advancement leagues and all the other community groups make use of these rooms. This year over 150,000 different gatherings were held in the library. A series of free lectures were sponsored this year by the association in their halls. Also a number of paid lectures. Vachel Lindsey, the vagabond poet, was brought to Portland with the latter series.

The books that have been most in demand in Portland this year are, "If Winter Comes," "Outlines of History by Wells," "Maid Street," by Lewis, and "Outwitting Our Nerves," by Jackson. There has been much call lately for books on psychology, according to the Librarian, also editions devoted to hints on methods of success. The technical and art library is used extensively.

Directors of the Portland Library association are: E. B. MacNaughton, president; Richard W. Montague, vice president; W. L. Brewster, Jonah B. Wise, Robert L. Sablin Jr., Hugh H. Herdman, William H. Lord, Robert H. Strong, Franklin T. Griffith, Amadee M. Smith. Ex-officio members are: Rufus C. Holman, Ralph W. Hoyt and Charles F. Rudeen.

Lents Sewer Job, To Cost \$700,000, One-Fifth Finished

The biggest piece of sewer construction yet undertaken by Portland, the Lents trunk sewer, is now in progress and about 20 per cent of the work has been completed by the J. F. Shea company, contractors. The project will cost about \$700,000.

This is to be the outfall for the Foster road trunk sewer system, which itself was a project of very large proportions. These two great bores will give drainage and sanitary sewer service to a vast area of the southeastern section of Portland.

The area to be drained by the Lents trunk sewer comprises 2364 acres in the Lents district and 185 acres in Sellwood district. The largest diameter of this sewer is 78 inches. The total length of the sewer is 5.3 miles. The total length of the Lents and Foster road sewers combined is 7.5 miles.

Irrigated land owned by D. R. Hill of Medford produced better than 100 bushels of oats to the acre during the past year.

Club Women Help Solve Social and Political Issues

City, State and National Organizations Increasing Influence for Good in World.

The time has long since passed when a special plea is needed for the existence of women's clubs. For actual demonstration has proved their worth to the individual and to society. Multitudes of women on farms, on remote ranches, in little villages, in great cities, have felt their impulses to a broader and more useful life. They have instructed those of limited education; they have given a wider horizon to those hemmed in by circumstance; they have trained the timid to speak, and, of late years they have prepared the way for women to take up "the larger housekeeping," the bettering of social and civic conditions, first through the creation of public sentiment and later by the enlightened and united use of the ballot.

As a subject, to treat the woman's club movement in all its phases, would be a tremendous undertaking—an undertaking in which to do justice would require an historical point alone extending over 50 years in the past. At the present period treatment of such a topic would extend the volume devoted to it in literary, scientific, religious, social, civic and political effort.

WORK CONSTRUCTIVE
Every subject of human interest is inextricably interwoven with the woman's club movement of the world, and in our own country from the subject of clean milk for the babies to the election of the president of the United States, this greatest civic and social force in America today, save the ballot in the hands of women, the woman's club movement, lends its influence and directly or indirectly helps to shape results in all human affairs.

The evolution of the woman's club movement is notably significant. Exclusion of women as guests at a banquet given in honor of Charles Dickens, when he visited New York in 1868, was the incentive for the founding of Sorosis, the first woman's club organized in America. A group of women protested against this ban and at once established Sorosis. This first club women were obviously women of literary taste and cultural interests and the influence of this first club dominated the club movement for many years, the average club program including an essay on Dante or some other literary light, a nocturne from one of the great masters and the reading of a poem by an "accepted" poet, followed by a cup of tea.

But something more than a decade ago, under the leadership of the late Sarah Platt Decker, a civic plank was placed in the platform of the American clubwoman thus uniting the best women of the country upon the principle of taking a hand in the affairs of their city, state and nation.

"Ladies," said the intrapud and practical Mrs. Decker, "Dante's dead—has been dead for several hundred years. You have hundreds of live subjects worthy of your attention as club women all around your homes."

To the Women's Clubs of America, Arise, O woman, arise! This is the Dawn; the bugles break the skies! Behold! O women, Behold! The gates are opening to the dreams of old. Like waters of a sea, That break their icy letters and go free! Arise in every land; One dream-lit womanhood, one sister-brand. Rise! let the spring-tide flow. Kindling with April fires the fields of snow. Rise, women, rise in power— Rise till the dead world breaks to golden flood.—Edwin Markham.

all over the United States for a citizenship that lies deeper than politics; they are expressing themselves in every form of social, educational and spiritual welfare. They are the women who constitute the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the largest body of organized womanhood in the world. Its membership consists of 18 state federations, 49,000 clubs with a total membership of 2,977,463.

Mrs. Thomas G. Winter of Minneapolis, the president of this great body, is not a stranger to Oregon clubwomen, she having been the guest of honor and principal speaker at the convention held less than two years ago in Prineville, when she won everyone by her personal graciousness and her grasp of the great questions of the day, particularly those that relate to women and children.

FEDERATION OFFICERS
Mrs. Ida B. Callahan of Corvallis, president of the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs, is a director in the general federation, and Mrs. Charles H. Castner of Hood River, formerly president of the Oregon federation, is general federation state secretary.

The Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs was organized in Portland October 24, 1899, and was admitted to the General Federation in 1901. There are now 138 clubs in the federation representing an approximate membership of 10,000 women. The federation colors are green, yellow and red and the federation flower is the Oregon grape. The 1922 convention was held in Tillamook and was a notably interesting and well attended affair. The 1923 convention will be held early in May in Medford. Special interest attaches to this gathering as it is election year. Medford is already making extensive preparations to give the visiting women a delightful time.

Following the suggestion made at the Prineville convention by Mrs. Winter, the state federation is working on the basis of the six large, inclusive departments and much good work is being accomplished throughout the state, as shown by reports given at the Tillamook convention and by announcements of projected work for this year.

The division heads are as follows: Applied education, Miss A. Grace Johnson, Corvallis; fine arts, Mrs. Collins Atkins, Prineville; legislation, Mrs. Alexander Thompson, Portland; press and publicity, Mrs. Edith Knight Hill, Portland; public welfare, Mrs. Sadie Orr-Dunbar, Portland; American citizenship, Miss Vella Winner, Portland.

The Portland Federation of Women's organization, of which Mrs. Alexander Thompson is president, numbers among its affiliated bodies 90 of the leading

organizations of the city having a membership of approximately 10,000 women, with a designated working force of 250. This Federation is distinctive in that it includes not only the regulation woman's club, but numbers also Parent-Teacher associations, church, fraternal and P. E. O. organizations as well as the boards of directors of some of the largest and most influential organizations and agencies in the city.

The clubs of Portland, strictly speaking, number about 100 and there are in addition 50 Parent-Teacher associations headed up under one general council, of which Mrs. D. B. Kelly is the president; nine chapters of the P. E. O. Sisterhood headed up in a general council, of which Miss Marjorie Grimshaw; 12 W. C. T. U. organizations and scores of patriotic, fraternal and kindred organizations of women, church auxiliaries and board of directors composed wholly of women, the whole making about 200 organizations of women who are doing definite work of every possible kind.

W. C. T. U. ACTIVE
The Women's Christian Temperance Union is one of the most thoroughly organized movements in the state, having a large number of individual unions in all sections. Mrs. Mary Mallett is the president. The Parent-Teacher Association of the state is doing excellent work under the leadership of Mrs. J. F. Hill. Mrs. Maude A. Kent of Corvallis is state president of the P. E. O. Sisterhood, which numbers 37 chapters. The distinctive work of this organization is also a scholarship loan fund through which hundreds of young women have been assisted. The State Federation of Business and Professional Women's clubs is headed by Miss Adella Frickard, and although rather a new organization is very much alive and will next July act as hosts to the national Federation of Business and Professional Women's clubs, when it is expected 3000 delegates will be present from all sections of the country.

The Portland Chapter of the American Association of University Women, of which Mrs. A. W. Cooper is president, will be hosts to the national convention of that organization also in July. About 300 delegates are expected.

The Portland Grade Teachers association of which Miss Julia Spooner is president, has the distinction of being the largest woman's club in the state, its membership being over 300.

The Council of Jewish Women, of which Mrs. Julius L. Louison is president, holds second place with a membership of 650. The Portland Business woman's club, of which Miss Bertha McCarthy is president, has a membership of 600. The Portland Woman's Research club, which is governed by a board of nine directors, has a membership of 650. Clubs of 500 and 200 are not unusual and from them they graduate down to small neighborhood groups of a dozen or fifteen, some meeting in the morning, others beginning their meetings with a luncheon and the greater meeting in the afternoon at the homes of members in hotels and club rooms.

OWN CLUBHOUSE
The Portland Woman's club of which Mrs. Charles E. Runyon is president, is now occupying its own home, an attractive clubhouse on Taylor between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets, where all meetings are held. The house is also rented to other organizations for regular meetings and for private parties, concerts and lectures.

The opening of the new clubhouse at Ashland during Thanksgiving week was a notable event in the club history of the state and was attended by distinguished people from different sections of the state. Numerous other club homes and community houses where club meetings are held have been erected in the smaller cities during the past year.

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