

Seventeenth Annual Report
OF THE
Public Library Commission

OF
NEW JERSEY

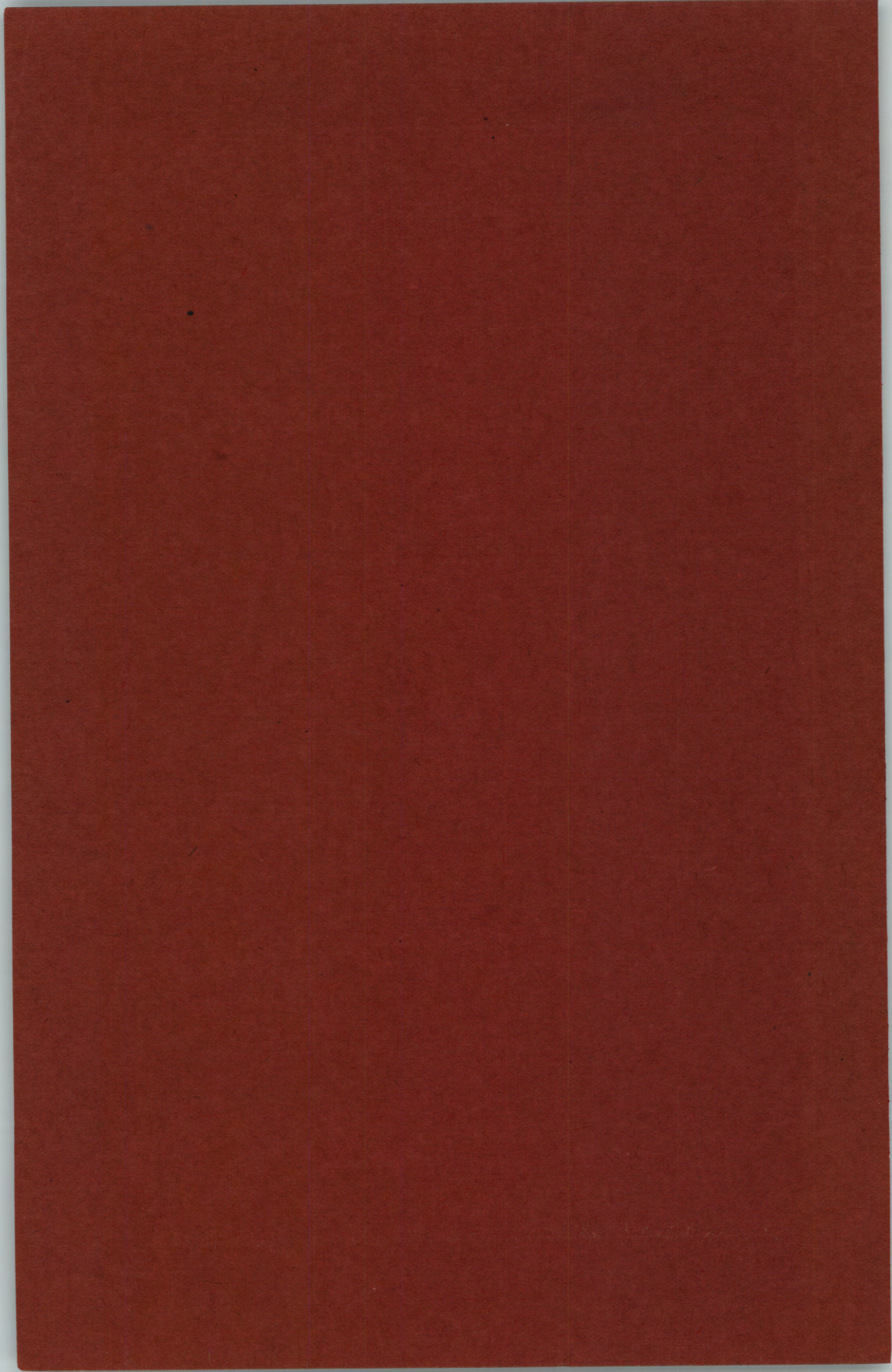
For the Year Ending October 31st

1916

New Jersey State Library

TRENTON, N. J.
MACCRELLISH & QUIGLEY Co., State Printers

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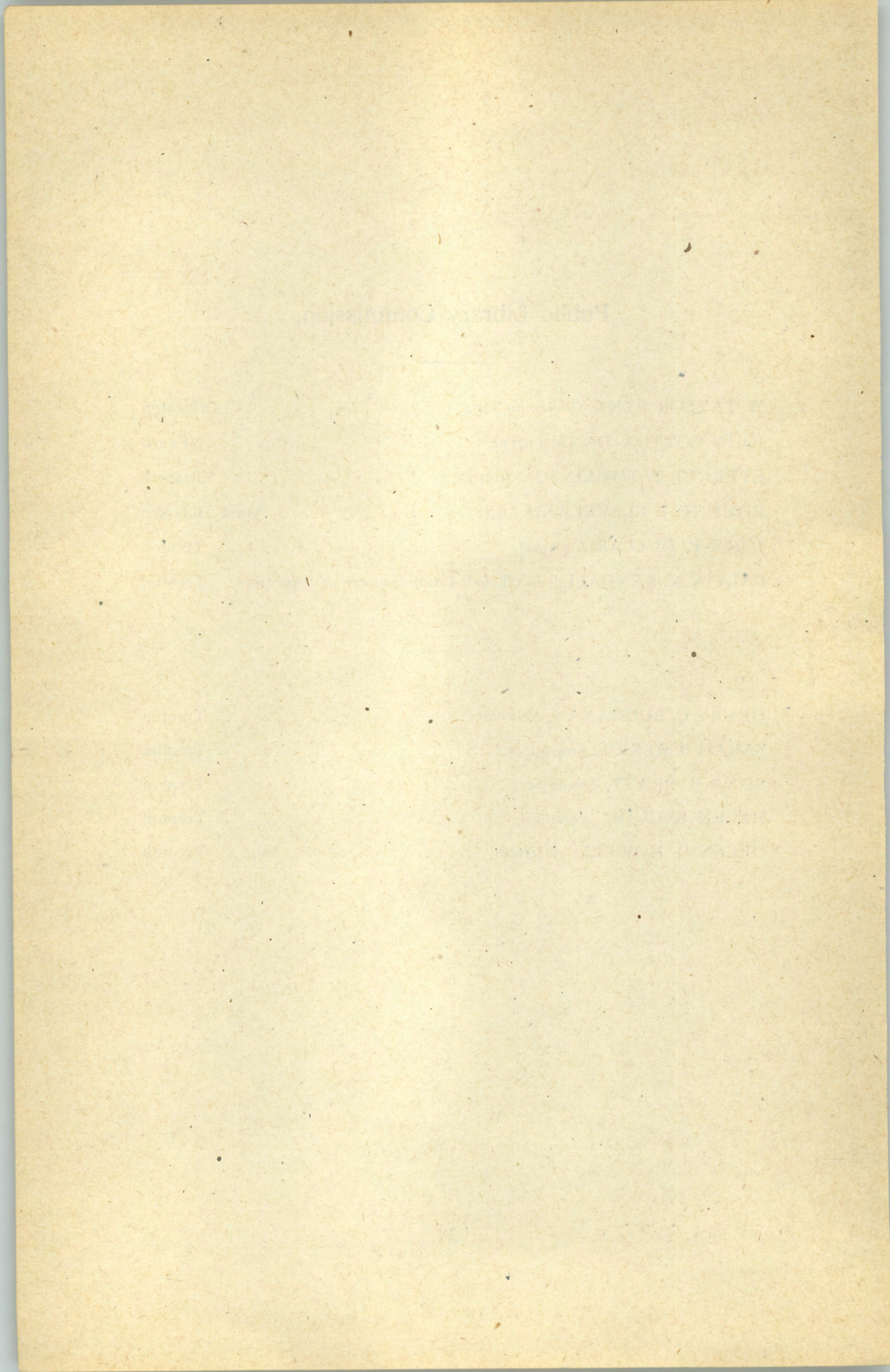
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Printed by the
State of New Jersey

Public Library Commission.

M. TAYLOR PYNE, *Chairman* (1921),Princeton
JOHN COTTON DANA (1917),Newark
EVERETT T. TOMLINSON (1919),Elizabeth
EDMUND J. CLEVELAND (1918),West Hoboken
JOHN P. DULLARD (1920),Trenton
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HELEN G. HOWELL, *Assistant*,Trenton



REPORT.

Hon. James F. Fielder, Governor of New Jersey:

SIR—The following report of the operations of the New Jersey Public Library Commission is respectfully submitted for transmission to the Legislature:

BOOK COLLECTION.—Although the last accession number is 43,786, the Commission actually owns 36,892 books, as 6,894 have been worn out and discarded during the sixteen years the Traveling Libraries have been in circulation. Nine thousand two hundred and thirty-nine books and pamphlets have been bought during the year, at a cost approximating \$7,536, or an average of a little more than 80 cents each. About one-third of the books bought during the year were for children. The remainder were divided among the different classes in the following proportion:

Useful arts,	16 per cent.
History and travel,	18 per cent.
Fine arts,	3 per cent.
Biography,	7 per cent.
Sociology,	8 per cent.
Philosophy and religion,	2 per cent.
Literature,	14 per cent.
Science and nature books,	4 per cent.
Total nonfiction,	72 per cent.
Total fiction,	28 per cent.

The 36,892 books owned by the Commission are divided among the different classes in the following proportions:

Useful arts,	25 per cent.
History and travel,	14 per cent.
Fine arts,	2 per cent.
Biography,	9 per cent.

Sociology,	7 per cent.
Philosophy and religion,	2 per cent.
Literature,	7 per cent.
Science and nature books,	3 per cent.
Total nonfiction,	69 per cent.
Total fiction,	31 per cent.

Thirty-five per cent. of the collection as a whole are books for children.

Six hundred and seven books have been discarded and ninety-four books have been rebound at a cost of \$26.84. Seventeen books that had been exposed to infection during the infantile paralysis epidemic were destroyed by local boards of health upon instructions from the Commission.

SPECIAL LOANS.—The demand for books as special loans through Public Libraries, Traveling Libraries and by individuals in communities without library service greatly increased during the year, in spite of the fact that such calls for books almost ceased when the infantile paralysis epidemic was at its height. In answer to this demand 10,666 books have been sent out. Requests come from physicians, lawyers, teachers, farmers, workmen, housewives, social workers, club women, all sorts and conditions of men and women, and boys and girls who are anxious to learn more, to be of greater service, and to do better work. These loans enable the man and woman, the boy and girl of smaller towns and rural communities to have for study books formerly within reach only of the city dweller. They put it within the power of the smallest library to offer adequate service to its people. It would be impossible for the Commission to meet these demands were it not for the privileges of inter-library loans extended to it by larger libraries in this and other States and by the Library of Congress. Almost daily demands are made upon the Trenton and Newark Free Public Libraries, the State Library and the New York City Public Library. The Commission gratefully acknowledges this valued co-operation.

TRAVELING LIBRARIES.—During the past year 1,492 libraries, containing 74,500 books, have been sent out. These books are circulated on an average four times at each station, making a total circulation of about 298,000. Few libraries were exchanged during the epidemic of infantile paralysis. Forty-two new stations were established during the year, making a total of 457 centers in New Jersey from which books are being circulated by the Commission. The average population of the districts served by these stations is 224, making a total of 111,328 people now within reach of Traveling Library service. As the census gives New Jersey a rural population of 629,000, and there are over 600 places of less than 500 inhabitants each that are yet without reading facilities, it is apparent this work is only in its beginning.

The success that has been attained is in great part due to the whole-hearted interest and untiring work of the local librarians in charge of centers. These librarians, who are in most instances unpaid, give unstintedly of their time and thought to the wider circulation of books, to the greater appreciation of the value of good books and the betterment of reading facilities. To them is largely due the steady improvement in the grade of books demanded and read, and the wide use of the Traveling Library service for books of information, for vocational reading and study purposes.

Seven meetings of librarians of Traveling Libraries have been held during the year to discuss better service. This has resulted in renewed zeal and friendly co-operation. Two of these meetings were in Cape May County, two in Ocean, one in Atlantic, one in Burlington and one in Cumberland. Such meetings had been successfully held in Mercer County three years ago and were now held experimentally in these counties because of the large rural population and good transportation facilities which made it possible for people to attend.

In some districts having several hamlets using the same railroad station, a meeting bringing together the people of the district has resulted in a decision to pay a small amount to a librarian who will supervise the distribution of books from the Traveling

Libraries sent for all the villages of that district. The libraries then are all sent in her care and distributed by her. She is able to do a measure of the work formerly done by the librarian of a Public Library and the result in time should be that the villages will see the practicability of uniting to form a Public Library in a place accessible.

A steady increase in the reading habit is evident in all the communities using Traveling Libraries that it has been possible to observe closely in the past year. Country stores handling books report the selling of more and better books. Contrary to the belief of many persons country people like a good class of books.

One hundred traveling library boxes were made for the Commission by the Rahway Reformatory at a cost of \$2.50 each.

FREE DISTRIBUTION.—The list, "Books for Christmas for the Children," was mailed to every library in the State, and the pamphlet, "1,000 Good Books for Children," was sent to every library and school in the State and to many individuals. More than 1,500 other book lists and pamphlets have been distributed to libraries, librarians, parents' and teachers' associations, farmers' institutes, granges, clubs and individuals.

LIBRARY EXTENSION.—The following sixteen new libraries are on our record: West New York, Peetzburg, Beemerville, Barrington, Deerfield, Pleasantville, Bargaintown, Leesburg, Mountain Lakes, Middletown, Tuckahoe, Mt. Royal, Barnegat, Carney's Point, West Caldwell and Sea Isle City. The Tuckahoe library is supported by the people living in seven small villages of which Tuckahoe is the most central. The main library is in Tuckahoe and deposit stations in the other communities. The libraries at Deerfield and Mt. Royal are supported by the people of those villages and of thickly-settled farming districts immediately surrounding them.

The library at Audubon has been reopened as a free public library. The one at Williamstown has been reorganized, several small villages in the immediate neighborhood also co-oper-

ating in its support. This plan works admirably as it gives the district one good library, well administered, with deposit stations bringing books within the reach of all, instead of several small, poorly supported and badly administered independent libraries.

Many small libraries are establishing similar branches in surrounding villages. The library at Little Falls has become a tax-supported library. Avon has a new library building, the gift of the Carnegie Corporation. The bequest of Mrs. Potwin has given to West Caldwell a library building, and Morristown has a new building built partly with the insurance money from the old building which was destroyed by fire, and partly with a gift of Mr. Willis, of that town.

Three hundred and eighty-nine visits have been made, at a cost of \$647.28. Many talks have been given before town meetings, clubs, farmers' institutes, and other organizations for the purposes of establishing new libraries, reorganizing old libraries, increasing the use of libraries already established, interesting people in reading for boys and girls, and in buying more and better books.

Eight libraries have been assisted in reorganizing their work upon a basis more in accord with modern library technique. In aiding reorganization the plan adopted is to have the local librarian do the work under the direction and with the aid of a Commission worker. If the work is done by the Commission alone, the local librarian is not able to keep it up afterward and the library soon falls into confusion. The librarians of the State aid in this work by advice to their smaller neighbors and co-operation with them, and in some instances they have taken librarians into their own libraries for two weeks so that they might become thoroughly familiar with the best practices.

One-third of the libraries in the State were closed for a month or more during the summer on account of the infantile paralysis epidemic.

SUMMER SCHOOL.—The eighth session of the Summer School was held, as in former years, in the Asbury Park Public Library,

the use of the building being given by the Commissioners of the city. Twenty-four students made up the class, representing libraries in the following towns: Harrison, Upper Montclair, Trenton, Hasbrouck Heights, Edgewater, Bayonne, Leonia, Augusta, Montclair, Little Falls, Maplewood, Manasquan, Long Branch, Asbury Park, Westfield, Paterson, Cliffside. The usual course in elementary library science was given. The week of June 12th was devoted to special lectures on various phases of library work by Miss Corinne Bacon, of White Plains; Miss Mary E. Eastwood, of Albany; Miss Josephine Rathbone, of Brooklyn; Miss Theresa Hitchler, of Brooklyn; Miss Elizabeth McKnight, of the Bay Ridge High School; Frank K. Walter, of Albany; Mrs. Adelaide Maltby and Miss Rose Murray, of New York City.

Invitations to librarians, library trustees and others interested in library affairs were extended for this week, and thirty-nine responded. As was expected, the meeting of the A. L. A. in Asbury Park the last week in June reduced the number of librarians who usually attend this week of special lectures. There were exhibits at the school of books, magazines and equipment discussed in the school, the exhibit of the H. W. Wilson publications and exhibits to illustrate economical book buying.

ROUND TABLES.—Upon request round tables have been held at Belmar, Chatham, East Orange, Pompton Lakes and Tuckahoe, with a total attendance of 195. Miss Sutcliffe, of New York; Miss Bacon, of White Plains; Franklin K. Mathiews, boy scout librarian; Miss Blanchard, of Newark, and Miss Gordon, of East Orange, led discussions. The number attending and the interest shown were gratifying. These round tables are developing a spirit of co-operation and neighborliness on the part of librarians which is becoming a factor in the development of library work in the State as a whole.

Librarians from small, isolated communities come to these meetings, make friends, get new ideas and go back to their work with a new enthusiasm and a new conception of what

can be accomplished. They feel themselves part of a great movement, instead of small, isolated workers struggling with a very large task.

BOOKS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES.—The policy of buying books in foreign languages in limited numbers has been continued. Small libraries without this aid from the Commission could not supply the occasional demands from students and foreigners who cannot read English and who otherwise would be without literature.

Of the 222 books in foreign languages owned by the Commission, 1.8 per cent. are Danish, 2.2 per cent. are French, 12.6 per cent. are German, 9 per cent. are Hungarian, 19.8 per cent. are Italian, 15.3 per cent. are Polish, 5.4 per cent. are Russian, 3.1 per cent. are Spanish, 25.2 per cent. are Swedish and 4.9 per cent. are Yiddish.

INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARIES.—Traveling Libraries are being sent to State institutions and jails, as in former years, and discarded books are sent to the convict labor camps upon request. The New York State Library has compiled, with the co-operation of various State commissions and others familiar with the needs of State institutions, a list of books suitable for Prison Libraries. This Commission will use that list as one of its guides in making future purchases and in giving advice to those interested in libraries in prisons and reformatories.

EXHIBITS.—Parts of the School Libraries exhibit assembled last year are still being loaned to schools and libraries, and collections of books have been loaned to many libraries to aid in the work of "Better Babies' Week," so widely celebrated last spring; to increase the number of "good books for Christmas giving" shown in many libraries at the Christmas season; for gardening and other exhibits. Charts and posters setting forth the work of the Commission have been shown at the State and national meetings of the Federated Women's Clubs.

New Jersey State Library

SCHOOL LIBRARIES.—The wide distribution of the "School Libraries'" pamphlet, many graded and special lists, and the sending to every school and library in the State of the list "One thousand good books for children" prepared for the New Jersey Public Library Commission by the H. W. Wilson Company, of White Plains, N. Y., have stimulated a more general interest in School Libraries and increased the interest in the selection of good books for children.

Many talks about the use of books and libraries have been given before groups of teachers and parents, and the advice of the Commission on these subjects has been sought. The time it is necessary to give to examining lists of proposed purchases for School Libraries, which, according to law, must be submitted to the Commission when applications for State funds are made, is well spent, and has improved the selection of books in many schools. The consolidation of School and Public Libraries has taken place in several towns, and an increasing number of high schools have established reference libraries under the administration of trained librarians. Many librarians are giving to grades and high schools lectures on the use of libraries. This development in library administration will be slow, as some prejudice and the habits of years have to be overcome, but the effort to bring about proper co-operation between School and Public Libraries is worth while and has met with much favor.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.—The American Library Association held its thirty-eighth annual meeting in Asbury Park the last week in June. Its only other meeting in New Jersey was twenty-four years ago, in May, 1892, when it met for a three days' session in Lakewood, at which time 260 people attended. Of these, only thirty came from New Jersey. The attendance at Asbury Park was 1,386 from the United States and Canada, of which number 182 were from New Jersey. The chairman and organizers served on the local Committee of Arrangements and the entire Commission devoted much time and thought to making the New Jersey Conference a success. Mr. Pyne and the Trustees of the Princeton University entertained

about 600 members for an afternoon on the campus of the University, the trip having been made from Asbury Park by special train and automobile. The conference was the largest in the history of the association and was generally considered one of the most successful.

M. TAYLOR PYNE,
EVERETT T. TOMLINSON,
JOHN COTTON DANA,
EDMUND J. CLEVELAND,
JOHN P. DULLARD,
CALVIN N. KENDALL.

Trenton, N. J., November 10, 1916.

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