

To the Board of Directors of the Lawrence Free Public Library:
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honor to submit herewith the twenty-second annual report for the year ending December 31, 1926.

It is a pleasure to note a steady advance in library activities, both in amount and character of work accomplished.

During the year we have cataloged 1,492 books. Of these 434 were gifts. We have withdrawn during the year 730, this includes a number of books which we have withdrawn from active circulation but are now stored in the basement. The total number of books active is 21,153, making a net gain of 762.

We receive currently 124 newspapers and periodicals, 48 of these are gifts, principally from organizations.

Gifts are always welcome. I would like to mention the donors of our outstanding gifts of the past year. The Ministerial Alliance gave "The Outline of Christianity", a five volume set: the Flower Club has given a number of books on flower culture: the Daughters of the American Revolution each year give us the lineage books, which we bind for our permanent collection: J. R. Lehman gave us an "Encyclopedia of Carpentry", ten volumes: Senators Capper and Curtis have supplied us with valuable government documents, which are being used by debaters. The following have given us collections: Mrs. T. H. Chalkley, Miss Katherine Glendenning, Franklin Watts, Prof. Robb, Prof. Birch, Mrs. Henderson Martin, and T. J. Sweeney. Prof. Dunlap presented us with a copy of Who's Who. In the children's department Jerry Simmons, Jack Cygon and Joyce Bleck gave books.

The issue of books for home reading was 93,188, no account has been kept of books issued for use in the reading room. We have fallen short in total circulation as we were closed six weeks in the summer, but our daily average shows a gain of 32 over last year.

It may be of interest to know how the non-fiction circulation was distributed in the adult department. These books were issued 12,644 times. The issue by classes follows: General works, magazines principally, 1,094 times; philosophy 527, religion 611, sociology 1,073, philology 22, natural science 510, useful arts, 829, fine arts 999, literature (exclusive of fiction) 3,808, history 1,111, biography 1290,

travel 770.

Our reference work with the schools, both university and public, with the club worker and casual reader has also increased. Research work and special assistance to readers has involved the answering of numerous questions for which there is no satisfactory unit of measurement.

Students entering the two high schools were invited to visit the library. They came accompanied by the instructor and were shown over the library, given instruction in the use of the catalog and the reference books. Twenty-five classes were cared for in this way during the two semesters.

The children's department has been a very busy and interesting place, especially during the school year. The vacation reading club and children's book week were both well patronized. The new work with the schools which has been adopted, that of circulating books to the children from the school room is starting off well. The 180 books sent out during November and December circulated from the buildings 369 times.

Our system of registration covers a two year period. We enrolled this year 2,259 new patrons making a total of 5,648 borrowers.

The cost of our library service has been 58 cents per capita, which is some less than the \$1.00 per capita recommended by the American Library Association as the minimum standard for library support. Our books have circulated at a cost of $9\frac{1}{2}$ cents each. We have spent for books and periodicals and binding \$1,980.39. We include binding with the book purchase as a book rebound will outlive, on an average, three books in publishers binding.

In submitting the foregoing report together with supporting figures, the aim is to present in literal form the service of the library as it now exists, and to indicate where it may be improved and extended.

This past year has been a year of fulfillment, a dream of years has been realized. We have at last a modern and adequate lighting system. A fire hazard has been removed. This has lifted a load of anxiety not only from the shoulders of the board and staff but also the fire chief as well. The two white way lights which the commissioner

so generously gave us to light our entrance we indeed been a comfort. The entire interior has been redecorated, new coverings laid on the reading room floors. Again has Mrs. Henley generously remembered us by placing two beautiful rugs in the office. The parking has been greatly improved by the building of a fence and laying of fresh sod. Your librarian rejoices daily as she uses her new typewriter.

We are not ready yet to settle down smugly satisfied with these accomplishments. We now have the problem of expansion to consider. Adequate shelving for immediate book growth must be planned, either a new stack for our regular stack room or a display case for new books should be supplied this coming year. Our index files are becoming crowded, another catalog case should be added, a filing cabinet for the directors' room would be desirable, and the cry of the reading public is always "more books".

Our two endowment funds have been a great aid in purchasing good books, as the interest from these funds purchases the best of non-fiction. We wish that we might have more such funds. We would like a similar endowment for the purchase of the better illustrated editions of children's books, for our travel section, for periodicals and for our rental collection.

Our increasing circulation and reference work makes it necessary to relieve our staff of some of their duties. This might be done this year by employing student help which may be paid for by the hour.

We hope that financial support will be provided that will enable us to meet the growing demands made upon an institution which provides both recreation and education and which serves all the people all of the time.

The members of this board have, as usual, given freely of their valuable time in the interest of the library and stood loyally behind the librarian in the administration of the library. I thank you and shall look forward to another happy and profitable year.

P. H. Constant