

EIGHTH
ANNUAL
REPORT

NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
COMMISSION

==
1907

TRENTON, N. J.
MACCRELLISH & QUIGLEY, STATE PRINTERS, OPPOSITE POST OFFICE
1908.





Class of 1907, New Jersey Summer School for Librarians.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Public Library Commission
OF
NEW JERSEY

For the Year ending October 31st

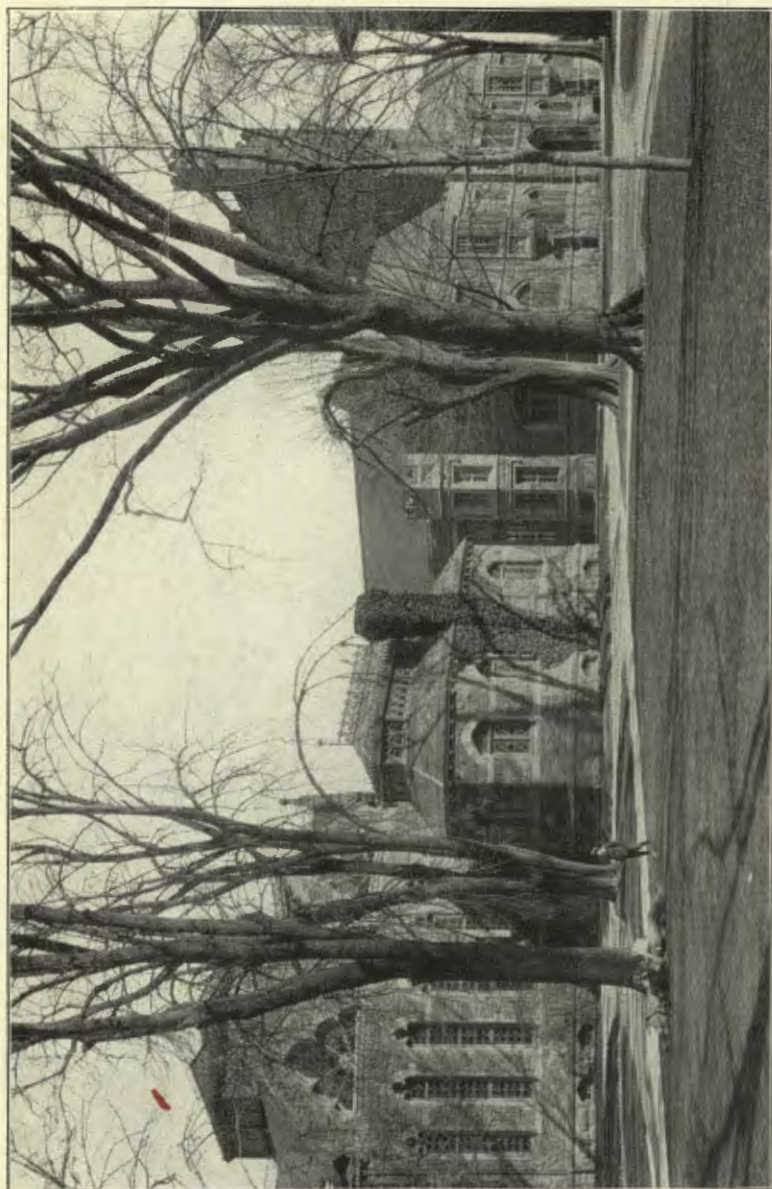
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TRENTON, N. J.
MacCrellish & Quigley, State Printers. Opposite Post Office.

1908.



Princeton University Library—Northeast View.



Princeton University Library—Southeast View,

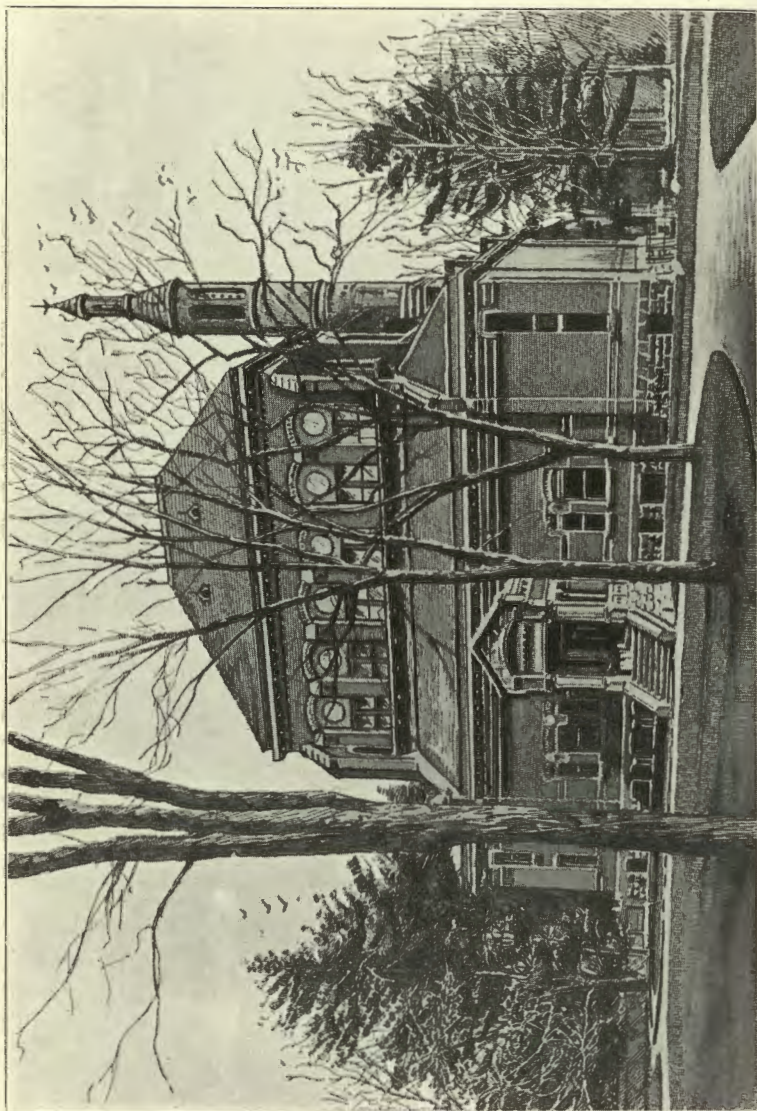
Public Library Commission.

W. C. KIMBALL, *Chairman* (1910),PASSAIC.
M. TAYLOR PYNE (1911),PRINCETON.
DR. E. C. RICHARDSON (1912),PRINCETON.
REV. DR. EVERETT T. TOMLINSON (1909),ELIZABETH.
HOWARD M. COOPER (1908),CAMDEN.

HENRY C. BUCHANAN, *Secretary*,TRENTON.
SARAH B. ASKEW, *Organizer*,TRENTON.



Princeton University Library—Interior of Court.



Princeton Theological Seminary Library.

The act creating the New Jersey Public Library Commission provides that it shall assist public libraries by giving "advice in regard to the selection of books, the cataloguing thereof, and any other matter pertaining to the establishment, maintenance and administration of such library." To better carry out the purpose for which it was created the Commission has engaged a Library Organizer. Libraries needing assistance, especially the small libraries that cannot afford to employ trained help, and those dependent upon voluntary service, may secure the aid of the Organizer by applying to her direct, or to the Secretary.

Since the management of the Traveling Libraries has been placed in the hands of the Commission, the annual fee has been reduced to \$2. The arrangement of the libraries has been so changed that instead of being made up of collections of fifty on varied subjects, not subject to change, the books are chosen to suit the applicants. The charges for conveying the libraries to the express office or railroad station nearest their destination are borne by the Commission. The local cartage must be paid by those to whom the libraries are sent. Traveling libraries will be loaned to a community without a library on the application of the taxpayers, who must select a trustee and librarian to become responsible for the proper care and distribution of the books.



Asbury Park Free Library.

REPORT.

Hon. Edward C. Stokes, Governor of New Jersey:

DEAR SIR—The New Jersey Public Library Commission respectfully submits the following report for the year ending October 31st, 1907, in compliance with the law under which it was organized.

Summarized, the work of the Commission has consisted in administering the traveling libraries; preparing to extend their use to the jails and correctional institutions, as provided by the act approved April 13th, 1906; conducting a Summer School for library workers; aiding in organizing free public libraries, and advising and assisting librarians of small libraries in their work. The results, so far as they can be reported, are set forth herein.

At the beginning of the year there were one hundred and fourteen traveling libraries in operation, an increase of sixty-four over the previous year. There were many applications on file that could not be considered because of the lack of books, cases and shipping boxes. The last Legislature appropriated \$2,000 in the supplemental bill. This nearly sufficed to meet the actual demand, and there are now one hundred and fifty-three traveling libraries in circulation, an increase of forty-nine over last year. About a dozen more requests will be filled at once, now that the appropriation for 1907-8 is available.

When the traveling libraries came under the control of the Commission, in 1904, there were but twelve in circulation; this number was increased to fifty in 1905, one hundred and fourteen in 1906, and to one hundred and fifty-three in 1907. There were made up and sent out during the year 603 separate libraries, each containing fifty volumes, and the work of selecting the books, preparing the cards and making type-written catalogues was in itself no inconsiderable item.

The total circulation of books from these 603 libraries was, according to the showing of the bookcards, more than 85,000 volumes. Two-thirds of the libraries were sent to country districts, and nearly nine-tenths of the remainder to small towns, where there are no other facilities for obtaining books for public use. The others went to study-clubs, and to a few of the smaller public libraries which were supplied with fiction on the understanding that such money as they had available for buying books should be devoted to the purchase of class literature and reference works.

So far as can be ascertained from the readers' cards that are returned when the traveling libraries are exchanged, the circulation of fiction has been about fifty-three per cent. of the total. A showing of forty-seven per cent. of class literature is highly flattering, and disproves the suggestion that little serious reading is done by library patrons. The Commission has received information of six young men now taking courses in two of the most important institutes of technology in the East, who made use of books of the traveling libraries in preparing for their entrance examinations; and of several public school teachers who were enabled to secure their first certificates through the same agency.

The total number of books accessioned into the traveling libraries at this time is 10,251. During the year 281 volumes were donated; 247 were bought from the regular appropriation, at a cost of \$276.77, or an average of \$1.12 each; 2,023 were bought from the supplemental appropriation of \$2,000, at a cost of \$1,753.88, or eighty-six and a half cents each; and 673 were purchased with the \$400 special appropriation, at an average cost of fifty-nine and a half cents each. The average cost of the 2,943 volumes was eighty-two and one-half cents each, which it is believed is lower than the showing made by any of the other states. The total increase of books for the year is 3,224. There have been discarded 513 volumes which were too badly worn by eight years' service to be available for further circulation.

At the request of Prof. S. R. Morse, who was in charge of the New Jersey exhibit at the Jamestown Exposition, a traveling library was made up and sent to Jamestown. With it was a history of the traveling library movement in this State and sam-



Free Public Library—Atlantic City (Carnegie).



Reference Room, Atlantic City Free Public Library.



Delivery Room, Atlantic City Free Public Library.

ples of the blanks and literature used by the New Jersey Public Library Commission in its work.

Donations of \$100 each have been made to the libraries at Kearny and Chatham, both of which are now under municipal control and have set apart equal amounts for the purchase of books. A contribution of \$20 was made to the Publication Fund of the Pennsylvania Home Teaching Society and Free Circulating Library for the Blind, which supplies books printed in raised letters to citizens of this State, on the recommendation of this Commission.

The amount received in fees for the use of the traveling libraries during the year was \$204, which has been paid into the State Treasury. This is about one-half of the express charges, \$416.89, nearly the whole of which was spent for transporting the libraries back and forth. No record is kept of the number of letters, circulars, blanks and pamphlets sent out, but the expense for postage during the year was \$150.25. Thirty new library cases and packing-boxes were bought at a cost of \$268.20, delivered in Trenton ready for use, or an average of \$8.94 each.

No traveling libraries have yet been sent out under the act of April 13th, 1906, "to the several penal and correctional institutions of this State." While provision was made for \$1,000 for carrying on that branch of the work, no money was appropriated. The supplemental appropriation bill carried \$400 for the purpose, and \$600 more is now available. It was deemed advisable to wait until collections of books could be furnished for the use of all of the 1,868 or more persons in institutions not already provided with libraries. The ladies who were instrumental in securing the passage of the law were consulted in the selection of the books, all of which have been either bought or ordered; and the Commission has secured from the various sheriffs and wardens the information needed to enable it to send out the libraries without unnecessary delay. Before this report reaches the printer, the warden of every penal and correctional institution in the State, who has expressed a willingness to receive and distribute the books, will have received a traveling library. To the larger institutions two or more will be sent, as may be necessary to comply with the intent of the new law.

The second session of the Summer School for library workers was held in the Asbury Park Free Public Library for five weeks, from June 17th to July 20th. With its second year the school has passed the experimental stage, and fully demonstrated its usefulness. Twenty-six pupils were enrolled. Three came from Pennsylvania, and their tuition is to be paid by the Pennsylvania Free Public Library Commission. The course is strictly elementary, and designed to instruct the employees of the small libraries of New Jersey in the simpler methods of administration. To all such instruction is free.

The cost of conducting the Library School was \$326.45, not including the salary of the Organizer, who acted as instructor, and who is permanently employed by the Commission. This is from one-half to one-third the usual cost of such undertakings, and the Commission is able to make such a good showing through the courtesy of prominent members of the library profession in the East, who generously gave their services.

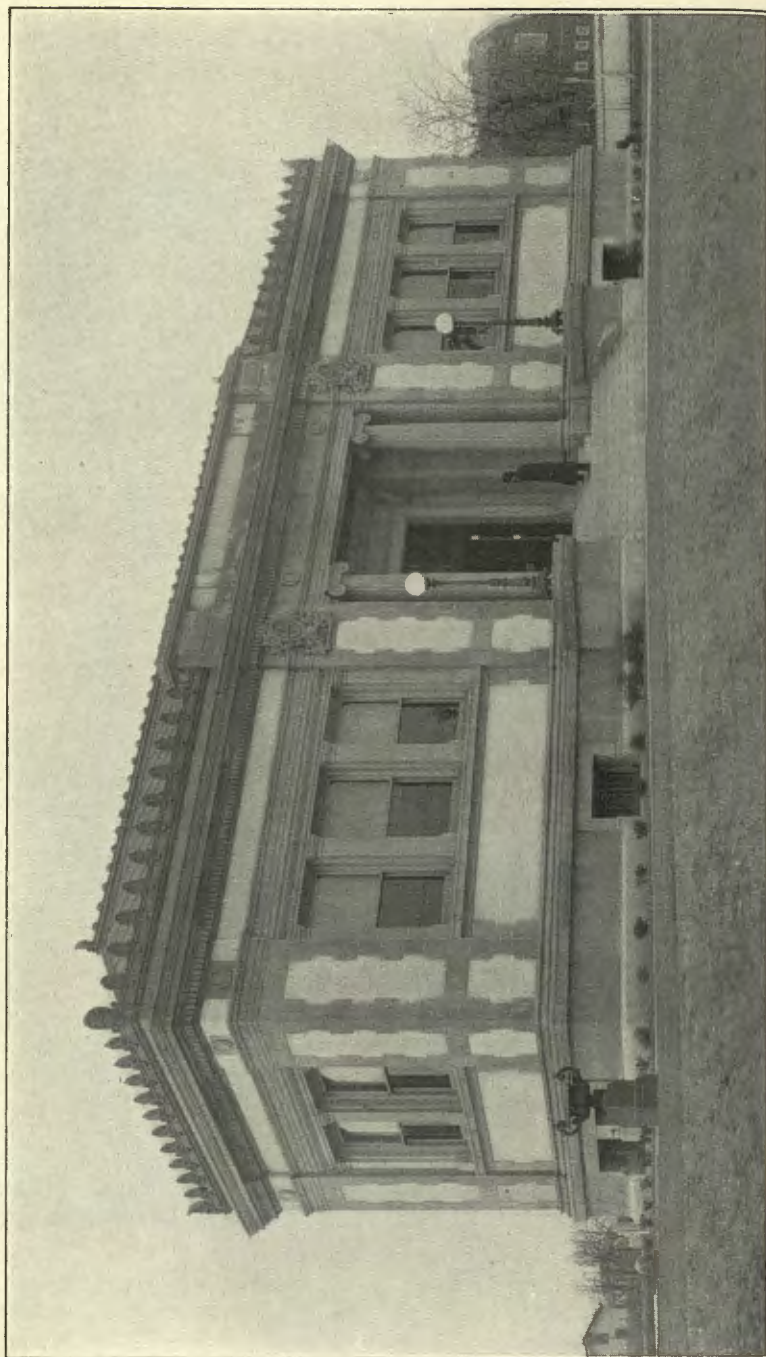
The lecturers were Miss Theresa Hitchler, of the Brooklyn Public Library; Miss Josephine Rathbone, of the Pratt Institute Free Library; Miss Annie Carroll Moore, of the New York Public Library; Miss Clara W. Hunt, of the Brooklyn Public Library; Mrs. Salome Fairchild Cutler, of the New York State Library School; and John Cotton Dana, of the Newark Free Public Library.

All of the pupils completed the course, are now engaged in library work, and are filling with satisfaction positions to which they have been appointed. A number of applications have been received by the Commission from libraries for pupils who have taken the Summer School course. Before the school was started, all the applications came from librarians in other states who were seeking positions.

Two cases brought to the attention of the Commission may illustrate the value of this course of training. One library that had planned to employ an expert to reorganize its collection of 10,000 volumes, at a cost of \$225, concluded to send its librarian to the Summer School, pay her expenses, and let her do the work. It has been satisfactorily completed at a cost of \$85, thus effecting a saving of \$140. In another instance, a study-club in a small



Basking Ridge Free Library.



Bayonne Free Library (Carnegie).

PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION.

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town had decided to buy \$50 worth of special books for the winter's work, but after the local librarian had taken the five weeks' course, and reorganized the collection, sufficient material was found in the library, which received the \$50 for its general work.

For six librarians, who were unable to attend the Summer School, the usual correspondence work in library economy has been kept up, and district meetings have been held. The correspondence consisted in preparing lectures on different branches of the work, annotated copies of rules, sample work in cataloguing, and instruction in classification, which were followed up by personal visits from the Organizer. Nine of the district conferences were held, at convenient points, each attended by four or five librarians, and local problems were discussed and solved.

Forty-nine small libraries have been assisted in the selection and purchase of books, with a total saving to them of \$798. In one case the saving on a single order was \$17.65, the difference between the price quoted by the library's regular bookseller and that secured by the Commission. Twenty-one libraries were aided in the purchase of furniture and supplies. Twenty-three libraries in towns that are without binderies have been aided with their binding and repairing, the books being shipped to a single firm under an arrangement by the terms of which special prices were given to all.

Seven libraries have been entirely reorganized during the year; two others are in process of reorganization; four have been partially reorganized; three have been classified; in ten, modern and simple charging systems have been installed; four have been catalogued, and the cataloguing of two others has been revised; two have been accessioned. In each case personal aid was rendered, and letters have been received testifying to the economy in money, time and labor that has resulted.

Six small libraries have been assisted in re-arranging their rooms in order to present their books attractively, and make the work of the librarian easier; the boards of trustees of four have been advised with in the preparation of plans for buildings that can be economically administered; in six libraries the Organizer conducted the "story hour" for the children, and in eight towns

addressed the public school children at the request of the local librarians.

While the main effort has been toward the improvement of libraries already in existence, considerable attention has been given to new fields. Eighteen libraries and reading-rooms have been established since the date of the last report; five libraries have been put under municipal control by accepting the act of 1905, which provides for a tax of one-third of a mill for the maintenance of free public libraries. In several small hamlets traveling libraries have been installed in country stores for the benefit of the farmers and other residents.

Popular meetings have been held in ten towns; in six others visits to the schools were made by the Organizer and addresses delivered to the teachers and children; in five, representatives of the Commission, with committees of citizens, appeared before the Common Council to consider the library subject, and conferences were held with the boards of trustees of nineteen libraries. All of these meetings were attended on invitation either from the councils or from committees of citizens.

The Federation of Women's Clubs, which was instrumental in securing the passage of the traveling library law, has continued its interest in the work. At its expense a little pamphlet was prepared and circulated, giving the history of the traveling library movement in New Jersey and the present needs. This has seemed to arouse considerable interest in the subject. Donations of books have been received, and members of the Federation have advised in the placing of libraries where they would do the most good. At two meetings of the Federation, where the library question was discussed, the Commission was represented, and ten addresses were made before women's clubs, on invitation.

Four township committees have been induced to provide pleasant library rooms in the town halls, free of rent, light, heat or janitor's charges. For seven persons, books for the blind have been procured from the Philadelphia Free Library. Lists of periodicals recommended for purchase were prepared for thirteen libraries, and fourteen programmes were made out for study-clubs in small towns. From old magazines donated, nine New Jersey libraries have been aided in completing their sets, and ex-



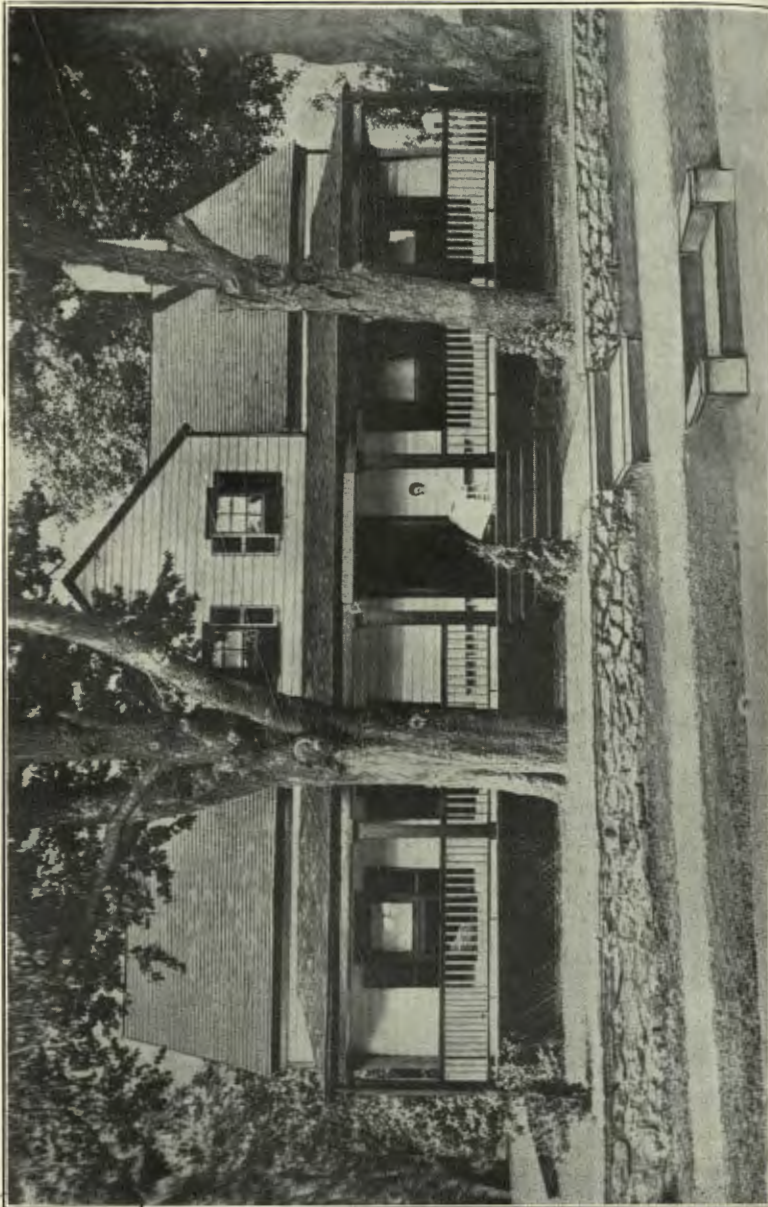
Jarvie Memorial Library—Bloomfield.

change has been made with five libraries in other states. The magazines have also been used in making up five club collections, for distribution in country districts, and to the small libraries, where, after having been read, they are used for bulletins and other purposes.

Of the forty-three gifts made by Mr. Carnegie, in 1906, representing \$1,701,000, five came to New Jersey libraries. Camden received \$20,000 for two branch libraries; East Orange, \$20,000 for two branches; Perth Amboy, \$450 to furnish lecture room. Westfield received \$10,000 and Kearny \$25,000 for new buildings. Other gifts to New Jersey libraries during the past year were: To Camden, collections of books from the estate of the late General Sewell and Post No. 37, G. A. R.; Plainfield, \$20,000 by the will of Mason W. Tyler; Millville, \$537 from citizens, and \$1,000 rebate on the price of a building bought for library uses; Orange, \$5,000 from Jesse St. John, and \$15,000 from the Knapp estate; Jersey City, library of Isaac Taylor; Beach Haven, a building and \$1,100 in money; Union Hill, \$500; Bridgeton, \$500 from Percival Nichols; Westfield, \$375 worth of books from the Woman's Club; Cranford, a site for a library; Bernardsville, \$200 from F. P. Olcott; Egg Harbor City, \$300 from Miss Katherine Mueller and 300 books from G. E. Dewey; Rutgers College, New Brunswick, the library of Benjamin Stephens.

New library buildings have been erected at Kearny, Beach Haven, Chatham and Westfield; branch libraries have been added at Newark, East Orange and Camden, and Millville has purchased a building. The Commission now has a record of one hundred and sixty-eight libraries in the State, of which one hundred and twelve are free. The number under municipal control is sixty-five, and thirty-four others are aided by the municipalities. The libraries added to the record are at Beach Haven, Nutley, Caldwell, Baptisttown, Hammonton, Wenonah, Medford, Garwood, Forked River, Blue Anchor, Ashbrook, Alliance, West Moorestown, Jobstown, Pleasant Grove, Hanover, Maple Shade, Georgetown and Lebanon.

The results of the year's work may be thus briefly stated: Six hundred and three traveling libraries have been sent out,



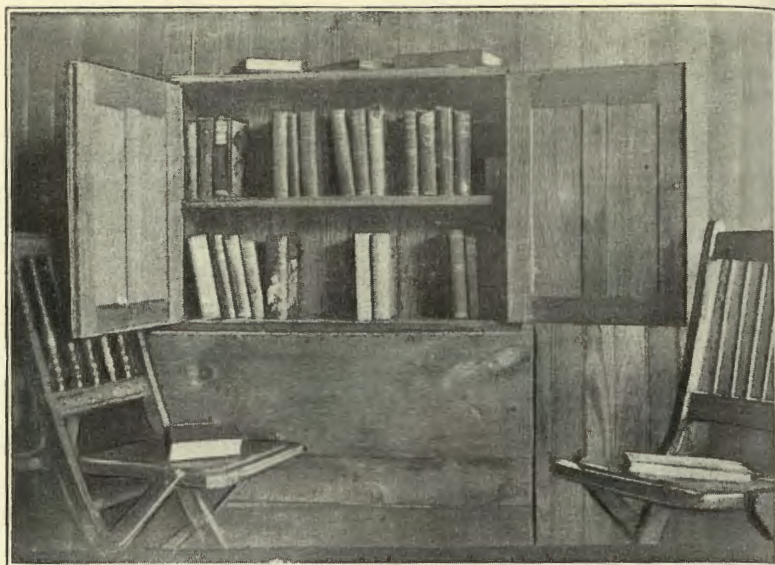
Bernardsville Public Library.

with an aggregate circulation exceeding 85,000 volumes; eighteen new libraries are on the record; forty-seven libraries have been aided in improving their methods; one hundred and seven have been directly aided in other lines; two hundred and thirteen purchasing lists were prepared and distributed; twenty-two addresses were made, besides many informal talks before various gatherings; thirty-two persons have been given a measure of library training; 2,943 books have been bought for the traveling libraries; 3,224 books have been prepared for circulation; eighty-one libraries have been visited, in addition to visits paid to twenty-seven towns that are without libraries.

With no desire to indulge in self-congratulation or disparage in the slightest degree the efforts of others, the Commission feels warranted in reporting that in no other state is greater progress being made in the advancement of library interests than in New Jersey, and in no state is the work more economically conducted. Much has been done, but still more remains to be accomplished. There are in the State 893 towns and villages of less than five hundred population that are entirely without library advantages of any kind, and they are not within easy reach of a railroad or of a library in a larger town or city.

These small municipalities may be reached through the traveling libraries; but thus far, instead of being able to arouse an interest in good reading where the need is so great, we have been scarcely able to supply the natural demand for the libraries that has been created by the women's clubs and the granges of the Patrons of Husbandry.

The following statement will show the location of the one hundred and fifty-three stations where traveling libraries are now located. Every county is represented, Passaic and Hudson by but one each, Burlington by fifteen, Cumberland twelve, Essex and Monmouth thirteen each, and Morris by seventeen. Sixty-four of the stations are in Grange halls, where the books are available to all residents in the neighborhoods:



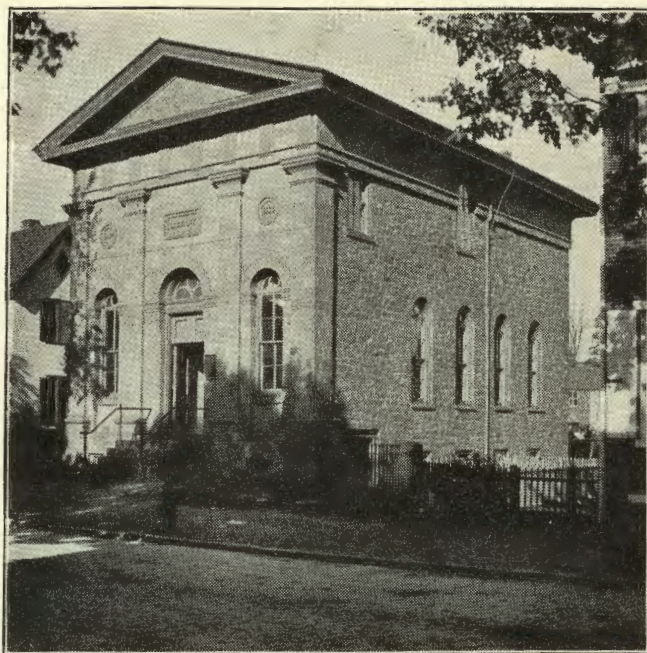
Sample Traveling Libraries.

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County.	Town.	No. of Libraries.
Atlantic,	Absecon,	5
	Egg Harbor City, Grange No. 146,	5
	Pleasantville,	4
	—	14
Bergen,	Allendale,	5
	Ramsey, Grange No. 135,	5
	Kingsland,	3
	Lyndhurst,	4
	Wyckoff, Grange No. 52,	3
	—	20
Burlington, ...	Jacobstown, Grange No. 2,	3
	Jobstown,	4
	Palermo,	4
	Crosswicks,	5
	Bordentown,	5
	Juliestown,	1
	Wrightstown, Grange No. 147,	4
	Rancocas, Grange No. 131,	4
	Georgetown,	1
	Birmingham, Grange No. 50,	1
	Columbus,	4
	Maple Shade,	1
	Pemberton,	6
	Moorestown, Grange No. 8,	1
	Mansfield Square,	5
	—	49
Camden,	Haddonfield, Grange No. 38,	5
	Blackwood, Grange No. 90,	4
	Blue Anchor, Grange No. 164,	5
	Berlin, Grange No. 138,	4
	—	18
Cape May, ...	Dias Creek, Grange No. 128,	4
	Erma, Grange No. 132,	5
	Tuckahoe, Grange No. 139,	5
	—	14
Cumberland, ..	Leesburg, Grange No. 154,	4
	Bridgeton, Grange No. 16,	4
	Shiloh,	4
	Greenwich, Grange No. 18,	4
	Hammonton, Grange No. 3,	4
	Garton Road,	5
	Alliance,	4
	Carmel,	4
	Rosenhayn,	4
	Centre Grove, Grange No. 57,	5
	Vineland,	6
	Vineland, Grange No. 11,	4
	—	52

<i>County.</i>	<i>Town.</i>	<i>No. of Libraries.</i>
Essex,	Millburn,	4
	White Oak Ridge,	2
	Nutley,	5
	Cedar Grove,	3
	Roseland,	4
	Livingston,	5
	Irvington,	3
	Pleasant Dale,	3
	Verona, Grange No. 167,	4
	Orange (rural),	3
	Essex Fells,	6
	Brookdale,	3
	Overbrook,	3
		— 48
Gloucester,	Malaga, Grange No. 127,	4
	Swedesboro, Grange No. 32,	4
	Thorofare, Grange No. 43,	4
	Williamstown, Grange No. 85,	4
	Hurffville, Grange No. 115,	4
	Harrisonville, Grange No. 26,	5
	Woodbury, Grange No. 156,	2
	Paulsboro, Grange No. 59,	3
	Wenonah, Grange No. 39,	4
	Mullica Hill, Grange No. 51,	4
		— 38
Hudson,	North Arlington, Grange No. 149,	4
		— 4
Hunterdon, ...	Lebanon,	3
	Stockton, Grange No. 101,	4
	Baptisttown,	1
	Frenchtown,	5
	Milford, Grange No. 120,	4
	Lambertville,	5
	Pittstown, Grange No. 119,	4
	Flemington,	4
	Sergeantville, Grange No. 88,	4
		— 34
Mercer,	Windsor, Grange No. 40,	4
	Ewing, Grange No. 73,	4
	Hightstown, Grange No. 96,	5
	Lawrenceville, Grange No. 167,	3
	Hopewell, Grange No. 17,	4
	Hamilton Square, Grange No. 79,	5
	Titusville, Grange No. 163,	3
		— 28



Burlington Free Library.



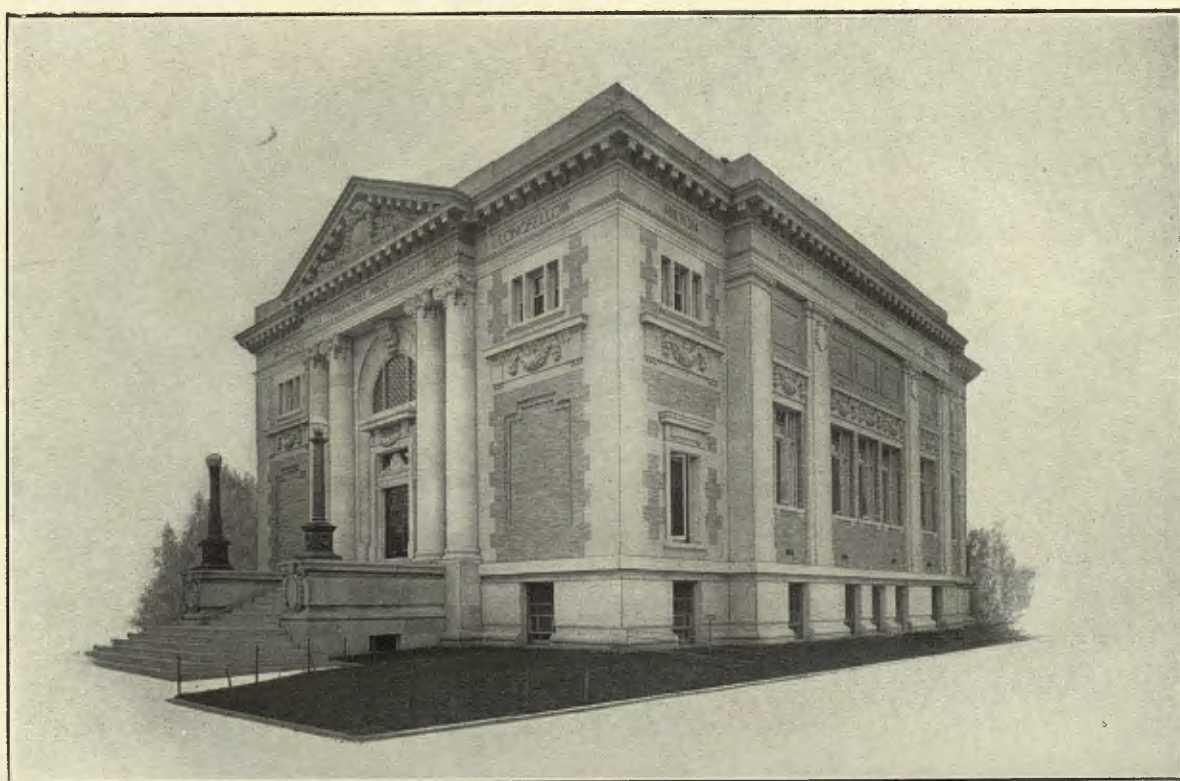
Pilesgrove Library—Woodstown.

PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION.

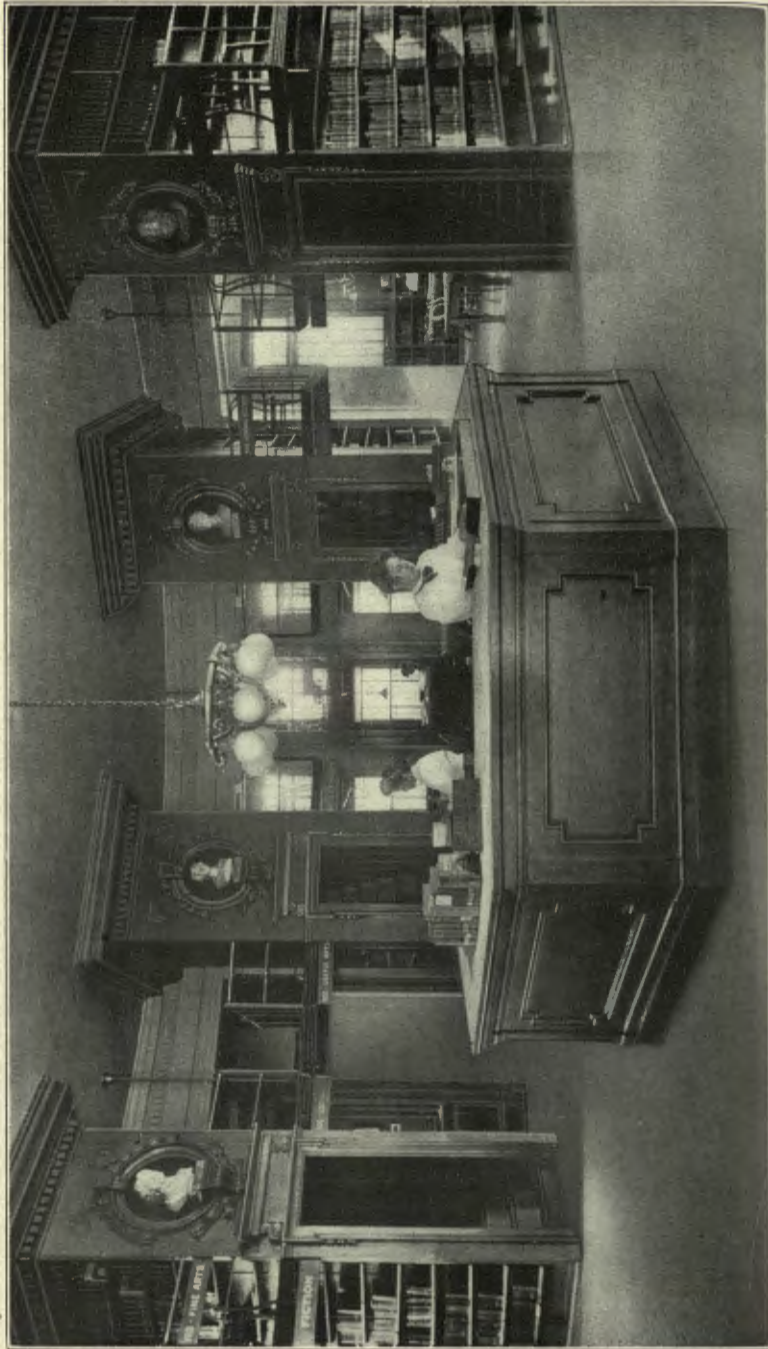
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County.	Town.	No. of Libraries.
Middlesex,	South Amboy,	1
	Laurel Club (New Brunswick),	1
	New Market, Grange No. 152,	6
	Highland Park,	4
	Piscataway township,	4
	Metuchen,	6
	Cranbury,	6
	Stelton,	4
	Lafayette Corner,	4
		— 36
Monmouth,	Allentown,	3
	Matawan, Grange No. 142,	4
	Fort Hancock,	3
	Marlton, Grange No. 45,	4
	West Park,	5
	Middletown, Grange No. 156,	3
	Asbury Park,	6
	Davis, Grange No. 198,	4
	Cream Ridge,	5
	Eatontown,	4
	Marl Ridge, Grange No. 2,	4
	Red Bank,	4
	Shrewsbury,	5
		— 54
Morris,	Chatham, Grange No. 104,	5
	Port Murray,	4
	Naughtright,	2
	Morristown, Grange No. 13,	4
	Mt. Olive,	5
	Flanders,	3
	Berkshire Valley,	4
	Lower Berkshire,	3
	Wharton,	5
	Boonton,	4
	Chatham,	4
	New Vernon,	4
	Middle Valley,	4
	Budd Lake,	4
	Chester,	4
	Dover,	5
		— 68
Ocean,	New Egypt,	4
	Beach Haven,	3
	Tuckerton,	2
	Point Pleasant,	1
		— 13

<i>County.</i>	<i>Town.</i>	<i>No. of Libraries.</i>
Passaic,	Mountain View,	4
		— 4
Salem,	Sharptown, Grange No. 60,	3
	Daretown,	4
	Elmer, Grange No. 29,	4
	Woodstown Station,	4
	Salem, Grange No. 25,	4
	Alloway,	3
		— 22
Somerset,	Flagtown, Grange No. 153,	3
	South Branch,	3
	Peapack,	4
	Somerville,	4
		— 14
Sussex,	Layton, Grange No. 143,	5
	Pleasant Grove,	4
	North Branch,	6
	Millington,	6
	Beemerville, Grange No. 137,	4
	Branchville, Grange No. 160,	4
	Vernon, Grange No. 134,	3
	Sussex, Grange No. 158,	4
	Newton, Grange No. 165,	4
		— 40
Union,	Roselle,	4
	Ash Brook,	5
	Garwood,	4
	Hanover Neck, Grange No. 105,	4
	Union,	1
	Summit,	5
		— 23
Warren,	Broadway, Grange No. 110,	5
	Phillipsburg,	6
		— 11



Carnegie Free Library—Camden,



Delivery Room, Carnegie Library—Camden.

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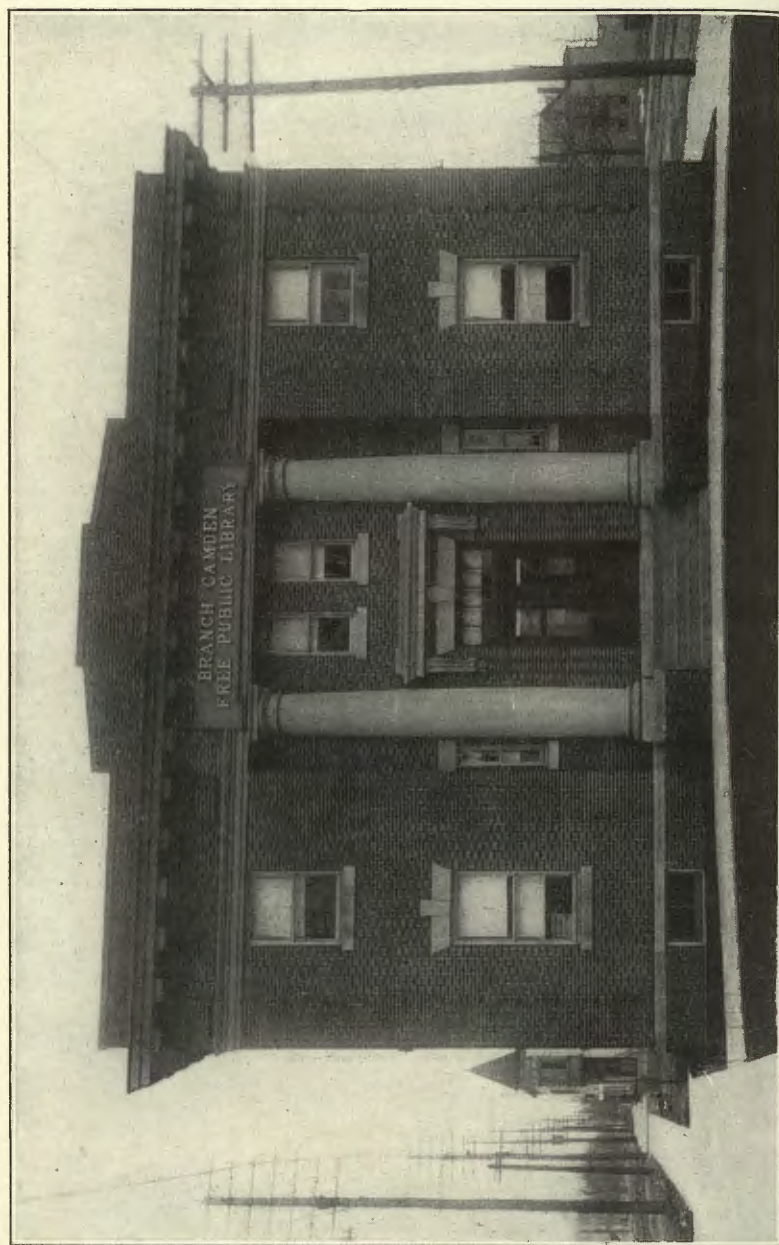
In the Hand-book published by the Public Library Commission in 1901 were illustrations of most of the buildings in New Jersey devoted especially to library purposes at that time. At least a score of new buildings have been erected since then, nearly all of which are shown in this report, and they make a striking exhibit of the extent of the public library movement in this State under New Jersey's very liberal laws.

Respectfully submitted,

W. C. KIMBALL,
M. TAYLOR PYNE,
ERNEST C. RICHARDSON,
EVERETT T. TOMLINSON,
HOWARD M. COOPER.



Cooper Park Branch, Carnegie Library—Camden.



East Branch, Carnegie Library—Camden.

Report from Libraries.

The Allendale Library opened November 1st, 1900, with books donated by the people of the town and a traveling library from Trenton. The School Board gave the use of the room in the school building, and the ladies of the town gave their time and acted as librarian in turn. The library now contains 651 volumes and circulated 821 during the past year. Its income is dependent entirely upon circulation fees, which last year were \$35.96. All non-fiction is free, and thirty Tabard Inn books are a great help in keeping new fiction before the readers.

The Asbury Park Library was first started in 1880, but was not organized until 1901, when the building was completed. It has been maintained by the efforts of the ladies and by aid received from the city, which appropriates \$2,500 annually. The library contains about 5,000 volumes.

In the past year the circulation has been doubled, the daily average being one hundred and six books. It is open eleven hours each day—from 9 A. M. until 9 P. M., closing only from 6 to 7. The children's story hour has been a great success. It has been found that by preparing monthly bulletins, carefully choosing appropriate lists of books for the season and placing them before the public, outsiders are not only attracted but interested. These lists are always sent to the local papers, and people often come from adjoining towns to get books and special articles they have seen mentioned.

The Atlantic City Public Library was at first a collection of books owned by the Woman's Research Club, and open to the public a few hours each week. In 1901 the people of Atlantic City voted to have a free library and, as a nucleus, accepted the collection of books offered by the club. Since October, 1902, the Free Public Library has been supported by the city. About this time a site was purchased, and in 1903, through the generosity of Mr. Carnegie, a suitable building was begun.

The new building was opened in January, 1905, with all the space needed for several years' growth. There are reference, children's and newspaper rooms, and shelf space for 20,000 volumes. The 6,000 volumes with which the building was opened have been increased to 14,000. From 47,806 in 1904, the circulation jumped to 117,000 in 1907.

The work with the schools is constantly increasing, and most of the teachers now draw books for school use and many of them also borrow pictures from the mounted collection kept at the library. The income of the library has been \$10,000 from city appropriation, and about \$1,000 from fines, cost of lost books, and the fee for duplicates.

On July 8th, 1889, the Basking Ridge Library Association was organized, and continued until 1898, when it was incorporated as the Basking Ridge Free Public Circulating Library, and donated all its books, which numbered 450, to the new Free Library, which now has nearly 2,000 books, and a circulation of almost 3,000 per year.

The Bayonne Free Public Library was organized on August 5th, 1890. On January 22d, 1894, it was opened to the public in the old city hall with 4,000 volumes. Later, by purchase of the Workingmen's Library, about 1,500 volumes were added. In the spring of 1903, \$50,000 was accepted from Mr. Carnegie for a new building, which was finished in November, 1904, and thrown open to the public. A children's room is a new feature of the building, open from 1 to 5:30 P. M. daily. The general reading room is well supplied with the best periodicals and daily papers. The usefulness of the library is steadily increasing among the working classes, special lists of technical books having been sent to a dozen of the largest industrial establishments located here. The report for 1906 shows 14,928 volumes in the library, and about seventy-five of the best new books of fiction and various subjects are added each month. The circulation of books for home reading was 59,958, 84 per cent. being fiction. Money received from all sources was \$5,915.98, the city appropriation being \$5,438.25.



Interior Chatham Public Library.



Interior Stryker Library—Lambertville.

The Belleville Library is now in its new quarters on Washington avenue. The total number of volumes now is, in round numbers, 3,000. The circulation for the year has been 34,407 volumes, a great increase over 1906. Owing to literary societies recently formed in the town, the non-fiction books have been in greater demand than formerly, and the reference department has been enlarged.

The Holmes Library of Boonton was organized in 1898. It then numbered 1,277 volumes. Now there are 3,656, with a circulation last year of 10,521. The reading tables are free to all, and 4,935 people availed themselves of the privilege last year. A small subscription fee is charged for the use of the books.

The Branchville Library has been in existence about six years. The money for its support is raised by entertainments and fees. The library is kept in a private house and is open all day. The library has about 400 books.

In 1775 an association was formed in Bridgeton, by the members of which weekly papers on various topics were written, and these were left at the tavern kept by Matthew Potter, to be there read by such as chose. While the copies of the written papers cannot be said to constitute a library, yet they represent the first record of distributing literary productions that can now be secured. It is not known how long this medium of circulating information continued. The first regular library was organized in 1811. An old and interesting document that has been preserved contains various items of interest regarding receipts and expenditures, and gives names of prominent and well-remembered citizens who were intimately connected with the enterprise. The organization was known as the Bridgeton Library Company, and in 1811, at the time of its establishment, it numbered thirty-seven stockholders, with forty-eight shares, at \$8 per share. The President of the Trustees at this time was General Ebenezer Elmer. The library was kept for a long period in the office of General Elmer.

The Bridgeton Library Company continued with varying fortunes until the year 1854, when it was decided to present the

library to "The Trustees of the West Jersey Academy" if they would accept it. In 1859 the Y. M. C. A. was organized and added a fine library. In February, 1894, the library of the Y. M. C. A. was regularly incorporated as the Bridgeton Library Association. In addition to the purchase of books, many valuable additions have been made to the library. Nixon Bodine donated 500 volumes which at one time belonged to the Bridgeton Library, and fine collections of books have been placed by the Advance Book Club and the Music Club. At the present date the books in the possession of the organization number about 4,000.

The Burlington Library was chartered by King George II, in 1758. In November, 1757, a company of sixty members was formed, who agreed to pay ten shillings a year in support of the library. The freedom of the library and a vote of thanks were tendered to John Reading, in January, 1758, for assisting in securing the charter which was accepted later in the year. The first meetings were held in the "best room," of Thomas Rodman's house, where the books were kept, and for the use of which five dollars a year was paid as rent. In 1767 the library was moved to Robert Smith's house, and later to their own building on a lot presented by Governor Joseph Bloomfield. The little building, which cost £50 in paper money, is thought to be still standing. In 1864 a large stone building was erected in Union street by the Library Company, which is still occupied. The first books were donated by members and friends of the company. Ebenezer Large gave a "pistol-piece" with the request that the weapon be sold, and with the money realized a copy of the Bible should be purchased. This was done, and the Bible was the first book placed in the library. James Hunter Sterling, who for twenty-three years was director of the company, left a legacy of \$5,000 for the purchase of books, stipulating that a new building should be erected within three years after his death. This condition was fulfilled, the present building having been erected by subscriptions from the citizens. Among the contributors was Horace Binney, who gave \$200. Up to 1898 the library was maintained by subscriptions, but in that year it was made free, the books were classified and cata-



East Orange Free Public Library (Carnegie).

logued, and the circulation has since increased one hundred per cent.

About fifteen years ago, a library was organized in Caldwell. The principal of the high school offered to look after the books and be responsible for the care of the library without cost. Until two years ago the library was managed on this basis, and the collection of books was increased at the rate of about one hundred volumes a year. The circulation was gradually increased until it averaged about four hundred volumes per month. At the November election the people voted by a handsome majority to take over the library, and make it the Caldwell Free Library. A fine lot has been promised as a donation whenever it becomes possible to erect a suitable building.

The Camden Free Public Library was first opened with 2,400 volumes on its shelves, on November 28th, 1898, in the old homestead in Cooper Park, by a voluntary association formed for that purpose, which carried it on for four years. When the city adopted, at the election held in November, 1902, the provisions of the New Jersey free library law, the voluntary association gave to Camden its library, which so became the nucleus of the city's present free library. Andrew Carnegie gave \$120,000 to Camden, with which it built the present main building, opened on June 27th, 1905; the East branch, opened on June 18th, 1906, and remodeled and enlarged the old homestead in which the free library was started, and which, on the erection of the main building, became the Cooper branch, and re-opened it on September 19th, 1907. The library now has in its main building 13,000 volumes, in its Cooper branch 7,500 volumes, and in its East branch 5,000 volumes—a total of 25,000 volumes, which is rapidly being increased from the fund accumulated from its income during the erection of the library buildings. The total circulation of the main library and two branches, the past year, was 144,886. The library receives from the city an annual income of \$15,000. The librarian has to aid him in the main library three assistants, and in the Cooper and East branches each two assistant librarians.



Public Library—Elizabeth.

The Pyne Poynt Library was started January, 1898, for the purpose of demonstrating the feasibility of free libraries in Camden, giving the people of North Camden information as well as a park. Since then free libraries have been started, and a public park has been bought in another part of the town. The library now has been maintained for eight years, with an out-put of about 1,000 books a month, and probably an average of thirty-five visiting readers a day. The park of about twenty acres on the Delaware river bank is quite an attraction to those visiting the library, and they work well together, people from all over the town using the library when they visit the park. It has about 4,000 volumes, and the expenses of the same, including salary, coal, light, buying new books and paying for magazines, is about \$1,000 a year, with an output of 13,000 volumes. The support comes all from private subscriptions, no charges being made, but fines are imposed for over-time.

The Chatham Public Library was organized during the spring of 1907, and was opened to the public the first of June. It occupies a room on the second floor of the new town hall, with a magazine and reading table in an adjoining room. Twelve hundred books, belonging formerly to a circulating library, formed a nucleus, and to these were added purchases and gifts, making a total of 2,000 volumes. The library is open three days a week, in the afternoon and evening. The circulation averages fifty books a day. The total circulation since the library was opened, five months ago, was 5,500.

The Public Library of Cranbury was opened on Tuesday evening, March 20th, 1906, with ninety-eight books on the shelves, and fifty volumes loaned by the Public Library Commission, a total of one hundred and forty-eight. It now has 573. The circulation to November 1st was 4,872. The library is open on Tuesday and Saturday evenings from 7 to 9 o'clock, and on Friday afternoons from 3 to 5 o'clock.

Since the meeting of the New Jersey Library Association held in Cranford last May, a Free Public Library Association has

been incorporated, and a Board of Trustees, consisting of six men and three women, elected from its membership. A lot in the central part of town has been purchased for the library building, the money having been subscribed by townspeople. About \$400 was in a building fund before the subscription list was started. The lot cost \$2,500. Application is to be made to Mr. Carnegie for a building, the intention being to ask the town, next fall, to vote for its support. In the meantime the work of the present subscription library is being maintained by the members of the Free Library Association. The number of books circulated this year was about 6,000, and the income, including value of books donated, \$600.

Through the enterprise of a few ladies the Dover Free Public Library began its existence in March, 1902. It was supported by voluntary contributions. When first opened to the public there were three hundred volumes on its shelves. In 1905, by vote of the citizens, it came under the control of the city, and it now has 2,800 books. The circulation for the past year was 18,500. The income from the city averages about \$1,000 a year. The special work for the past year has been to interest the children in nature, and a number of nature books as helps have been added to the library.

The Borough of East Newark in 1897 voted to establish a public library and reading room, and appropriated \$1,000 a year for that purpose. In October, 1899, a Board of Trustees was appointed and decided to establish a reading room. This was formally opened in January, 1900, and is free to the residents of East Newark, Harrison and Kearny. The circulating department has 4,073 volumes. The volumes taken out during the past year numbered 2,653. The reading room contains files of about one hundred of the leading magazines and newspapers. The number of persons using the reading room was 9,594. The library occupies the first floor of the East Newark Public School.

The Free Public Library of East Orange was established in 1900, under the Library Act of 1879. It was opened to the public in January, 1903, and has now over 24,000 volumes. It circulated last year 146,981 volumes, and has increased this circulation by over 9,000 volumes already this year. The per cent. of fiction circulated in 1906 was seventy-six. The library has been open nearly five years, and has 12,058 registered borrowers out of 28,000 people of the city, or forty-three per cent. It has a reading room, children's room and assembly room, besides its reference and circulating departments. It received last year from the city \$9,648.14, and from other sources \$2,535.50. The library owns the building; has traveling libraries in use in fire-engine houses; has a card catalogue; lends an unlimited number of books to teachers and to any citizen; lends all but recent fiction for four weeks; circulates all but last issue of magazines for seven days; has public access to shelves, and uses the Dewey classification.

New work carried on during 1907 includes a letter sent to every child who has not returned to school this fall. The names and addresses of the children are furnished by the principals of the schools. This letter invites them to use the library, and offers aid in selecting books or planning courses of reading. At the principal hotels the library's application blanks are supplied, and the proprietors are ready to sign them for the identification of the guests. An effort has been made to be of practical use to the city officials and to the city's government. Graded lists of books are printed, as they were last year, in co-operation with the Board of Education, and distributed to every child in the public, private and parochial schools of the city. The principals use these as buying lists for the school libraries, and the Board of Education offers a certificate to each child who reads one book from each group in his graded list.

Two graded lists of fiction have been printed. These are pasted inside the back covers of books of less literary value than those listed, and a loose copy of the list is also slipped into the book for the borrower to keep. The purpose of this is to introduce persons who are not posted upon books to those of a little better grade, that they will probably enjoy. Books on special topics are



Carnegie Library—Freehold.



Point Pleasant Free Library.

brought to the notice of the public by placing them in special cases, and by printing the lists in the newspapers. The vacation plan of lending a number of books not in demand, for any specified time from May 1st to October 1st, was popular this year as formerly.

The East Rutherford Free Public Library was opened in September, 1901, in the municipal building. Since then the library has been open from 3 to 5, and from 7 to 9 P. M. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday of each week. The winter previous to the opening a fair was held to raise money for shelving, furniture, books and other expenses, and about \$2,000 was realized. Since then the library has been supported by subscriptions, donations and the receipts from entertainments. The library opened with 1,270 books on the shelves, and now contains 2,391. The number of books loaned the past year was 7,416.

The Public School Library at Egg Harbor was instituted about fifteen years ago. In 1895, when H. M. Cressman, the present supervisor, became principal, the number of books in the library was about 275. It is now about 1,200—biography, history, science, fiction, etc. During the last year the librarian classified and arranged the books according to the Dewey decimal system.

The first library in Elizabeth was formed in 1792, for the circulation of literature and the elevation of the tastes of the people. This was very much scattered during the Revolution. In 1856 the Elizabeth Library Hall Association was formed. The following year a large building was erected which, under the charter, was to be used partly as a public library and partly as a business venture. The library feature was a failure, and it was not until 1880 that the free library was established. The Arcade, in which the library was established, appeared to be unpopular, and the library was removed in 1887 to its proper quarters in Library Hall, and remained there. The library is hampered by the lack of funds, but is doing good work.

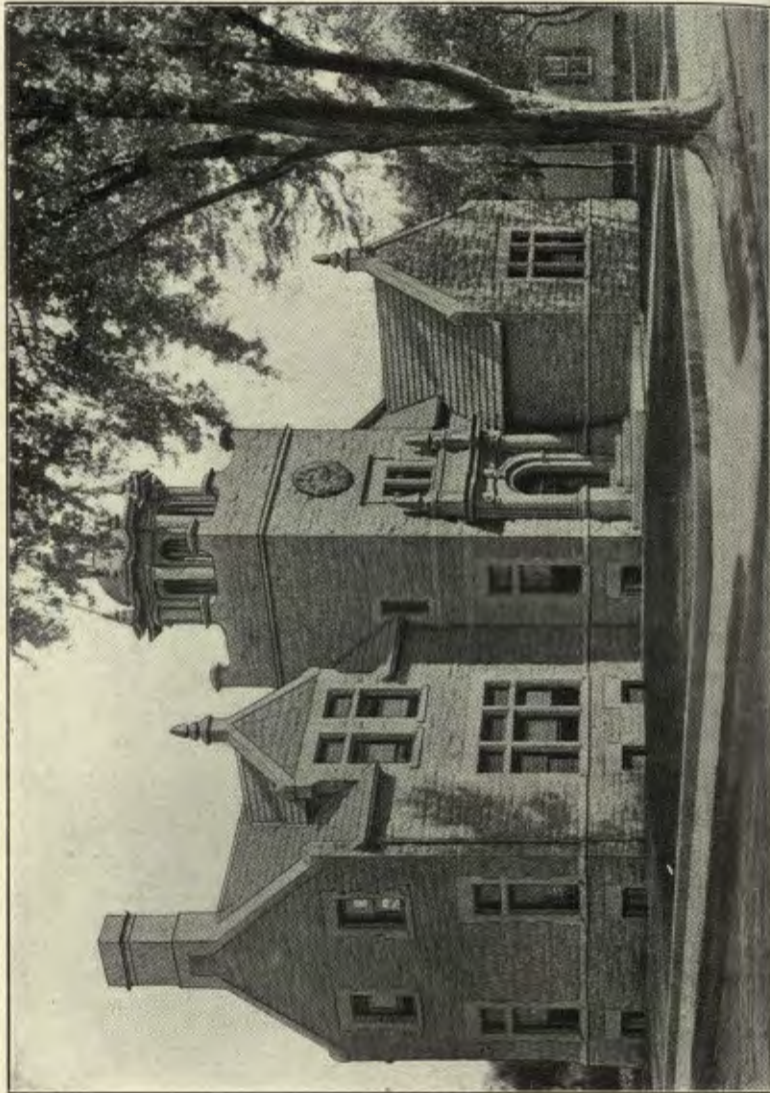


Free Public Library and City Hall—Hoboken.

The Free Public Library of Englewood succeeded the Library Association incorporated in 1892. At an election in November, 1900, the voters decided by a large majority to maintain a free public library. The library building was given to the city by Donald Mackay. It is delightfully located, is large and commodious, in perfect repair, and, with every modern library appliance, affords accommodation for 15,000 volumes. The growth of the library since its formal opening to the public has been that of all free institutions which have succeeded those maintained by subscriptions, and from a subscribers' list which never reached 200, the register shows to-day 2,796 borrowers; while the circulation, which in 1899 was 9,000, in 1906 reached 27,900. Cases holding fifty books each are sent to five schools the first of every month. These books are selected by the different teachers for supplementary work in the class-room, and for distribution among those children whose homes are so far away that they are only able to use the library occasionally. The new children's room, opened in October, 1906, has proved an immense success, broadening the work in all directions.

The Flemington Public Library was started by the Woman's Club in 1899, and was managed by volunteer helpers until December, 1900, when the Flemington Library Association was formed and assumed control, providing the financial support, with assistance from the Woman's Club, and engaging a librarian. The circulation for the past year has been a little over 10,000 volumes, and the income was \$428. By a bequest of the late William H. Bartles, \$10,000 was given to the village to provide a joint building for the public library and the Hunterdon County Historical Society, and it will be available in a year or two.

Freehold Library was opened on December 10th, 1904. The work begun then has been carried on with very few changes, although the demand for books of reference is growing. The schools determine this demand, and the principal additions during the past year have been in the reference department. The yearly income is \$1,100, and the circulation for the past twelve months was about 14,000 volumes.



Johnson Public Library—Hackensack.

The Johnson Public Library was formally presented to the people of Hackensack, on Saturday, October 5th, 1901, by Hon. William M. Johnson. Last spring the question of accepting the free public library law was submitted to the voters, when the result was almost unanimously in its favor, and a board of trustees was appointed to hold and manage the new library for the people. The Johnson Library is a two-story structure, 56 by 75 feet, of rock-faced Belleville stone. The lot is about 100 by 200 feet. It contains on the first floor a stack room that will accommodate 26,000 volumes; reading, reference, directors', librarian's and toilet rooms. The second floor is to be used for a historical museum and an assembly room. The building is fire-proof throughout, and is equipped with the latest appliances known to library science.

In 1870 the Washington Institute was organized in Hackensack by a number of gentlemen, who established a small library, which was the precursor of the Johnson library. After a number of years the interest died out, and the library fell into disuse. In 1885 a band of eighteen young women organized the Hackensack Library Association, took charge of the Washington Institute, and for sixteen years maintained a public library there. At the formal opening of the Johnson Library it received as a gift from the ladies all of the books, magazines and pamphlets of the Hackensack Library Association. The new library is absolutely free to all the residents of Hackensack, while non-residents who live in Bergen county may enjoy its advantages upon the payment of one dollar per year. The condition of the deed of gift is, that the property shall be used for the maintenance of a free public library. If it is not so maintained, and shall lapse into a period of disuse for three years, the property is to go to the trustees of Princeton University. In the summer of 1903, the book fund of \$5,000, given by Mr. Johnson, was exhausted, and as the appropriation from the town was barely sufficient to cover the running expenses, there was nothing left for the purchase of books. A public subscription was asked for, and the citizens of the town came to the aid of the library. The subscription for 1903 amounted to \$1,518, that for 1904, \$792, and for 1905, \$650.

Last year, as the appropriation was slightly increased, it was decided to discontinue the request for further subscriptions. The appropriation for 1907 was \$3,613.11. Any teacher may take for school use as many books as necessary on her regular card. A book used for study may be renewed as long as required, unless in demand by other students. Those patrons of the library who desire books during their vacations may take four books on a card. These books are marked "Vacation," and a renewal is not required. Books are supplied to the Old Ladies' Home and exchanged about once a month, one of the librarians visiting the Home for that purpose.

The nucleus of the Longstreet Library of Peddie Institute consisted of one or two hundred books of the literary societies. This was increased by gifts of books and money from William Bucknell, Dr. Henry F. Smith, and others, until at present there are about 7,000 volumes, of which the greater part are useful in supplementing the work of the school. In 1891 the library was classified and catalogued by trained librarians. Until 1902 the duties of librarian were discharged by some member of the faculty. Then it was decided to add to the faculty a trained librarian, who gives her entire time to the work. The catalogue is in dictionary form. Systematic instruction in the use of the library is given to both new and old students at the beginning of each school year. Two hundred bound volumes of periodicals were given in 1905 by William J. Coxey, of Camden.

The Hoboken Free Public Library was established under the general library act of 1884, and its subsequent amendments. It was the third established under this act, having been preceded by Paterson and Newark, and was the first to erect and operate its own building. The present income of the library is about \$9,500 per year, and with this amount the trustees have been able to increase its collection of books from 3,500 to upwards of 32,000 volumes, and to keep on file in the reading room more than 160 daily papers and periodicals. The circulation of books for home reading has increased from



Jersey City Free Public Library.

70,000 the opening year to 130,954 the present year. The library is provided with a complete card catalogue, a printed catalogue complete to 1895, and a supplement complete to 1900. The total cost of the buildings was \$85,000, of which amount Mrs. Martha B. Stevens donated \$20,000; Richards Stevens, \$5,000, and Mrs. John Stevens, \$1,000, the balance being supplied by the city.

The Free Public Library of Jersey City was established in 1889, under the library law of 1884, and was opened to the public in July, 1891. For nearly a decade it occupied hired rooms in the lower part of the city. A new library building, occupying the block on Jersey avenue between Montgomery and Mercer streets, was erected in 1900. It is of pressed brick and granite, of the Renaissance style of architecture, and cost about \$300,000. Six years of use has shown it to be well adapted to its purpose. A steady increase in the work, influence and usefulness of the library during the sixteen years of its existence is shown by the statistics given in the annual reports. Starting with 14,000 volumes, the library now contains 107,600. The circulation of 1891 was 345,000; that of 1907, 542,388. The reference use at the library in the first year reported was 12,960; for 1907, 57,147. A gain in better reading is shown by the fall in the fiction per cent. from eighty-seven to sixty-seven.

The medical library has been greatly expanded and improved. A large addition has been made to the technical works of the library and they have been placed on open shelves. Six new delivery stations have been opened. Additions have been made to the loan collections for the blind and a special reading room set apart for their use. A branch reference library of 1,000 to 1,500 volumes has been placed in the High School and a librarian for the same detailed from the staff of the main library.

The library offers many advantages to the student as well as to the general public. A large and well equipped reference department consists of a law library of 5,000 volumes; a medical library of 2,000 volumes, and forty-two current medical



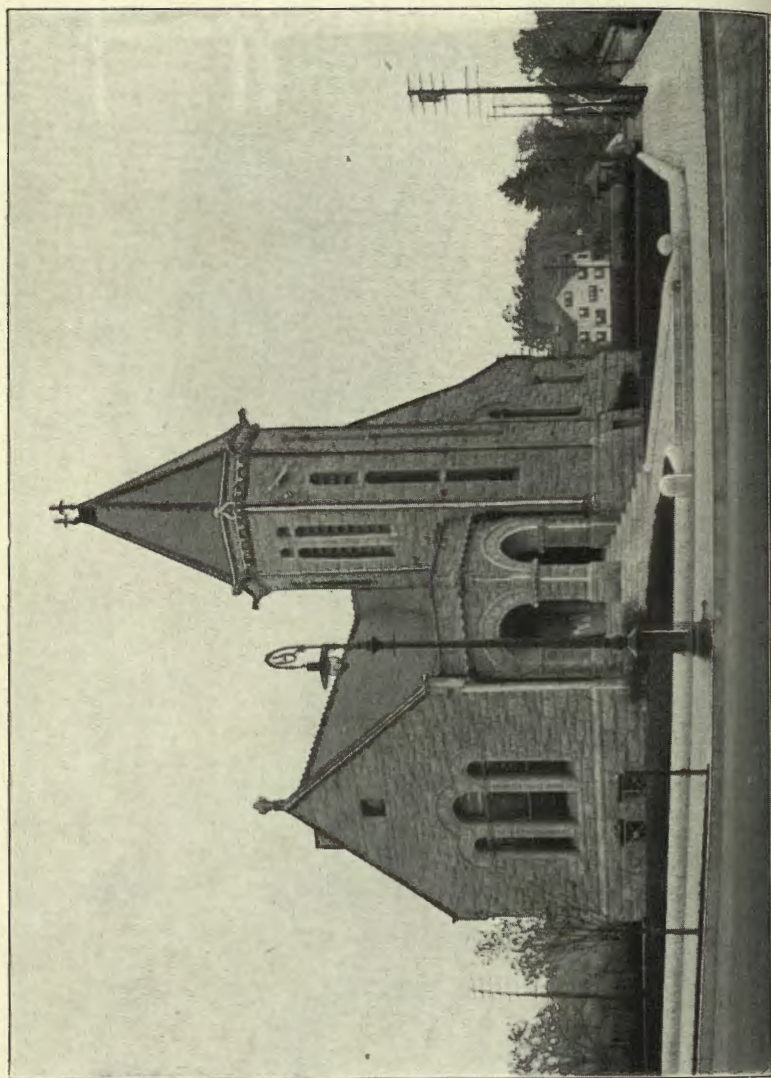
Children's Room, Jersey City Free Public Library.

periodicals; 12,000 volumes of periodicals indexed in Poole's Index; a general collection of several thousand volumes in the main reference room and six studies; and a special reference room for the young people, containing some 1,200 volumes selected particularly for children and their teachers. A system of twenty delivery stations (daily exchange) adds greatly to the convenience of people living at a distance from the library. In 1906, the children's work was separated from the general delivery, and now occupies a large and commodious room on the first floor, combining circulating department and reading room. This room contains 4,000 volumes for the use of the children alone. The library maintains courses of free lectures for the people, which are greatly appreciated. Co-operation with the schools, is carried on very thoroughly; special privileges are given to teachers, and class-room libraries are furnished whenever desired.

After considerable agitation by the people of Kearny, and having assurances from Mr. Carnegie that he would donate a suitable sum for the erection of the building, provided the town purchased a site and appropriated sufficient means annually to maintain the same, the town council authorized a vote to be taken to decide the question, and later appropriated \$2,700 for the purchase of the site. The Board of Trustees advertised for competitive plans for a building to cost not more than \$25,000. Twenty-eight were submitted, the successful architects being Herbert E. Davis and Calvin Kiessling, of New York. The main structure is of brick with limestone trimmings. The building has a frontage of sixty feet, and is seventy-two feet in depth. The town appropriation is \$3,000 a year. The library was formally opened to the 15,000 inhabitants of the town on July 29th, 1907, with appropriate ceremonies. The library opened with 2,500 volumes, and now has 4,000. The aggregate circulation for the four months is 15,830, the circulation for the month of November being 4,241, or a daily average of 176. The librarian's experience in doing away with the accession book and writing all records on the shelf-list card, has been satisfactory, and no complications have arisen from



Free Public Library—Kearny (Carnegie).



Madison Public Library.

Doing away with the Cutter system entirely, arranging the non-fiction by class number, and fiction alphabetically according to author. With but one person in charge for the first two months, time did not permit of much outside work. Since the appointment of an assistant the "story hour" has been introduced, which has proved a decided success. The library has co-operated with the schools, by placing at their disposal several small collections for the aid of the teachers and scholars.

The Stryker Library Association at Lambertville was incorporated in 1881, with a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees. There was a fund of \$4,400, derived from a legacy of Samuel D. Stryker, and an equal amount given by citizens. Half was used in the purchase of books and half was invested. The library was opened early in 1882, three days in the week, afternoon and evening, and depended for support upon the interest on the small investment, the proceeds of occasional entertainments, and subscriptions of book borrowers. The use of the books and magazines at the library was free. In 1902, after twenty years' effort, the number of annual subscribers had become gradually reduced to about sixty, and the Trustees called to their assistance the Ladies' Kalmia Club. It was decided to try the experiment of making the library free, if sufficient subscriptions for the purpose could be obtained. These were secured, a more attractive room was obtained, the books were put in order, renumbered and reclassified, and the library was again opened. The abridged Dewey decimal classification was adopted; also a simple system of book numbers, easily understood and requiring few rules. An author and title card catalogue has been made; also a card shelf-list of fiction and non-fiction.

There are about 3,800 books in the library. During the past year 208 have been added, exclusive of more than a hundred bound volumes of magazines presented. Residents of neighboring towns may borrow books upon the payment of an annual fee of two dollars. Temporary residents of the neighborhood, for less than a year, are allowed the same privilege. Free

access to the shelves has always been allowed. The new arrangement at once attracted readers and is now in its fifth year, with the continuance of most of the subscriptions and a small annual appropriation by the City Council. The former number of sixty subscribers has been increased, during the five years, to 1,092, of whom 800 are now constant readers. The circulation last year was 11,974. If the library was not hampered by the lack of funds it could reach out in many directions. In a manufacturing town of 5,000 inhabitants there is a pressing need for an open reading room every week-day, for a children's department and story hour, for more books of science, travel and biography, and for lecture courses; but the uncertainty and small amount of income, which make it necessary to supplement work of the librarian by volunteer service, forbids the expansion so much needed and desired.

In October, 1878, the Long Branch Library was founded by a few ladies, who formed a permanent organization. In November of that year a reading room was opened in old Washington Hall. In January of the following year the circulating library was established in the same building, and in 1880 a library building was erected. Many new books were added to the library during the year, among them being a collection from the Elberon Library, and many from the estate of M. H. Houghton, who died recently at Monmouth Beach.

The Madison Public Library was opened in 1900. It is the gift of the late D. Willis James, of New York, to the borough of Madison for the free use of the public. The library is built of granite, in Gothic architecture. The book stacks are of steel, and have a capacity for 20,000 volumes. They now contain 7,416. In the reading room are most of the leading periodicals, the New York daily papers and the local weeklies. This room is open from 7 A. M. till 10 P. M. every day in the week, except Sunday, and is under no direct supervision. Traveling libraries of fifty volumes each have been sent to the outlying villages. A record has been kept of books issued to Italians, both adults and juvenile. This year the number has been 723.

an increase of nearly 100 over that of last year. A new line of work is to be started—a series of free lectures to the public. The lectures will be four in number this year and will be of popular character. They will be free to all.

Drew Theological Seminary Library was founded in 1868, the year after the Seminary was opened, and the late George P. Lane was sent to Europe to buy books. In 1886 the cornerstone of a \$90,000 library building was laid, and in 1888 it was dedicated. At that date there were 16,000 volumes, and 3,000 pamphlets on the shelves. Now, there are 100,046 volumes and 126,548 pamphlets. The total income of the library is usually less than \$3,000 per year. In addition to the catalogue by author, title and subject, an index is being made covering very closely the contents of the books. This index is two-fold, according as the text is found in the volumes of sermons and by subjects. Nearly ten thousand volumes are indexed. During the past year 11,234 volumes and 28,328 pamphlets were added. The circulation was over 8,000 volumes, and the use of books in the library at least 28,000 volumes more. Over 30,000 cards were written for the catalogue, and 1,113 cards issued by the Library of Congress were also used. The library is especially rich in its collection relating to denominations, especially Methodism. It has a Bible collection of over eight thousand volumes, twenty-six incunabula, fourteen New Testament Greek manuscripts, written in the period from 950 to 1350 A. D. It has a missionary library of over forty-eight hundred volumes, and its collection of the religious periodicals of the United States is probably the most complete in existence, numbering as it does several thousand volumes.

Sixteen years ago a club was formed by a number of Merchantville women, known as the Half Hour Reading Club. After a year's existence all surplus money, accumulated by dues and fines, was used to buy books for the use of the club. In June, 1895, it was decided to establish a public library. The free use of the borough Council chamber having been granted, book-cases were purchased, and in February, 1896, the library



Millville Free Library.

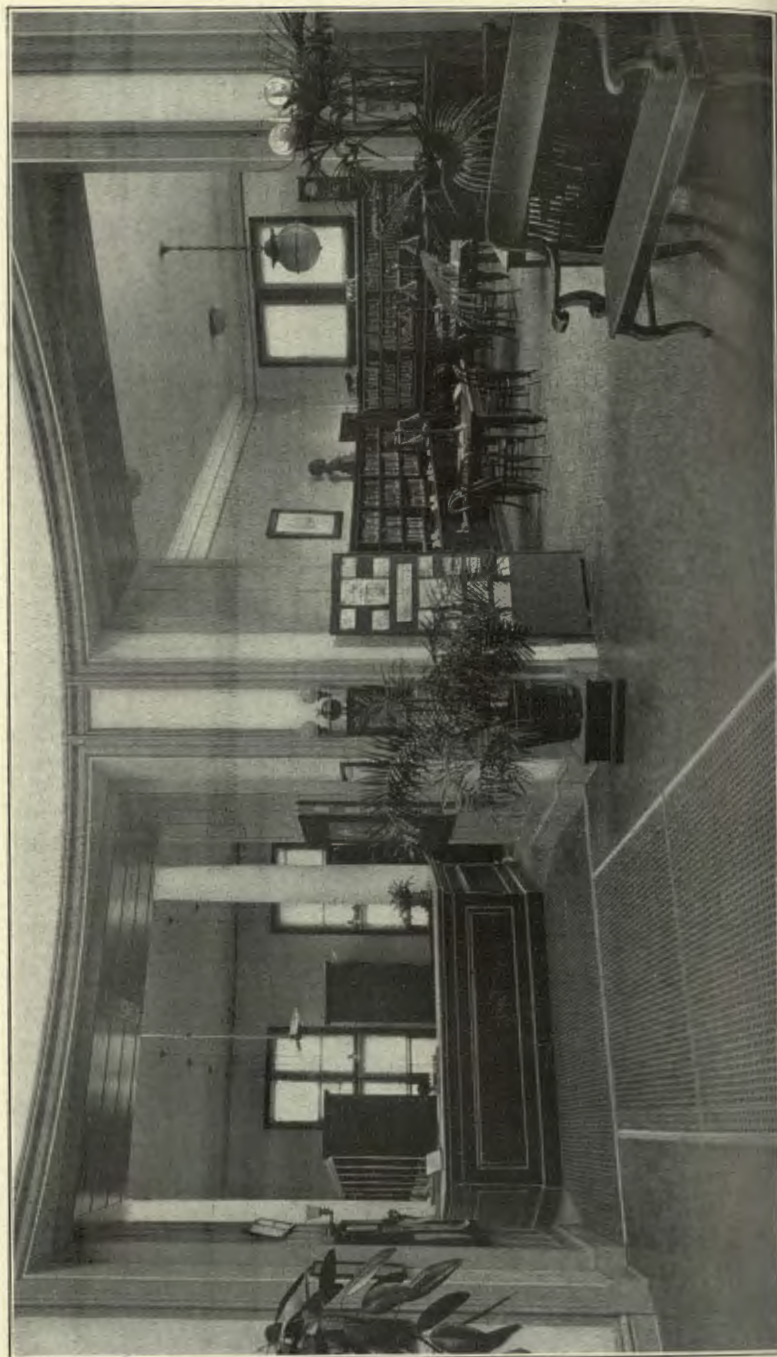
was opened to the public. The entire expense of maintenance was assumed by the Half Hour Reading Club, which also provided books of solid reading, leaving subscriptions and fines to be used exclusively for the purchase of fiction. In January, 1903, the library was moved to its present quarters in the borough building. The number of volumes aggregates more than 2,200, and nearly 13,000 books were circulated the past year. The Half Hour Reading Club is looking forward to the time when, in a building of its own, the library may be turned over to the borough of Merchantville as a free public library.

The library at Metuchen is the outgrowth of a book club, started with about 350 books. It now has about 1,500 volumes, and 3,585 were circulated last year.

In December, 1905, the Board of Education of Millburn Township decided to open their school library to the general public. A room on the lower floor of the grammar school building was fitted up for the purpose, and on February 14th, 1906, the library was formally opened under the name of the Millburn Public School Library, with 935 books on the shelves. The library now contains over 4,000 volumes, and occupies not only the room originally allotted to it, but the square hall on the main floor of the building, also. The circulation from November, 1906, to November, 1907, was 9,103 volumes. There is a registration of 766 borrowers. On April 16th, 1906, a branch library was opened at White Oak Ridge, in the little school-house there, and the following January a small circulating library for children was opened at Wyoming. The librarian who has organized and has charge of the library system, was trained in the Brooklyn Public Library, with special reference to the work with children, and her aim has been to emphasize the side of the library work that related to the boys and girls and their teachers. The "story hours" connected with this library have become quite famous, and have been one of its features. It has proved a great incentive to the use of the library by the children of all ages. Another aim has been to



Free Public Library—Montclair (Carnegie).



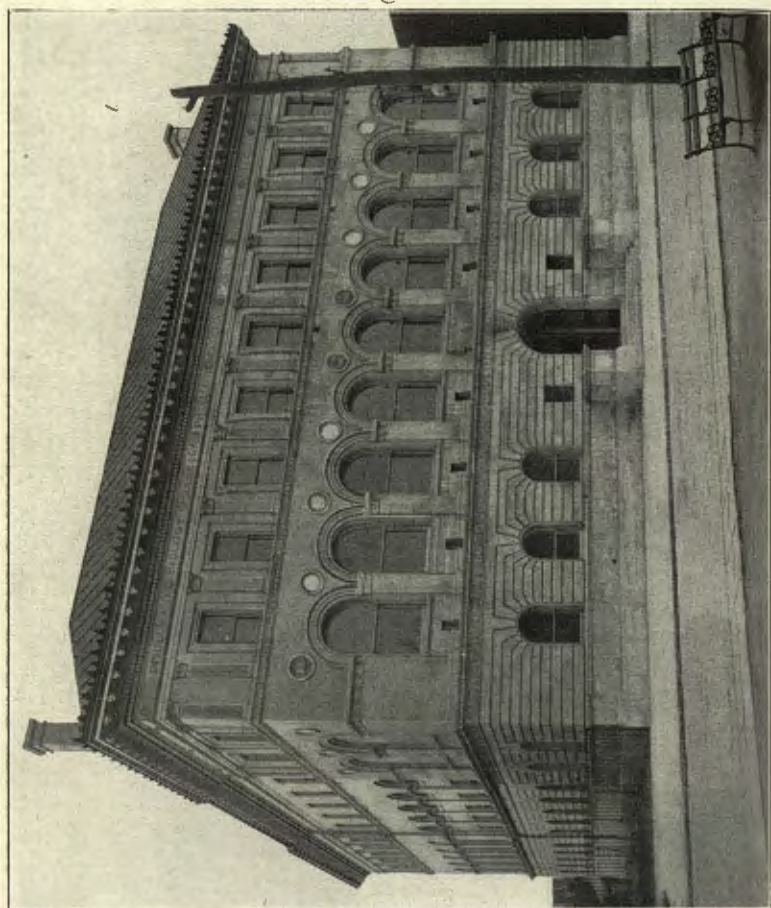
Delivery Desk and Children's Room, Montclair Public Library.

build up a really good, working reference library that would be of the greatest possible benefit to the largest number of people, and this has been successfully accomplished, and in less than two years. Special facilities have always been offered to teachers and students, who are allowed to take out six books at a time on "special" cards, which entitle them to keep the books for a month, or longer. Not only teachers and high-school students, but club women, professional men and mechanics take advantage of this privilege. One reason for the rapid growth of the library has been the interest that the townspeople have shown in the enterprise, and the generous gifts it has received from them. The recent consolidation with the library in Saint Stephen's Church House added nearly a thousand valuable reference books to the collection.

The Millville Library Association was organized April 8th, 1864. No account is given of the nature or of the number of books at the end of the year, but the librarian's annual report shows that an average of 169 books were taken out monthly. The association interested itself, not only in securing good reading material for old and young, but in establishing a lecture course. Among the lecturers were men like Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen, Dr. A. A. Willetts, and Hon. Fred. Douglas. At first no regular librarian was employed, each stockholder serving one night in two weeks. Later the library was kept open on Saturday afternoon, for which 25 cents a session was paid. In 1870, the librarian reports a total of 1,000 volumes, with an average of 315 books taken out each month. At the present time the library contains 3,500 volumes of fiction, history, science and miscellaneous works. The money for maintaining it is secured by donations and subscriptions. The circulation during 1906 was 4,121. During the past year notice was served on the Board of Directors to vacate the room occupied by the library, as soon as other quarters could be secured. The old building of the Millville National Bank was offered on advantageous terms, and a campaign is now under way to raise by popular subscription the \$3,000 needed to secure the deed and make the necessary alterations and improvements.

The Montclair Public Library, which was opened to the public in its present form on January 1st, 1894, was the outgrowth of the Montclair Library Association, which turned over to the Trustees of the Free Library all books and money in possession of the association. This generous gift enabled the trustees to open the library with over 2,800 volumes. The present building was erected through the generosity of Mr. Carnegie, who placed in the hands of the trustees the sum of \$40,000 on the usual ten per cent. basis. This was ready for occupancy by April, 1904, when the books were placed in what promises to be their permanent home. The specializing has been along educational lines and in co-operation with the schools. Series of lessons on the use of reference books and of general literature for reference purposes, have been given from time to time, with drill in topical reading and study. School room libraries have been furnished to the different schools. In December, 1906, a branch was opened at Upper Montclair, which has grown beyond all expectations.

The following notices have been posted in different parts of the libraries: "If the books you desire are not already in the library, ask us to get them for you," and all such requests are complied with within reasonable limits. While a nominal limit of two books to a reader is recognized, there is in reality no limit to the number of books one may have if more are needed. The privilege of six or more books which is accorded teachers is practically extended to all adults desiring it. A new catalogue of nearly four hundred pages has just been issued, and it is the purpose to issue supplements at intervals, so that it will be kept practically up to date. The pay department of new and popular fiction, which has been in operation for five years, has proved a most satisfactory solution of the problem of the supplying of the ephemeral literature, which every library feels it necessary to have, but which draws unduly on its resources. In this way the library is supplied with the best of new fiction, after a few weeks, which has in the meantime paid for itself. The end of the present year will find the library with about 23,000 books and a circulation of between 90,000 and 100,000 volumes, which is an average annual increase of ten per cent.



Newark Free Public Library.

since the library was first opened. The income for 1906 was about \$8,500.

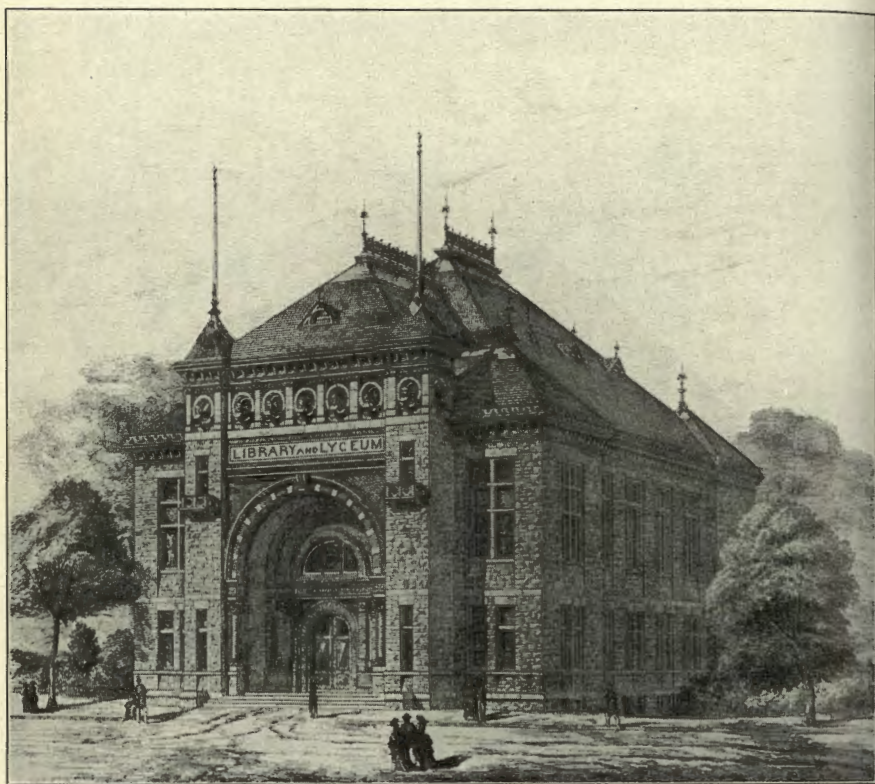
Many years ago, on the site now occupied by the Morristown Library, there existed a famous school called the Morris Academy. In a room on the second floor, over the school, a few people interested in libraries collected a number of books and gave it the name of the Mechanics' Library. This building was removed, and the present structure opened for use July, 1870. The ground was given with the request that accommodations be found for the school, which was done, and the Morris Academy still exists in the rear of the building. There is a theatre above, with a seating capacity of over 700, from which most of the library's income is received. At the time the library was opened the reading and reference rooms were free, and a small fee charged for books. Through a legacy left during the past year, the library has been able to throw open its doors wide to the public, and is now absolutely free. The circulation has increased greatly, more than two thousand persons having registered and taken books for home use.

In 1889, Dr. Henry L. Coit, of Newark, conceived the idea of establishing a free library at Mount Tabor. The nucleus for such an institution existed in a small collection of books known as the Mount Tabor Circulating Library, owned by him, and which were loaned to the residents of the place for a nominal fee. From a very modest beginning it has grown until now there are more than two thousand volumes on its shelves. The first year a very small number of loans were made. During the season of 1902, from June 15th to October 1st, 4,995 books were taken out. In 1889, a few feet of shelving in the drug store, and the spare moments of the drug clerk, sufficed for all the requirements of the library. To-day it requires the services of a librarian. The library is supported by voluntary contributions of its friends.

The provisions of the library law of 1884 were accepted by Newark at the municipal election held in October, 1887. In

May, 1888, the Board of Trustees held its first meeting, and in January, 1889, appointed Frank P. Hill, librarian. Under his direction the library was opened to the public in October, 1889, with 13,000 volumes. Mr. Hill continued as librarian until June, 1901; he was succeeded, January 15th, 1902, by John Cotton Dana, librarian of the Springfield Public Library, Massachusetts. The library occupied a rented building until March 14th, 1901, when the present building was opened to the public. The land on which the building stands was purchased in 1897 for \$100,000, to which the city of Newark added in 1906 a tract costing \$53,000, the entire site being 157x240 feet. The building cost, with furnishings, book stack and light plant, \$350,000. It is built on the Italian Renaissance style, of granite and Indiana limestone, and has a frontage of 102 feet and a depth of 138 feet; the stack building, separate from the main building, but connected with it by landings on each floor, is 37x59 feet, and has a capacity of 200,000 volumes.

The library contains 118,000 volumes, and circulates an average of nearly 2,000 volumes per day. In 1901, the first year in the present building, 314,874 books were given out for home use, and in 1906 this number had increased to 552,615. The circulation for 1907 was about 600,000. The library has a branch in the Newark High School, and five other branches in rented rooms in sections of the city distant from the central building. These five branches contain from 1,000 to 3,000 volumes each, and a selection of current periodicals, and are in charge of regular library assistants. Ten deposit stations, in charge of storekeepers, are maintained in other sections of the city; at these stations books are given out by the keepers of the stores from collections of 500 to 1,000 books. Collections and deliveries from and to these stations are made once a week. Four collections of books are placed in as many department stores of the city for the use of their employes, and several factories have similar advantages placed at their disposal. The School Department supplies nearly two hundred class-rooms in the public and private school with collections of forty books, suited to the various grades in which they are placed. The treatment of the public is particularly liberal. No guarantee is



Morristown Library and Lyceum.



Dennis Library—Newton.

required if the applicant's name appears in the directory; there is no given age limit, except that applications of persons under eighteen must bear the signature of parent or guardian. There is free access to all the books in the library. The periodical reading room is supplied with over 400 different periodicals. In connection with the reference room, containing a valuable reference library, may be found a collection of American, English and Canadian patent reports, including the Specifications of the United States Patents. The library possesses an almost complete lot of all bound periodicals indexed in Poole and its supplements. The work of the library is carried out by a staff, as follows: The librarian, the assistant librarian, twenty-seven assistants in various departments and branches, twenty-three messengers. The building is cared for by a force of nine janitors and elevator men, and is lighted and heated by a force of five engineers and firemen. The binding for the library is done in the building, under charge of a contractor, who employs twelve persons. The income of the library for 1907: City appropriation, \$85,560; fines, etc., about \$6,000.

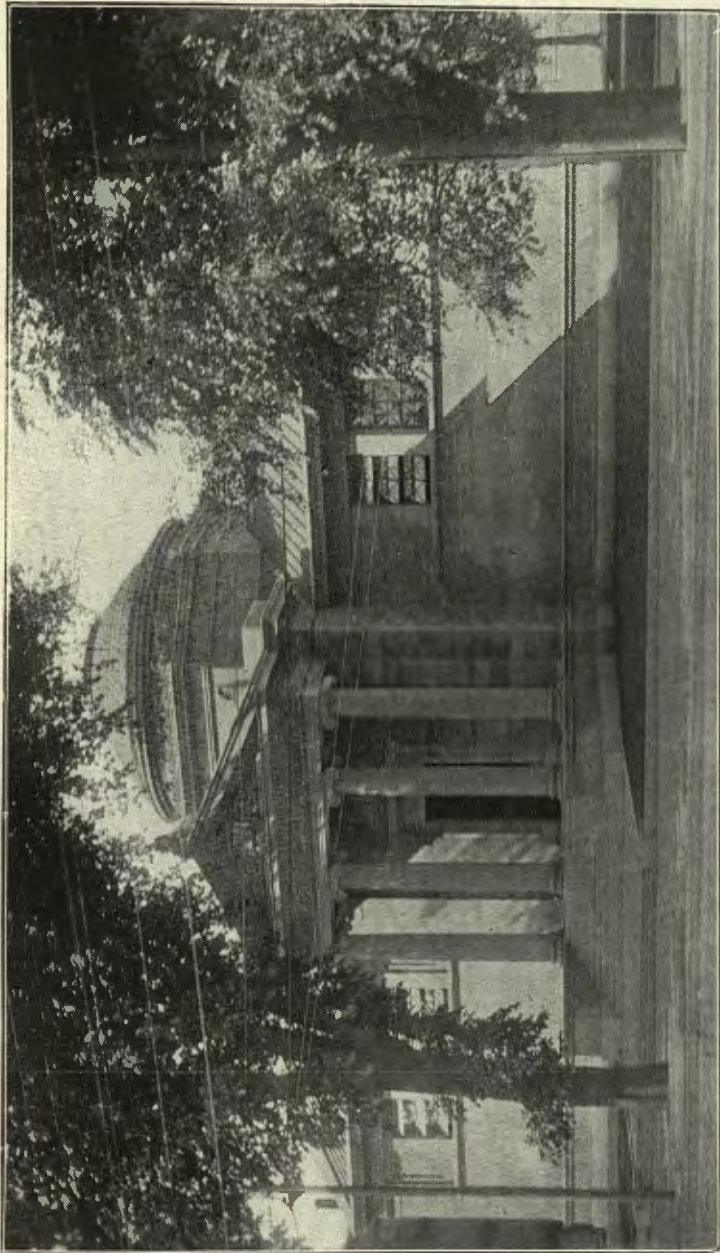
The Free Circulating Library of New Brunswick was incorporated March 23d, 1883. It was opened to the public March 27th, 1883, and provided a free circulation of books for home use, as well as a reading room well supplied with magazines and newspapers. It was supported by regular subscriptions, gifts, and money earned by entertainments of different kinds undertaken for its benefit. A donation of about 100 books from the Ladies' Book Club formed the nucleus of the library, which was increased by gifts and purchases during the year to the number of 2,038. At a municipal election held in April, 1890, by an almost unanimous vote it was decided to establish a free public library. On April 1st, 1890, the library began its work, having leased from the Free Circulating Library its building, and library of 8,000 volumes. In May, 1892, the library was moved to a more commodious building, also leased from the Free Circulating Library. On November 16th, 1903, the Free Public Library was opened to the public in a building donated by Mr. Carnegie. The building cost \$50,000, and was erected

in the center of an entire square, bought by the city for the purpose. At this time the trustees of the Free Circulating Library loaned to the Free Public Library their books, which had previously been leased, and which by this time had increased to 9,500 volumes. On May 8th, 1907, the Board of the Free Circulating Library was disbanded, and its books, 10,408 volumes, were given to the Free Public Library for the free use of the citizens of New Brunswick. The trustees of the Free Circulating Library also expended for new books \$2,800, which balance they had on hand after the settling of their affairs. The library now contains 26,000 volumes. The number of books circulated this year is 70,125. The income of the library is \$5,000.

Rutgers College was established as Queen's College by colonial charters of 1776 and 1770, as a literary institution, with especial thought for the training of ministers for the Reformed Dutch Church. In 1809 was erected the stately structure of brown stone which is still the chief ornament of the campus, and whose walls gave lodgment to the College Library. As the professors gave instruction in studies academic and theological to collegians and seminarists under one roof, the library was one and the same for both bodies, with the element of theology predominant. In 1821 there was received a donation of 140 volumes from Mrs. Margaret Chinn, of Albany, N. Y., and in 1832, a catalogue was issued which shows about 2,000 titles. Certain rules laid down in 1822 required among other things that the library should be opened "every Friday afternoon for three-quarters of an hour immediately after the recitation," and that a folio might be kept out for five weeks and an octavo for three weeks. In 1857 the headquarters of the Theological Seminary was transferred to the newly erected Peter Hertzog Hall, and thither, in 1859, the theological library was moved. In 1863 the State Scientific School was organized, enlarging the necessity for books in all the fields of science. The library grew slowly until 1882, when the heirs of the Hon. Robert H. Pruyn, of the class of 1833, contributed a memorial fund of \$11,600 for the purchase of books. In 1887, by the will of P. Vander-



Free Public Library—New Brunswick (Carnegie).



Orange Free Library.

bilt Spader, of New Brunswick, of the Class of 1849, the college received his choice library of about 5,000 volumes, and a bequest of \$10,000 for its maintenance and increase. In 1906, by the will of Benjamin Stephens, of New York city, of the Class of 1844, the college received his private library of 1,844 volumes, and a bequest of \$5,000 for its increase. During the past twenty years, therefore, the library has grown rapidly, until to-day it numbers about 54,000 volumes. In 1873, when the Kirkpatrick Chapel was erected, commodious quarters for the library were provided in that building; but the growth of the collection made separate provision necessary, and in 1903 the Ralph Voorhees Library building was erected at a cost of \$60,000, through the liberality of the donor whose name it bears. The library receives about 200 current periodicals, it is open during each weekday, except holidays, from 8 A. M. to 4:30 P. M., and each evening (except Saturday) from 6:30 to 9 o'clock; on holidays from 8 A. M. to 12 M. The library is of high quality, and it possesses such book rarities as the fourth folio Shakspeare, the black-letter Chaucer of 1561, and the original issue of the King James English Bible of 1611. It is particularly strong in scientific literature, especially in natural science.

The Passaic Public Library was organized in December, 1887, by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Mayor, in compliance with a popular vote which accepted the provisions of the public library act of 1884. A reading room was opened in February, 1888, and the circulating library in 1889. In 1892 quarters were provided for the library in the City Hall, when a new charging system, a card catalogue and a printed catalogue of the 5,000 volumes then on hand were installed. In 1895, a reading room, known as the Dundee branch, was opened in a store in Second street, in order to provide library facilities for the residents of the manufacturing centre, at which time the City Council agreed to increase the library appropriation to one-half a mill on the assessed valuations. This experiment proved so successful that in 1903 Peter Reid built, equipped and presented to the city, as a memorial to his wife, a handsome stone

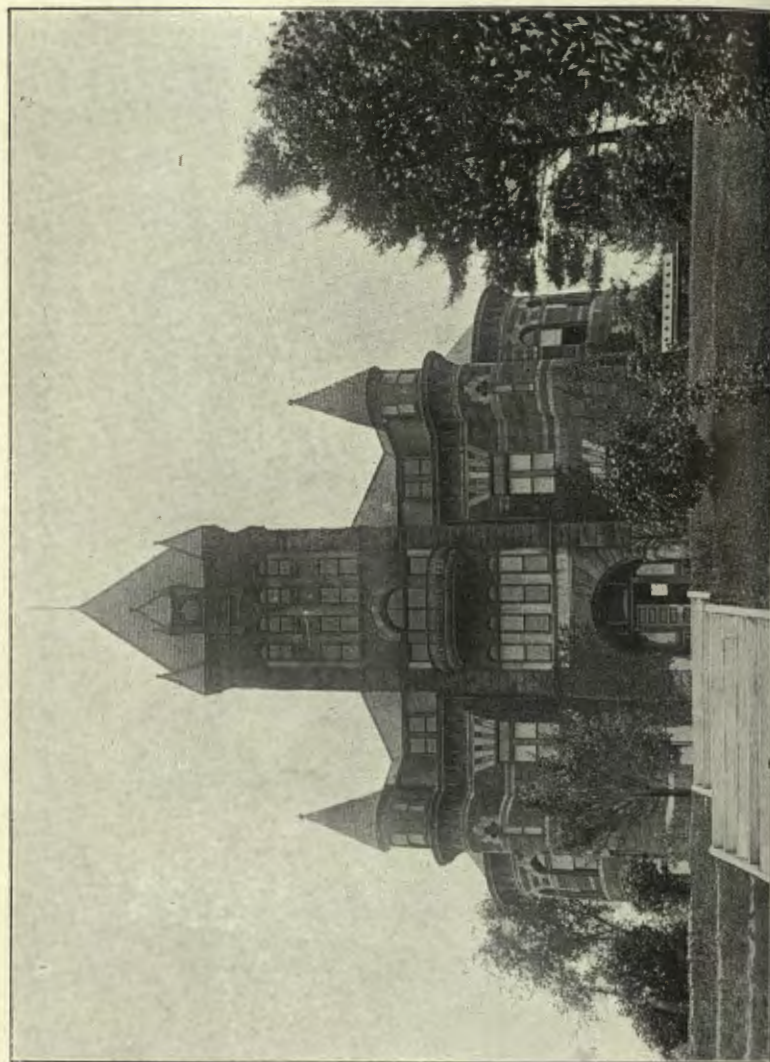
building, known as the Reid Memorial Library, provided with every facility for carrying on progressive work for this section of the city. In the twenty years of its existence the library income has grown from \$1,794 in 1888 to \$9,000 in 1907; 16,903 volumes have accumulated and 147,565 were borrowed during the past year. Books are lent to the schools and clubs; rooms in the Reid Memorial Library are provided for meetings of a social and educational nature, and free stereopticon lectures have been given during the past three winters.

The Paterson Free Public Library was founded in 1885. During the previous year the law under which it was established was enacted by the Legislature. The bill was drawn up and put through the Legislature in the Spring of 1884. The Hon. William Prall (now Rev. Dr. William Prall), then a representative from Paterson in the Assembly, was largely responsible for the movement and the principal author of the bill. Under this law, either as originally passed or as since revised, most of the free public libraries in the cities of this State have been established. The library was opened in January, 1886, with about 4,000 volumes. Frank P. Hill, now librarian of the Brooklyn Public Library, was the first librarian. The public library idea was something quite new to Paterson and only five books were issued the first day. However, in the course of the year nearly 60,000 volumes were loaned; the number in the library having increased to about 7,000 volumes.

The library was started in the first floor rooms of a private house rented for the purpose, the second floor being occupied shortly afterwards by the reading room. After three years, in 1888, these quarters had become overcrowded, and in November of that year Mrs. Mary E. Ryle, of Paterson, presented to the trustees her father's house, to be remodeled and used for library purposes. The remodeling and enlarging of this house cost about \$19,000, which expense was paid by Mrs. Ryle. This building was finished and occupied about the end of June, 1890. Here the library increased and prospered until its quarters were again too restricted. In 1901 a large addition, built at the rear of the original building and doubling its capacity, was finished.



Reid Memorial Library—Passaic.



City Hall and Free Public Library—Passaic,

and occupied. The cost of this addition was paid chiefly by Mrs. Ryle. About the same time the High School Library was taken over, added to and catalogued and established as a branch of the Free Public Library. At the beginning of 1902 the library and the High School Branch combined had upon their accession books upwards of 40,000 volumes.

In February of 1902 occurred the great Paterson fire, which destroyed the greater part of the central section of the city. The High School and the library were both totally destroyed. The library building and all books not out in the hands of citizens were burned. Immediate steps were taken towards re-establishing the institution. A large house was rented and citizens were called upon to return the books in their possession. About 3,000 were received. These were, however, of course, the least valuable. A good collection of reference books, including many costly illustrated volumes which did not circulate, were burned. Insurance was collected as soon as possible and the work of buying books and re-establishing the library was rapidly carried on, so that by June it was again thrown open for public use with about 6,000 catalogued volumes on the shelves.

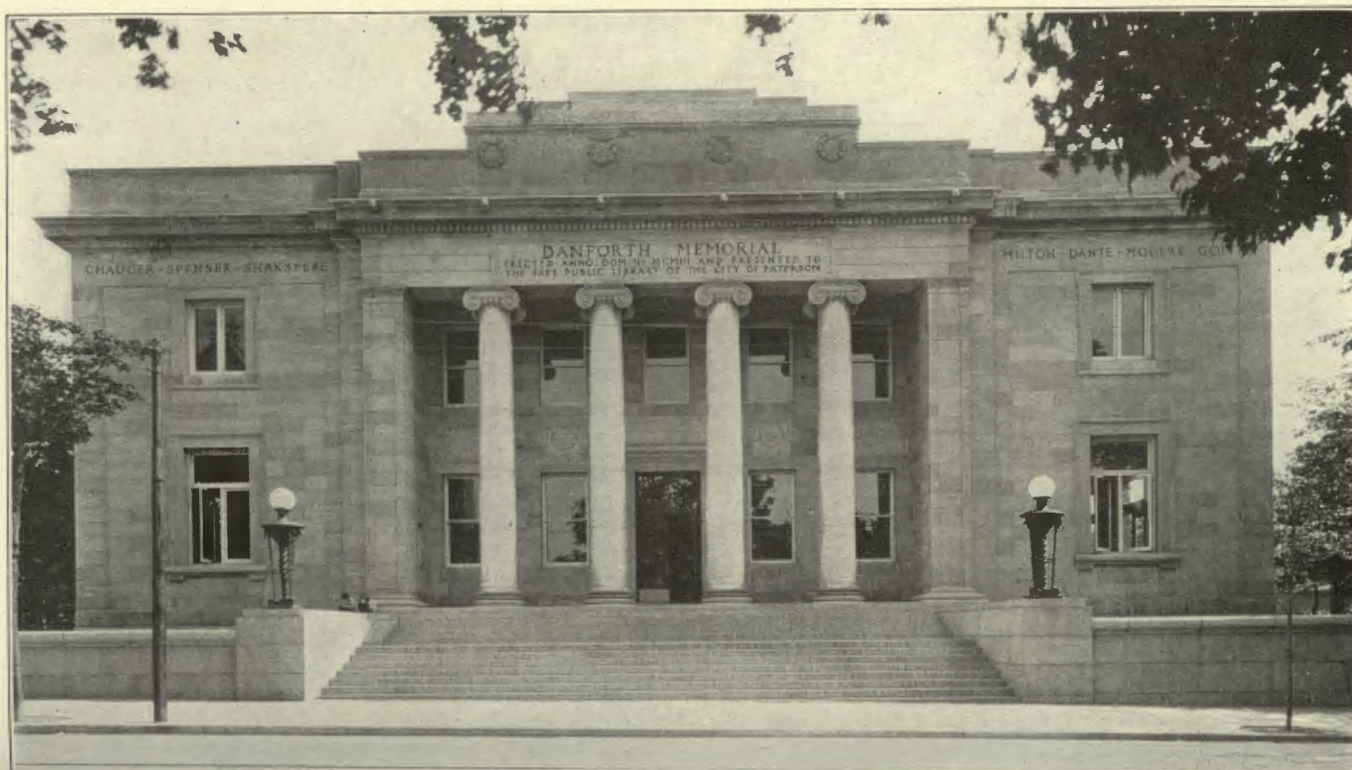
Meanwhile, about a week after the fire, the trustees, at a meeting held at the house of a member of the board, had received a letter from Mrs. Ryle promising the sum of \$100,000 to be used, together with the insurance received from the old building, in erecting a new library building. While the work of collecting and cataloguing books was going on as fast as possible, the trustees and the librarian were making a study of the plans and requirements of the new building, assisted by Professor Hamlin, of Columbia University; and, after an architectural competition, the work was awarded to Henry Bacon, of New York. The building was completed and opened for business on May 1st, 1905. Mrs. Ryle died early in the previous winter. She added largely to her original gift, and still more was given by her family to carry to completion the building and its furnishing. The Danforth Library building was erected as a memorial to the late Charles Danforth, father of Mrs. Ryle. The total contributions of Mrs. Ryle and her family amounted

to about a quarter of a million dollars. It will thus be seen that the history of the Paterson Free Public Library involves a story of generous public benefaction, continued through many years, by one of the prominent families of the city. Public appreciation of this generosity has recently been shown by the erection of a superb, artistic bronze memorial in the entrance hall of the building, the cost of which was raised by popular subscription. At the time of occupying the new building about 25,000 volumes had been collected and catalogued. On December 1st, 1907, the number of volumes on the accession books of the main library and the branch combined was 35,240.

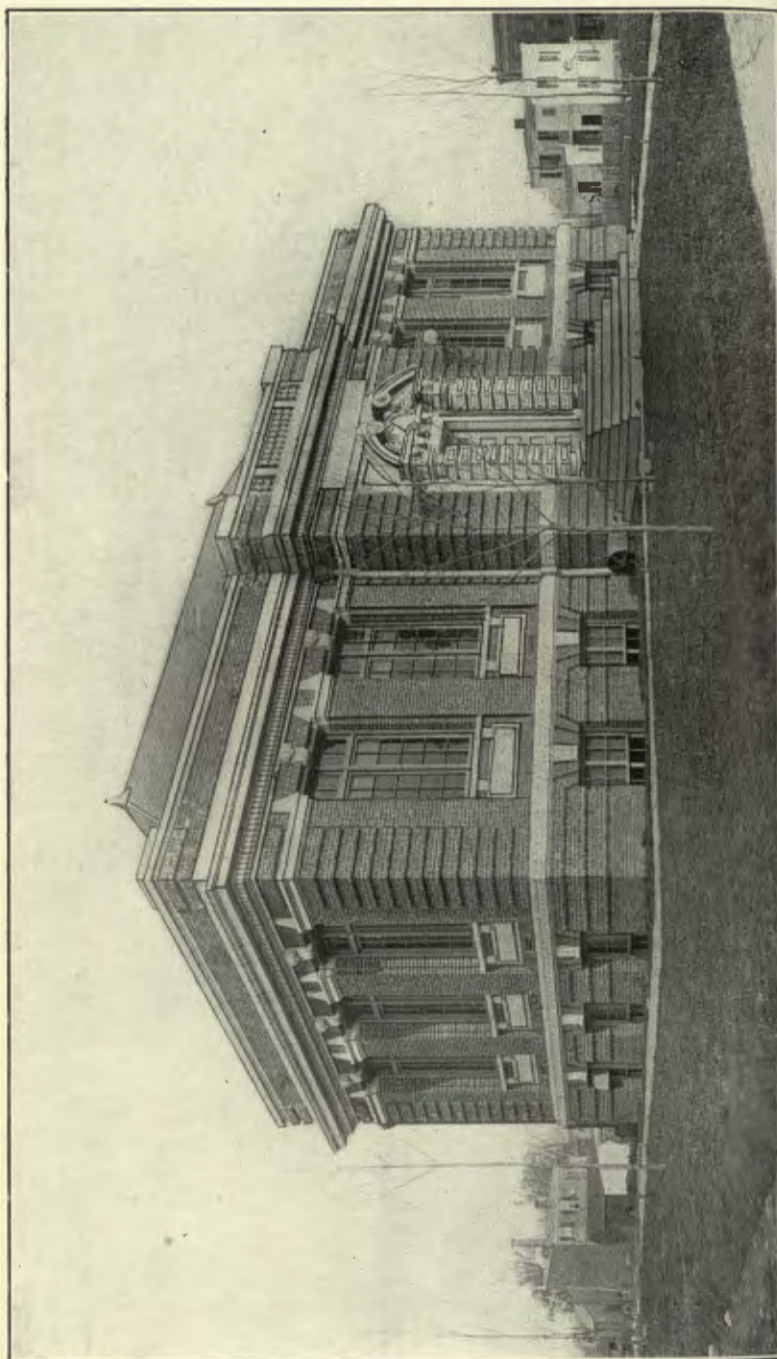
By act of the last Legislature the law providing for the mandatory appropriations for the support of the public library and the public parks in Paterson was repealed. The appropriation for the support of the library this year is at the rate of \$1,800 per month—a sum much too small to allow of doing the extensive work which is at hand and much of which must therefore wait. Notwithstanding this fact, the first of a system of branch libraries has been established during the year and is doing successful work—the circulation amounting to about five thousand volumes a month, there being about two thousand volumes available at the branch. The branch was opened October 26th, 1907.

During the current year, which ends on January 31st, the circulation of books from the central library shows a large increase over the previous year, and the total circulation, including the three months of the branch, will be about 150,000 volumes. This is the equivalent of the home use about four and a half times of all books available for circulation. During the year this library has abolished the "age limit," formerly in force in the children's department, and has established a pay collection of the best current fiction—this department having proved very popular and successful—the two hundred volumes that are in the collection having been fully paid for by the loan fees received.

As early as 1825 a number of citizens issued stock and formed a Perth Amboy Library Company, of which the catalogue and



* Danforth Memorial Library—Paterson.



Perth Amboy Public Library (Carnegie).

list of subscribers' names is still extant, but about ten years later the company disbanded and the books became scattered. In 1888, the present library was started. In August of that year Miss Annie Rea Bower called together a representation of women from all the churches, and with them instituted the Perth Amboy Library Association. This organization was maintained until the city assumed charge, in the spring of 1896, when the question of the establishment of a free public library was submitted to the vote of the people and adopted. In 1901, Mr. Carnegie agreed to give \$20,000 for the erection of a library building, if the city would guarantee to raise \$2,000 annually for its support and furnish a suitable site; which conditions were accepted. The site was the gift of Messrs. McCoy and Lew-
 isohn brothers. On December 9th, 1903, the new building was opened to the public. The annual appropriation made by the city for the support of the library has increased from \$2,000 in 1903 to its present income of \$3,775. There are 5,384 volumes on the shelves. Four years ago the number of books circulated for home reading was 26,450. The circulation for 1907 will be between 35,000 and 36,000 volumes, one-third of these being taken by juvenile readers. In the treatment of the public the library is liberal, no guarantee being necessary if the name appears in the directory. For persons under eighteen the signature of parent or guardian is required. Since December, 1903, 3,160 cards have been issued to borrowers, among whom are people living in South Amboy, Sewaren and Woodbridge. The reading room is open every Sunday afternoon from 2 to 6 o'clock, during ten months of the year.

Pursuant to the provisions of the law of March 17th, 1879, the Common Council of Plainfield, on March 7th, 1881, adopted a resolution to establish and maintain the Plainfield Public Library and Reading Room. A room was rented, and the reading room of the library was opened. On May 31st, 1884, the library consisted of 175 volumes, mostly encyclopedias and standard histories, and as late as June 1st, 1885, the number of books and periodicals which it contained was only 298. In 1884, Job Male made known to the Board of Directors his

purpose to erect a building, and to donate the lot and building valued by him at \$25,000, to the directors for the benefit of the city of Plainfield, to be known as the Job Male Public Library, Art Gallery and Museum, whenever money and works of art and other articles of personal property suitable for such purposes, to the amount or value of \$20,000, should have been donated by other persons, and should have been paid or transferred and delivered for such purposes; it being understood that \$10,000 should be subscribed and paid in money and be applicable to the purchase of books. Under this arrangement \$10,000 was subscribed for the purchase of books, and works of art and other articles of the estimated value of \$10,000 were contributed or acquired for the art gallery.

By an act of the Legislature approved March 6th, 1886, the act under which the library and reading room was established was amended so as to authorize libraries and reading rooms organized under it to receive such donations as Mr. Male contemplated, and the levy, for purposes of maintenance, of an annual tax not exceeding one-half of one mill on the dollar of the taxable property in the city. On January 29th, 1891, Mr. Male died, and certain plans which he had formed for additional benefits to the library were never consummated. He had acquired a choice collection of Chinese porcelains and cloisonne, which was finally delivered to the directors. Special cases have been prepared for the preservation and care of this collection, for which a separate room has been set apart. On December 16th, 1893, George H. Babcock bequeathed to the trustees of the library the sum of \$10,000 for the purchase of industrial, mechanical and scientific books to be kept by themselves and known and designated forever as the "Babcock Scientific Library" for free public use and subject to the same rules and regulations as the Plainfield Public Library. He also bequeathed three brick houses, the rents from which should be used for the purpose of keeping up and enlarging the said Babcock Scientific Library.

In April, 1896, the children of the late John Taylor Johnston gave to the library his collection of ancient coins, and paid the cost of a suitable case provided for its preservation and exhibi-



Plainfield Public Library and Reading Room.



Ridgefield Park Free Library.



Waretown Library.

tion. On October 2d, 1900, Alexander Gilbert, in fulfilment of a request of his wife before her death, presented for the Art Gallery and Museum a very large and valuable collection of butterflies, and also provided twelve large cases specially constructed for their preservation and exhibition. This collection made by Mrs. Gilbert is believed to be the finest and most valuable of its kind in New Jersey, and is a very important accession. Numerous other persons have from time to time made gifts to the library of books and of other articles. This year Colonel Mason W. Tyler bequeathed to the library \$10,000, to be invested by the trustees and the income to be expended in purchasing books for the library.

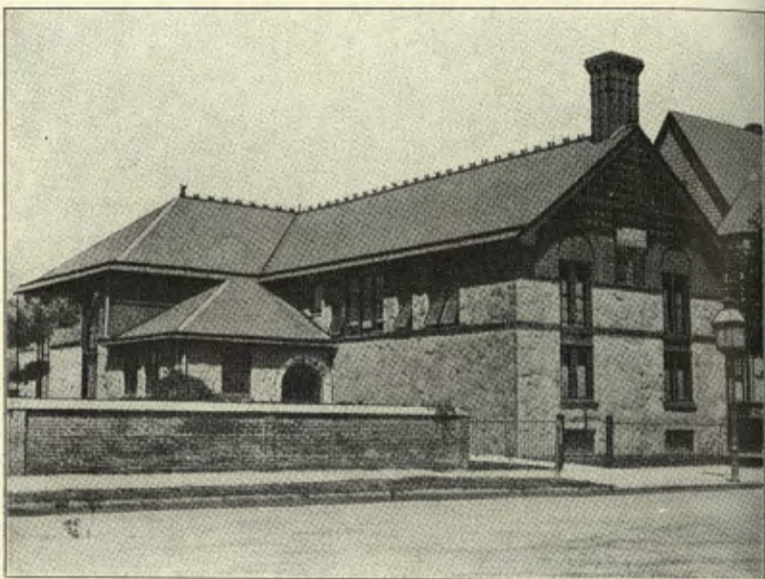
The library's increase in accessions has been a gradual growth from 175 volumes in the library at the end of May, 1884, to a net total of 32,260, of which there are 26,291 books for general circulation. The remainder are reference books consulted in the library. The circulation last year was 49,472, taken out by 4,984 card holders, or nearly 10 books per capita of those holding such cards. For the maintenance of the library during the year 1907, the Common Council appropriated \$7,500. The circulation of juvenile books during the year was 9,349, against 7,523 the year before, or an increase of more than twenty-four per cent. There are five school deposit stations, through which 5,273 volumes were distributed. This plan, as well as that of having such stations at some of the larger industrial works of the city, has resulted in affording the advantages of the library to many who would not otherwise have availed themselves of them. There are 221 periodicals regularly received, of which seventy-five are from subscription from the general fund, eighty-two from the Babcock fund and sixty-four by donation. Approximately the number of persons visiting the library during the past year was 54,762. Of these, 1,917 came on Sundays. The Sunday use of the library shows a steady if not a rapid growth, the increase of attendance during the past year being 399.

The Point Pleasant Library Association was incorporated in June, 1894. A library was opened to the public a month later,

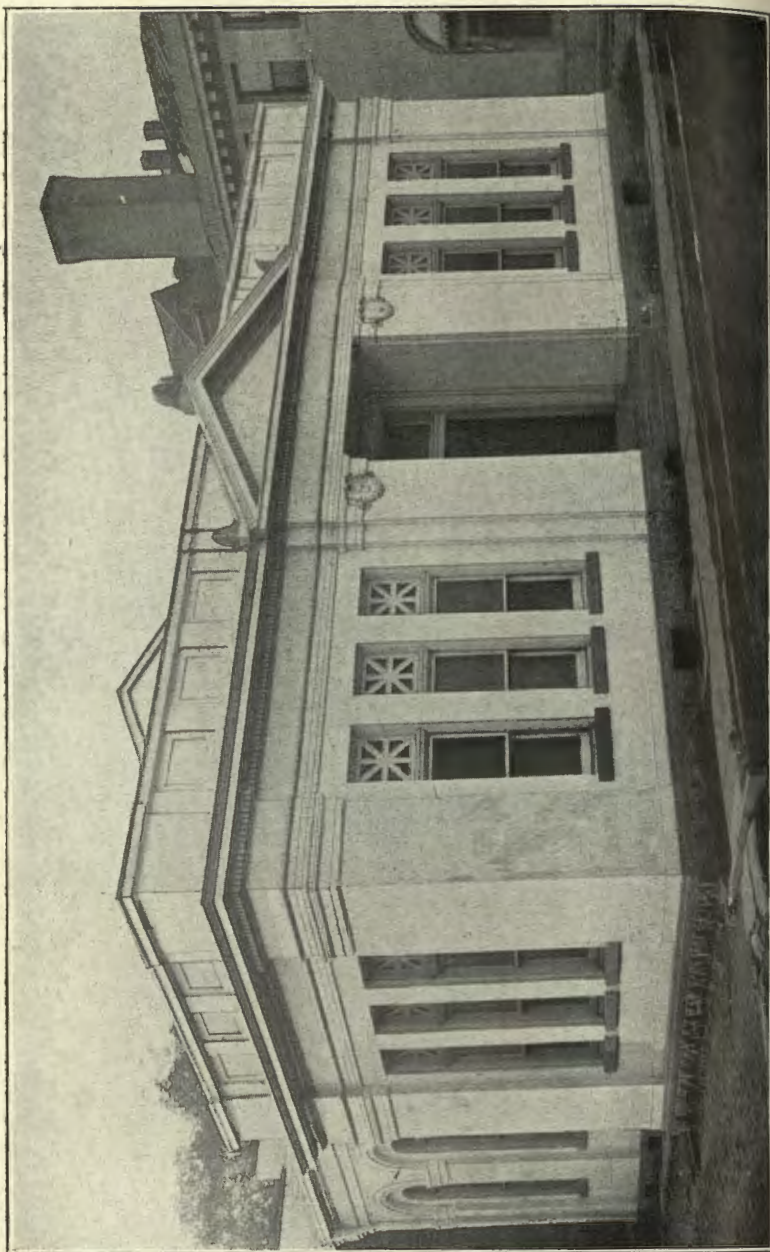
a room situated in the town hall being devoted to the purpose. Two years later, through the gift of two of the incorporators, a building was erected. The total number of volumes now on the shelves is 2,500. An income of nearly \$200 arises from the borough appropriation and the interest from a gift invested at the request of the donor. The Dewey Classification and Newark charging systems have been recently introduced. The library is open three times during each week for the space of two hours time.

Princeton University Library, the largest in New Jersey and one of the most important in the United States, began with the college, in 1746. In 1760, when the first catalogue was printed, it contained about 1,300 volumes. During the Revolution it was decimated, and in 1796 numbered only 2,300 volumes. It was partly destroyed by fire in 1802. In 1850 it numbered but 9,313 volumes, and in 1868 had but 14,000, without separate building or librarian. In the latter year the Elizabeth fund for the purchase of books was created by John C. Green, who in 1872-3 erected the Chancellor Green Library building. This having become crowded beyond its calculated capacity, provision was made on the occasion of the college sesquicentennial in 1896, by the late Mrs. Percy Rivington Pyne, for a new building with a capacity to shelve 1,200,000 volumes, besides adequate administration rooms, fifteen rooms for instruction in research, and a large room for the exhibition of rare books.

The new building forms a hollow quadrangle of about 160 feet square, connected by a delivery room of 50 by 20 feet with the Chancellor Green Library. It is fitted with modern improvements in heating, ventilation, stacks, electric elevators, interior telephone, etc., and has shelves at present to accommodate about 500,000 volumes. The Chancellor Green Library has been thoroughly refitted as the reference library and reading room of the university, and contains the standard and latest works in all departments. The general collection consists of more than 217,100 books, besides about 58,000 unbound periodicals and pamphlets, and includes a number of special collections.



Salem Library.



Somerville Public Library.

Books may be drawn by all members of the university, by officers and students of the Theological Seminary, and by any others who may apply properly introduced. The University, Theological Seminary, and the Whig and Philosophic Literary Societies have in their libraries a total of 315,900 bound volumes.

The beginning of the Library of Princeton Theological Seminary was made in the latter part of 1812, when twelve books were purchased from a small appropriation made by the directors of the seminary for the purchase of books. For the first seven years the library was kept in the residence of Dr. Alexander, and 1819 was moved to a room in the seminary building now known as Alexander Hall. In 1843 James Lenox erected for it the building now known as the old library, and when the collection outgrew its quarters there, Mr. Lenox erected a new building, to which the main body of the books was transferred in 1879. The two buildings will accommodate 130,000 volumes. The library now contains 77,800 volumes. Up to 1877 the library's affairs were managed by one of the professors, Drs. Archibald Alexander, William Henry Green and Charles A. Aiken serving as librarians until that year, when Rev. Dr. W. H. Roberts was elected to that office. Rev. Joseph H. Dulles succeeded Dr. Roberts in 1886.

The work of general reorganization begun last year by the Rahway Library has steadily progressed, the card catalogue rapidly assuming proportions of usefulness. Though fiction is still most largely in demand, the reclassifying of the books already bears fruit in an increase of interest in and demand for the more solid books thus brought to the notice and knowledge of the public. The list of subscribers is larger than ever before, and the circulating department in proportion. The library is now open two days each week, and there is a cosy corner in the gallery for the juvenile department.

The Red Bank Library is between twenty-five and thirty years old. The circulation from May 1st, 1906, to May 1st, 1907, was 9,004 books. The rooms have been newly furnished during the last year.

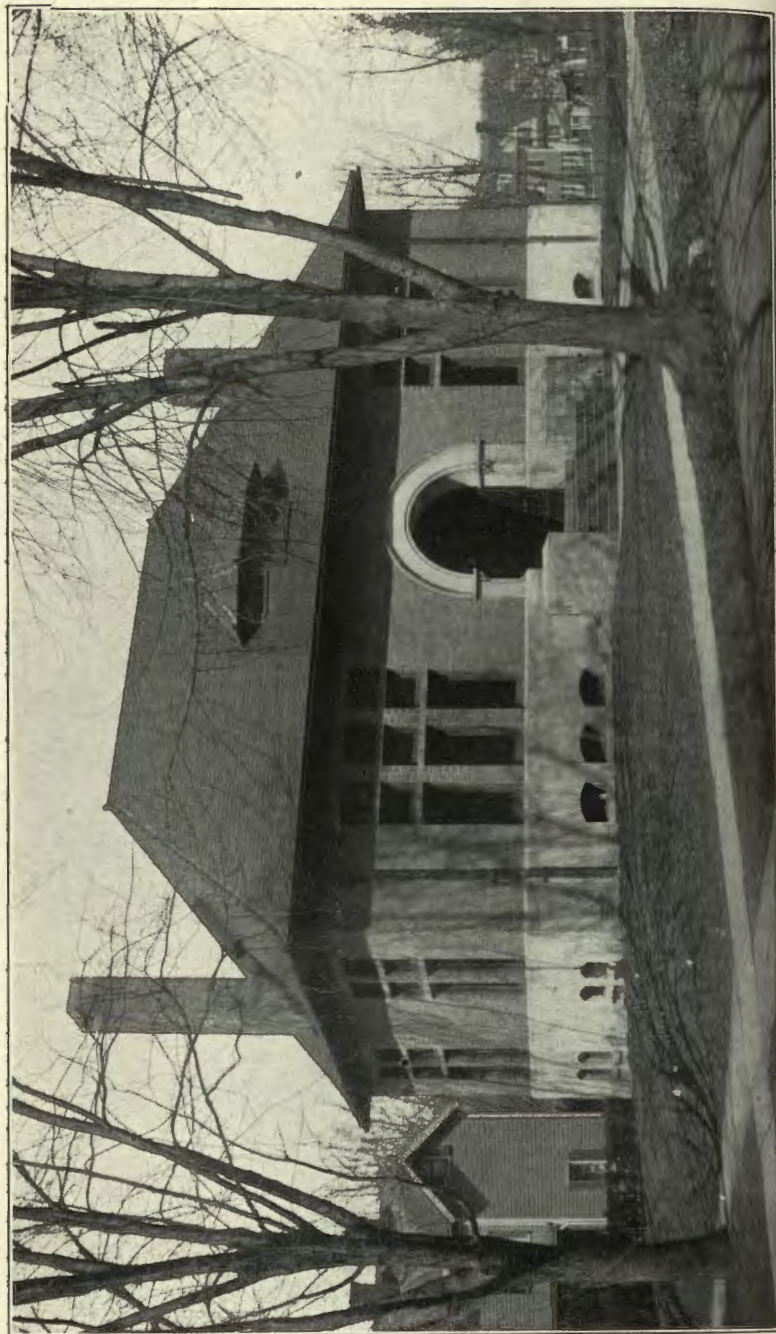
The Salem Library Company differs from most of the libraries in the State in being a corporation under the laws of the State, with its books and building owned by its shareholders. It was organized more than a hundred years ago. On March 24th, 1804, the constitution was drafted and accepted by its members. In April of that year, the county freeholders granted it the privilege of the use of a small room in the Court House building, and in July it held its first annual meeting with eighty-seven members. In July, 1809, it was incorporated. In 1885, W. Graham Tyler, in the name and at the instance of his father, John Tyler, presented to the Library Company the handsome stone building it now occupies. Mr. Tyler also duplicated a subscription made for an endowment, so that the Library Company has now \$5,000 invested funds. The library has about 12,000 volumes, including government publications. It is open to and largely used by the older pupils in the public schools. The income of the library during the past year was about \$600. The number of books circulated this year was about 5,000 volumes.

The present Shrewsbury Library was organized in 1862, and incorporated in 1879. After many struggles, it is now in its own building, and is securely established. It numbers about 2,830 volumes, of which a little more than one-third is fiction. It is open on Saturday only, with an average circulation of thirty books. The library has no endowment or stated income, and is supported entirely by entertainments, by gifts from its friends, and from the fees from a Woman's Club, which was organized twenty-six years ago to assist in supporting the library. A library was in existence at Shrewsbury before the Revolution. Twenty-one of its books have been found, are now in the library in fine preservation, and are used as reference books only.

A notice signed by leading citizens of Somerville was printed in the local papers, calling a meeting on October 16th, 1871, for the purpose of organizing a public library. The meeting was well attended, a finance committee was appointed, and re-



Summit Free Public Library.



South Orange Free Public Library.

ported at the next meeting that 295 shares of stock at \$2 per share had been taken. The yearly subscriptions are sufficient to pay the librarian's salary and the main expenses. Entertainments of different kinds are resorted to for means to purchase new books. There is no endowment fund. Owing to its form of government, the town has no power to levy a tax for the support of the library in order to make it free for all. In January, 1890, the library was incorporated under the act of 1888 by the name of the Somerville Public Library. A lot was purchased in 1900, and in 1902 the library moved into its present building, which cost \$7,000, and is owned free of encumbrances. The income of the library from all sources for 1907 was \$695. There are 5,000 volumes in the library, not including government publications.

South Orange Free Public Circulating Association, incorporated under the act of April 8th, 1884, opened its library to the public November 6th, 1886, with 2,000 books. It is maintained by voluntary subscriptions, fellow members paying \$10, and associate members \$2 a year. In 1896 a building lot was donated, and the present building erected, costing approximately \$10,000. Number of volumes now in the library, 8,513. Circulation for the past year (May, 1906-1907), 23,594 volumes; income for the year, \$2,079.96.

The first step toward the establishment of a library in Summit was the organization, in December, 1873, of an incorporated library association. Prior to this, there was an organization known as the Ladies' Book Club. In 1889, a citizen of Summit offered a plot of land to the Library Association, with the proviso that the trustees should obtain subscriptions to erect a building. On June 10th, 1891, the library building was formally opened. In April, 1893, the trustees made the library free to all the residents of Summit, and in 1901 turned it over to the town under the act of April 1st, 1884. The number of volumes in the library now is 6,000; the circulation for the year October, 1906-1907, was 15,084 volumes; the number of active members is now 1,000, and fully thirty magazines and papers are subscribed for.

In 1905 a deposit station was located at one of the drug stores in the center of the town, for the convenience of the people living at a distance from the library. Ten months later a branch library was established near to the post office. This branch work is carried on very economically. All the duplicates and a picked collection of books, changed from time to time, are kept on the shelves of the branch. During the last two years the library has been completely reorganized, classified and catalogued according to the Dewey system. A children's corner has been arranged, and a story hour on Saturday mornings undertaken. Co-operation with the schools is carried on to the full extent of the library's resources, the reference department being steadily enlarged to meet the demands made upon it.

The Public Library of the Town of Union was organized and incorporated in 1891 under the provisions of the law of 1890. Until a little over a year ago it was located in one room in the town hall. Now it has a handsome two-story building, 45 by 86 feet, located on two lots, erected at a cost of \$25,000, contributed by Mr. Carnegie. Its income is \$2,500 a year from the town.

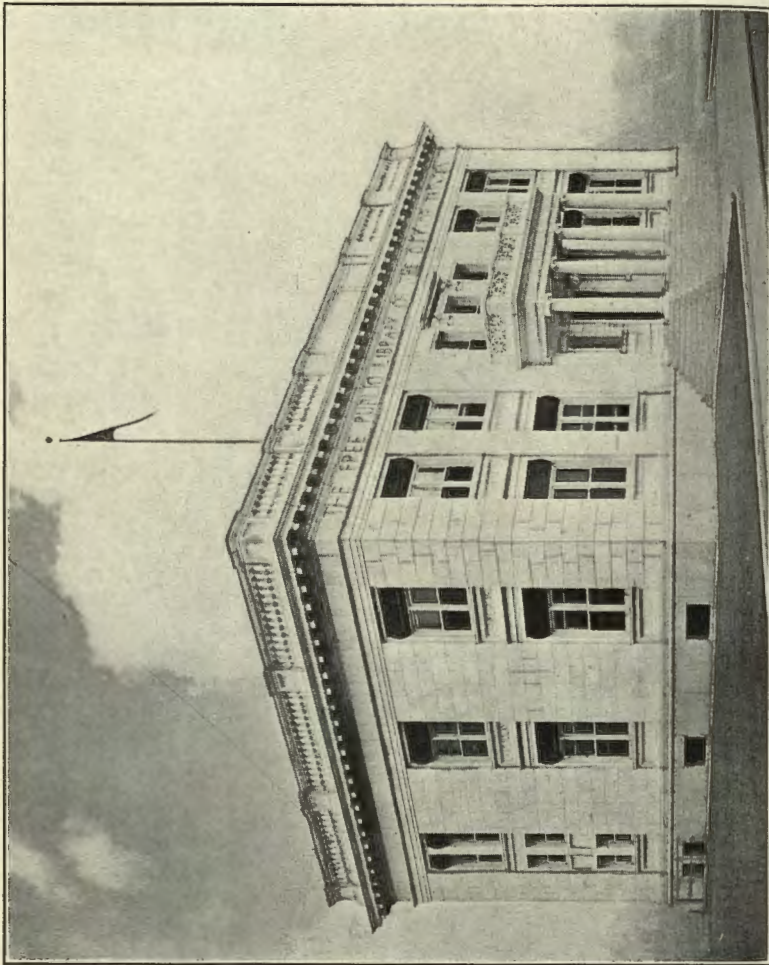
The Trenton Free Public Library was opened to the public in June, 1902. It owns its own building, erected at a cost of about \$100,000, paid by the city. It is organized according to modern principles of public libraries, and the work carried on during the year 1906-7 is officially reported as follows: Circulation of books from main department, 149,132 volumes; from juvenile department, 51,163; total, 200,295. The number of visitors to the reference department was 11,165. An inventory for the year shows that the library has on its shelves 37,245 volumes and 557 pamphlets. The number of readers in good standing is 16,412 (13,276 adults and 3,136 children below 14 years of age). The library hours are 9 A. M. to 9 P. M., daily, excepting Sundays and certain holidays. The library receives an annual appropriation from the city amounting to \$19,000. The most noteworthy new feature in the activity of the library is the publication of the *Library Bulletin*, the first number of which appeared November, 1907. The *Bulletin* will contain a list of new books, special bibli-

ographies and other news pertaining to the interest of the library. The *Bulletin* will appear bi-monthly, and may be had free at the library, or it will be sent by mail to any applicant at a yearly cost of 10 cents, payable in advance.

The Verona Public Library was organized by the ladies of the Isabella Club, about thirteen years ago. In 1900 the Verona Public Library Association was incorporated. At the present time it has over 1,000 volumes, and the circulation last year was 1,199, of which 931 volumes were fiction and 368 non-fiction. It is open only once a week, and there is no reading-room in connection with it. The expenses of the library are paid by subscriptions and entertainments.

One of the most beautiful and substantial of Vineland's buildings, constructed of Port Deposit graystone, is the Free Public Library, costing upwards of \$16,000, and supported by the borough and township. The inauguration of the library movement must be credited to the Woman's Club, which organized the Vineland Library Association, and that association, on October 1st, 1901, transferred to the trustees of the Vineland Free Public Library Corporation 2,121 books, and subscriptions to twenty-seven periodicals. The present number of volumes owned is over 7,000, not including magazines. The number of borrowers at present is 4,390, and the weekly circulation of books about 900. The circulation this year has been 33,000. The library's income is \$1,200.

The Westfield Public Library is the outgrowth of a Ladies' Book Club, started about thirty-five years ago, with 50 or 100 books. In 1905 they had an efficient organization, and 4,500 volumes, but no home. In that year the town, by special election, established a free public library under the third-of-a-mill law, and the books and management were turned over to the new organization. The following year a lot was purchased upon a prominent corner, the money being raised wholly in the town, and the present building was erected, at a cost of \$10,000; that sum being furnished by Mr. Carnegie. The circulation for the first year in



Trenton Free Public Library.

which the library was free was 18,594, and the number of users had increased four-fold over that of the year before. The new library building was opened in April, 1907, and the circulation from then up to December 1st, a period of about seven and a half months, was about 14,000. The income for support will, for the coming year, be about \$1,600, coming entirely from the tax and a small sum from fines. Thus, in Westfield's case the free library law has turned what had been called "the town orphan" into a well-supported institution, with a home which in its situation is one of the striking features of the town, and has magnified its influence five-fold.

The Westfield public school library was founded about the year 1875, by Oliver Parry, who was then teaching in the school. The money for establishing it was raised by entertainments given by the pupils, and by lectures. It has since been sustained by the local taxpayers and the State. The library now contains 1,000 volumes, two-thirds of which is fiction. In the fall of 1906 the library was classified and catalogued. The number of books circulated this year was 1,200.

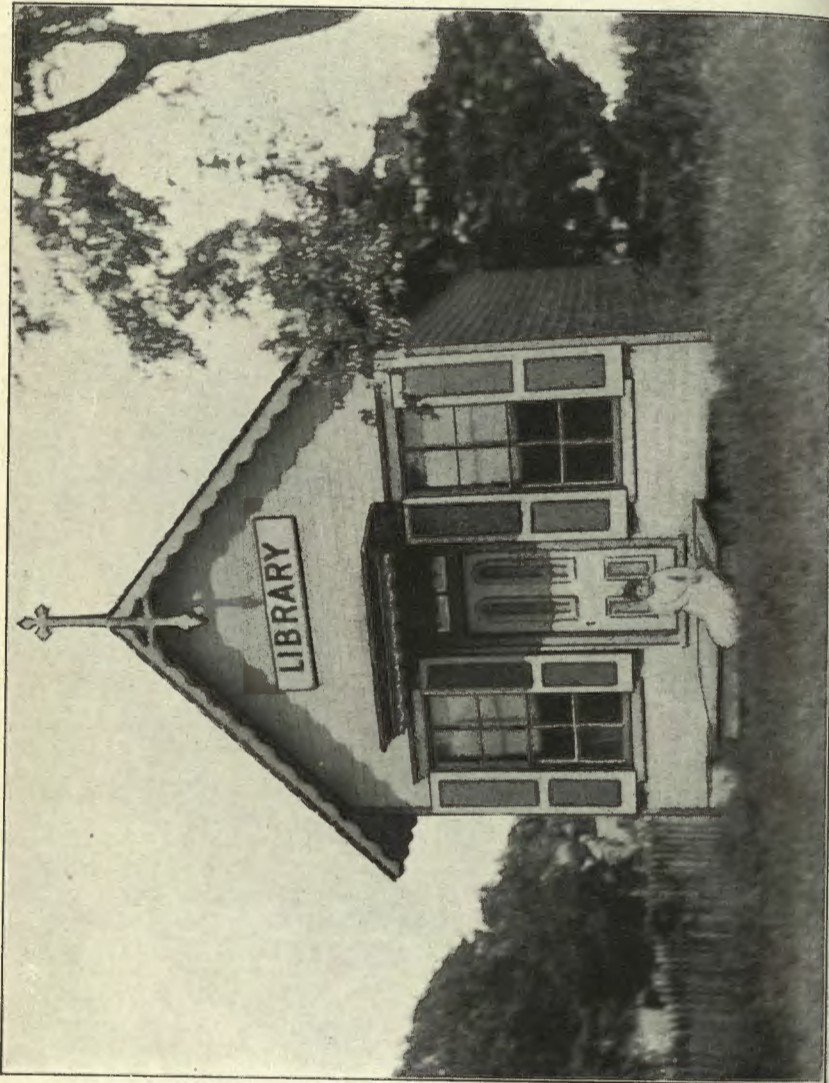
The Wenonah Public Library Association was organized in October, 1900. It was opened in a small room in a private dwelling, with 200 books, but now has a building on the main street of the town and 1,575 books. The circulation last year was 2,260. The income of the library last year was \$145, about half of which came from subscriptions and the balance from donations.

The library of the Deptford Institute is a consolidation of the Old Men's Library, organized more than a hundred years ago, and the Woodbury Female Library, organized a little later. About twenty-five years ago they were merged into one library, charging for the use of the books but keeping a free reading room. In 1893 the trustees of the school fund, under care of Friends, decided that the best thing they could do with the school property which would not be needed for school purposes any longer, would be to turn it over for library purposes on a satisfactory basis; therefore an arrangement was entered into whereby the already combined libraries were turned over to "The Deptford Institute," under care of the city of Woodbury. The income is derived from

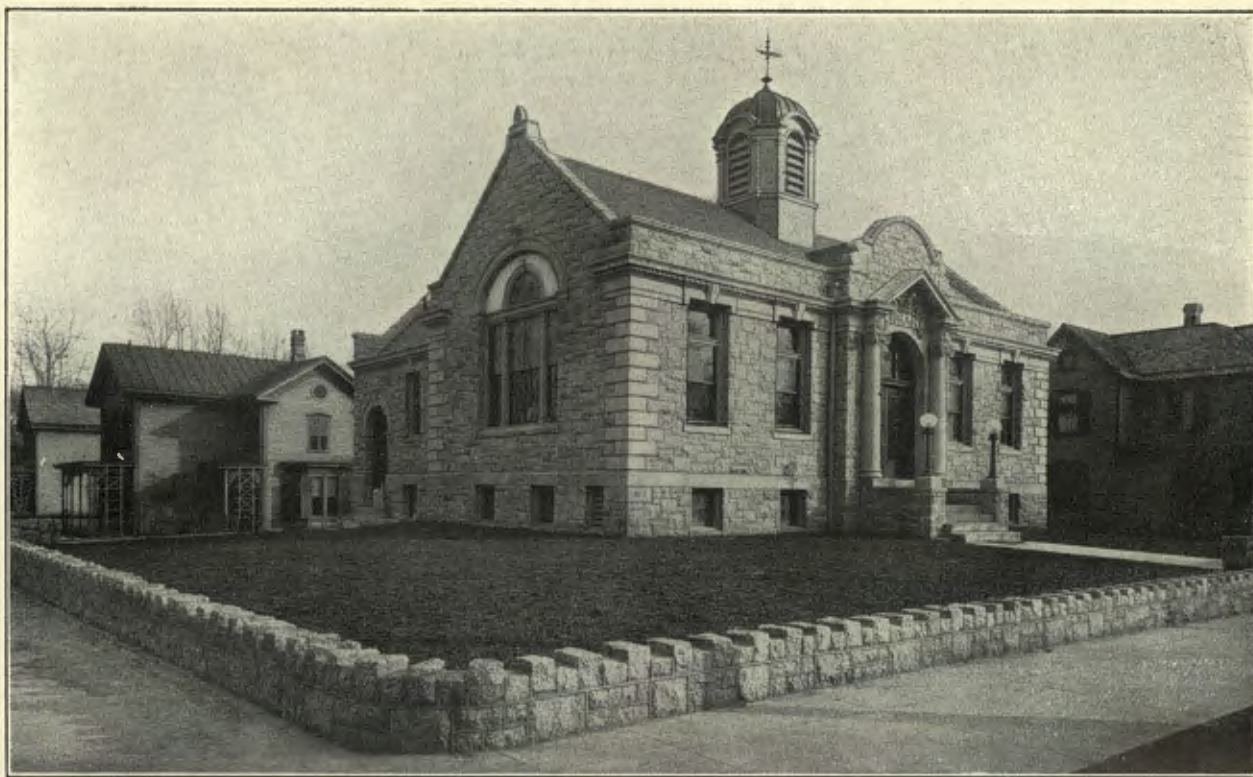


Free Public Library—Town of Union (Carnegie).

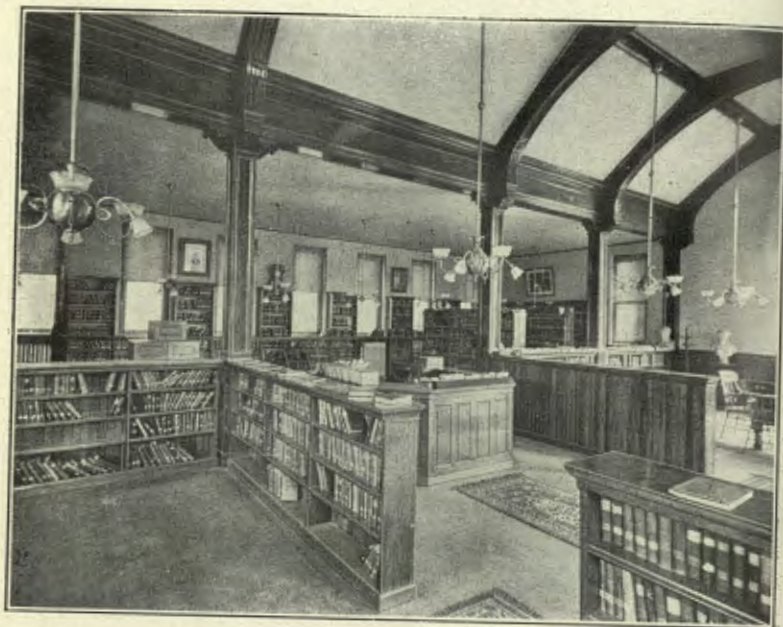
the city as indemnity or rental for use of building and invested funds, a total of about \$250 per annum, in addition to use of first floor of building for library purposes and the librarian's salary, which is paid by the city. The Board of Trustees under the charter are required to give one or more free lectures each year, so that the income is not large enough to enable the trustees to purchase many books. The library has about 6,500 books. The circulation in 1906 was 16,909, and from January 1st to November 22d, 1907, 20,082.



Tuckerton Free Library—Tuckerton.



Vineland Free Public Library (Carnegie).



Interior, Vineland Public Library.

New Jersey Library Laws.

CHAPTER 150.

An Act concerning free public libraries.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF LIBRARIES IN CITIES, BOROUGHES, TOWNS, TOWNSHIPS AND VILLAGES.

1. Any city, borough, town, township or village may, in the manner herein-after provided, establish a free public library within its corporate limits.

2. The governing body of any such municipality shall observe the provisions of this act when the same shall be assented to by a majority of the legal voters in such municipality at any election, general or special, at which the adoption of this act shall be submitted to vote by direction of such governing body; such question may be submitted to vote either at a general election or at a special election to be held for that purpose; the clerk of such municipality shall cause public notice of such general or special election to be given by advertisement, signed by himself and set up in at least five public places in such municipality for at least ten days previous to the date of such election and published for the same period in two newspapers printed or circulating in such municipality. The ballots used at such election shall be printed or written, or partly printed and partly written, and the question of the adoption of the provisions of this act may be printed or written on the ballots used at a general election, on which may be the words "for a free public library" and "against a free public library," and the election officers of any such municipality shall make a true and correct return of the result of such election in writing, under their hands, and said statement shall be entered at large upon the minutes of such governing body. Where the voter shall strike off the ballot the words "against a free public library" such vote shall be counted as in favor of the adoption of this act; where the voter shall strike off the ballot the words "for a free public library" such vote shall be counted as against the adoption of this act; if neither the words "for a free public library" nor "against a free public library" shall be stricken off any ballot such ballot shall not be counted for or against the adoption of this act; where any municipality shall vote against the establishment of a free public library such vote shall not preclude the holding of another election, general or special, to vote for or against the adoption of this act.

3. If a majority of the votes so counted shall contain the words "for a free public library" the provisions of this act shall be deemed to have been

adopted, and it shall become the duty of the governing body, or appropriate board of said municipality, annually thereafter to appropriate and raise by taxation a sum equal to one-third of a mill on every dollar of assessable property within such municipality.

[See Chapter 174, Laws of 1907, as to "all cities of this State now or hereafter having within their territorial limits a population of not less than 100,000 nor more than 200,000 inhabitants."]

4. It shall be lawful to raise by taxation annually for the support and use of said library, in addition to the sum required to be raised by section three, a sum not exceeding one-sixth of a mill on every dollar of assessable property in such municipality; and the sums assessed and collected by virtue of this act shall be used for no other purpose than for the use of a free public library.

II. APPOINTMENT, POWER AND DUTIES OF TRUSTEES OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

5. A board of trustees of the free public library shall be formed immediately in any municipality which shall adopt the provisions of this act, said board to consist of seven members, one of whom shall be the mayor or the chairman of the governing body of such municipality, as the case may be, ex-officio, and one the superintendent of public instruction of such municipality ex officio, or in case such municipality shall have no superintendent of public instruction, then the president of the board of education, ex officio, and five citizens to be appointed by the mayor or chairman of the governing body of such municipality from among the residents therein; such appointments, in all municipalities except cities, to be made by and with the consent of the governing body of such municipality, and for the terms of one, two, three, four and five years respectively, as they may be selected by such mayor or chairman. Upon the expiration of the term of office of any trustee the mayor or the chairman of the governing body of such municipality shall appoint some citizen for a term of five years in the same manner as the original appointment was made; vacancies occurring in said board of trustees shall be filled for the unexpired term only, in the same manner as the original appointments are made.

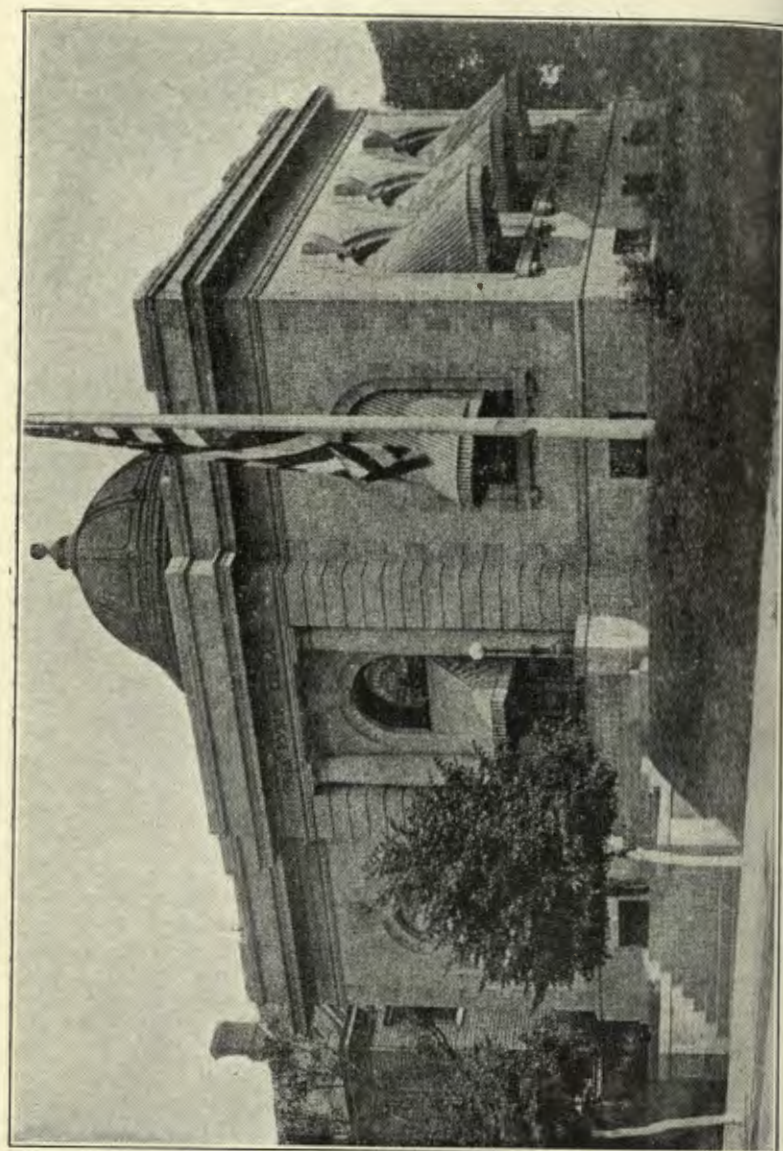
6. The board of trustees shall be a body corporate under the name of "the trustees of the free public library of _____" (naming said municipality wherein said library shall be established). Said trustees shall have corporate powers of succession, may sue and be sued, and adopt a corporate seal; said board shall meet at some convenient time and place in said municipality within ten days of the time of their appointment; they shall immediately proceed to organize by the election from their members of a president, treasurer and secretary, who shall hold their offices for one year and until their successors are elected; they shall also make and execute under their hands and seals a certificate setting forth their appointment and their organization and the names of their officers elected; such certificate shall be acknowledged in the same manner that conveyances of real estate are required to be acknowledged, and recorded in the clerk's office of the county in which such municipality is located. They shall also send a certified copy of such certificate to the office of the secretary of state, at Trenton, to be there

library, said board of trustees may certify to the common council, or other board or body having charge of the finances of such city, the amount of money, in addition to such moneys as they may have on hand applicable to such purposes, necessary for the purpose of making such purchase of land, the erection of buildings or other improvements thereof, and shall also certify therewith the total amount of moneys and funds belonging to the trustees of such free public library available for the purchase of lands or erection of buildings, and an estimated account of the amount necessary for the maintenance of the said library for the balance of the then current year, and thereupon such common council, or other body or board, may, by resolution, at its discretion and with the approval of the mayor of such city, authorize and empower the board of trustees of said free public library to expend such sums of money, in addition to the moneys belonging to it and not needed for the expenses of maintenance for the remainder of the then fiscal year, as to such common council, or such other body or board, may seem proper for such purposes, not to exceed, however, the amount certified as aforesaid by the board of trustees of the free public library; and upon the passage of such resolution the board of trustees of said free public library shall be empowered and authorized, by and with the consent of the mayor of such city, to purchase real estate, and to erect buildings and make improvements thereon, and to expend moneys therefor to the amount of such appropriation and surplus; *provided, however*, that no lands shall be purchased for the purpose of erecting thereon a free public library building except with the concurrence of such common council, or such other body or board, which concurrence shall be expressed by resolution of such common council, or such other body or board, by and with the approval of the mayor of such city. The title of real estate so purchased shall be taken in the name of such city, but the use and control of the same shall be in such board of trustees of the free public library so long as it shall be used for free public library purposes.

12. When the board of trustees of the free public library in any city of this state may desire to take, use or occupy any lands, improved or unimproved, either in whole or in part, for the purposes of their building and library pursuant to the authority and power vested in said board by section 11 of this act, and the said trustees cannot agree with the owner or owners of such lands, or with other persons interested therein, as to the amount of compensation to be paid for such taking, use, diversion or occupation or interest, proceedings shall be taken by said trustees to acquire said lands and ascertain the amount of compensation to be paid therefor, in the manner provided by the general laws of this state for the condemnation and taking of lands for public uses.

V. EQUIPPING LIBRARIES IN CITIES.

13. Any city that shall accept the provisions of this act, or that has heretofore established a free public library pursuant to law, and has purchased or shall purchase lands, and has erected or shall erect buildings thereon, or both, for the purposes of a free public library, and has made or shall make appropriations therefor under this act, is hereby authorized to make additional appropriation for the equipment, furnishing and decorating of such library



West Hoboken Free Public Library (Carnegie).

PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION.

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building in manner following: The board of trusees of such public library shall certify to the common council or other board or body having charge and control of the finances of such city the amount necessary for the equipment, furnishing and decorating of such library building, and thereupon such common council or other body or board may by resolution, at its discretion and with the approval of the mayor of such city, make appropriation of such money and authorize and empower the board of trustees of such free public library to expend such sum of money, and upon the passage of such resolution the board of trustees of such public library shall be empowered and authorized to enter into contracts for such equipment, furnishing and decorating, and to expend money therefor to the amount of such appropriation.

VI. ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR LIBRARY PURPOSES BY CITIES.

14. Any city that shall hereafter accept the provisions of this act or has heretofore established a free public library pursuant to law shall have power to create and issue bonds for the acquiring of lands, the acquiring and erection and improvement of buildings and appliances for library purposes, and the equipment, furnishing and decorating of library buildings, such bonds to bear interest not exceeding the rate of five per centum per annum and to be sold at not less than par, and to be issued for such time and under such terms and conditions as shall be prescribed by the common council or other body or board having charge of the finances of the city; and such bonds may contain such provisions for a sinking fund and for payment as said common council or other body having charge of the finances of said city shall determine; and such city shall make provision by general taxation for the payment of the principal and interest of the said bonds. In case the powers of any such city to issue bonds are now limited by law to be a fixed percentage of the assessed value of its taxable property, such city shall have power to create and issue bonds in the manner and for the purposes above set forth to the extent of one-half of one per centum of the assessed value of its taxable property in excess of such limit now existing.

VII. ERECTING LIBRARY BUILDINGS IN BOROUGHES, TOWNS, TOWNSHIPS AND VILLAGES.

15. When any individual or corporation has offered or hereafter may offer to the trustees of the free public library of any borough, town, township or village in this state which shall hereafter accept the provisions of this act or has heretofore established a free public library pursuant to law, or has offered or hereafter may offer to the council or other governing body of any such municipality, to provide or erect a building to be used as a free public library upon condition that such municipality, or the trustees of the free public library therein, or the council or governing body thereof, provide a site for such a building, it shall be lawful for the council or other governing body of any such municipality, by resolution adopted by the votes of a majority of all the members thereof, to appropriate for the purpose of purchasing a suitable site upon which to erect such library building, a sum of money not exceeding three-fourths of one mill on every dollar of assessable property returned by the as-

essor of such municipality in his last preceding levy for the purpose of annual taxation therein; and thereupon the board of trustees of the free public library in such municipality shall be vested with sufficient power and authority to purchase land for said purpose and to spend moneys therefor not exceeding the amount of such appropriation; *provided, however,* that the title to lands so purchased shall be taken in the corporate name of the municipality, but the use and control of the same and of the building to be erected thereon shall be in such board of trustees of the free public library so long as the same shall be used for free public library purposes.

16. To defray the expense of such purchase the common council, or other governing body of any such municipality, is hereby authorized to issue and sell the corporate bonds of such municipality, not exceeding in the aggregate the amount of such appropriation, which bonds shall be of such denomination and shall be made payable within such period not exceeding ten years from the date of their issue and bear such rate of interest, not exceeding five per centum payable semi-annually, as such council or governing body may determine. Said bonds shall be made payable in such manner that an equal proportion of the whole amount issued shall become due and payable in each year after the date of issue thereof; said bonds shall be designated "free public library bonds," shall not be sold for less than their par value and shall be executed under the corporate seal of the municipality and be signed by the chairman of the council or governing body and attested by the clerk thereof, and shall have coupons attached for the payment of each half year's interest, or may be made registered bonds, at the option of the purchaser.

17. There shall be raised and levied annually by taxation in the municipality issuing such bonds a sum sufficient to pay the interest thereon and to redeem the part or proportion thereof maturing in the fiscal year for which such taxes are levied.

VIII. PROCEDURE WHEN BOROUGH, TOWNSHIP, &C., UNITES WITH ADJOINING MUNICIPALITY.

18. At the annual election of any borough, town, township or village not otherwise provided with a free public library the voters may, when the question is submitted by the governing body of such municipality, by a majority vote authorize the governing body thereof to unite with the adjoining borough, township or city of the second or third class in the support or maintenance of a free public library, the privileges and uses of said library to be on equal terms to the residents of both of the municipalities so uniting.

19. When, at such election, the majority of the voters of such municipality authorize such union the governing body thereof shall levy a tax of not less than one-third of a mill upon the dollar of assessment, but not more than a thousand dollars annually, for the support of such union library.

20. The mayor or other head officer of such municipality shall be ex-officio a member of the board of trustees of such union library, and the governing body thereof may designate two other voters, resident in said municipality, as joint trustees of said union library, one to hold office for two and the other for a term of three years, and these trustees shall be a part of the board of trustees of the library of said participating borough, township or city of the second or third class.

21. The governing body of the borough, township or city receiving a proposal for union with an adjoining municipality under this act is hereby authorized to accept such a proposal of union and to authorize the admission of the trustees aforesaid to seats with its own board of trustees of its public library, and jointly these trustees shall have full control and government of said library under the provisions of statutes governing the establishment of free public libraries.

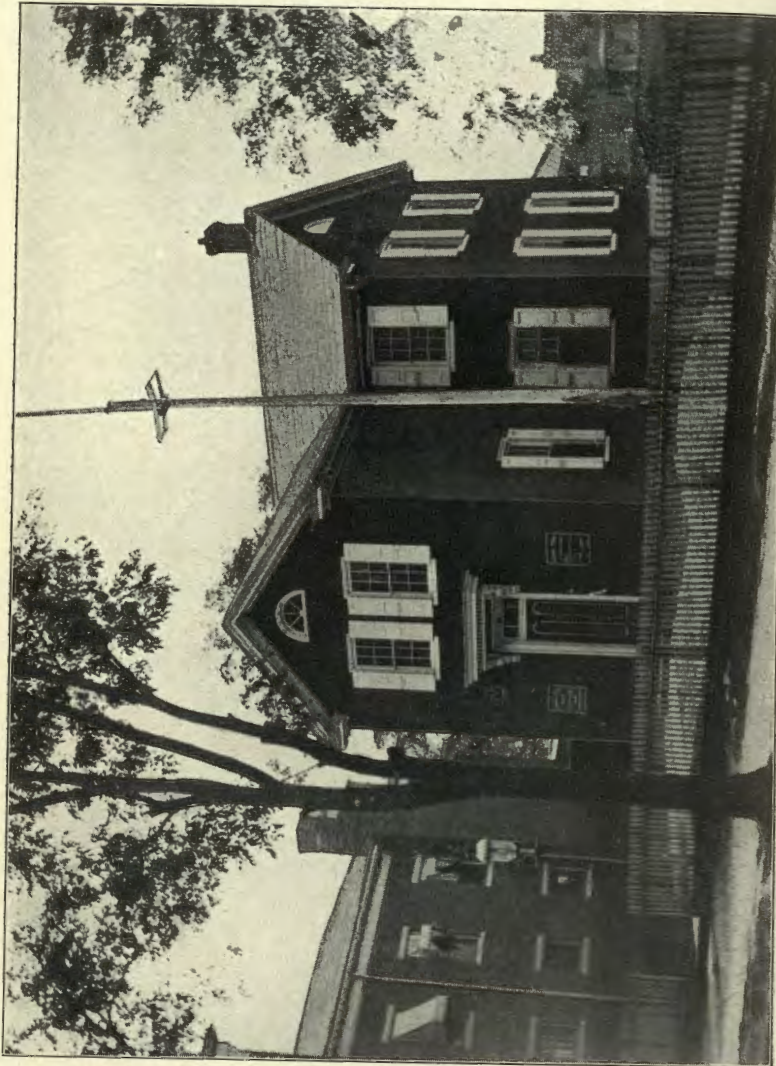
22. When, in the judgment of the joint board of trustees, it is advisable to purchase lands or to erect buildings thereon, or both, for the purposes of a free public library, said trustees shall certify the proportion of money for such purposes based upon the respective assessments of each municipality to the governing bodies thereof, and such governing bodies shall submit to the voters at the next annual election an appropriation to cover its share of such purchase or building, and if approved by the majority of the qualified voters voting thereon, said money may be raised by tax or bonds; in case bonds are issued the procedure in the issuance of such bonds shall conform to the procedure described in section sixteen of this act, and the money thus raised shall be passed to the control of the joint trustees, to be expended according to the provisions of this act governing the purchase of lands and the erection of buildings for a free public library in cities.

IX. CONDITIONAL GIFTS TO CITIES, TOWNS, ETC., FOR LIBRARY PURPOSES.

23. In any city, borough, town, township or village in which there is now or hereafter may be a free public library established pursuant to law, the board of aldermen, common council or other governing body shall have power by resolution to accept gifts or bequests for the purpose of building a library building in any such municipality which may be made on condition that a sum not exceeding ten per centum of the amount of such gift or bequest be annually appropriated for the maintenance and support of such library, or which may be made on the above condition and on the further condition that such municipality to which such gift is made shall also provide a suitable site for such building; and when any conditional gift is so accepted by any municipality it shall be lawful to raise by taxation from time to time for the support and use of said library such amount annually as may be required by the condition of any such gift.

24. When such gift is made on the condition that said municipality shall provide a suitable site for such library building, as well as agree to appropriate annually a certain sum of money as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for the governing body of such municipality to appropriate for the purpose of purchasing a site for such library building a sum not exceeding in amount three-fourths of one mill on every dollar of taxation property in such municipality last returned for the purpose of taxation therein, and to include the amount so appropriated in the next annual tax levy to be made in such municipality.

25. At any time after the acceptance of any such last-mentioned gift it shall be lawful for the trustees of the free public library in any such municipality to purchase, at a cost not exceeding the amount appropriated therefor,



Deptford Institute Library—Woodbury.

a suitable site for the erection of a library building. The title of the real estate so purchased shall be taken in the corporate name of the municipality, but the use and control of the same shall be in the board of trustees of the free public library therein so long as it shall be used for free public library purposes.

26. Any gift or bequest, when accepted by the board of aldermen, common council, or other governing body of any such city, town, township or municipality, shall be received by the treasurer or other corresponding officer of such municipality and expended by and under the direction of the trustees of the free public library for the purposes for which such gift or bequest was made, in the same manner as other funds are now expended by such trustees.

X. TRAVELING LIBRARIES.

27. The public library commission shall operate, direct and control a system of small state traveling libraries; said libraries shall be styled "traveling libraries," and so many of them as may be found advantageous for use in the state may be provided for under rules and regulations to be prescribed and promulgated by said commission; the cost, however, of the provision therefor shall not exceed the amount which shall annually be appropriated by the Legislature for such purpose.

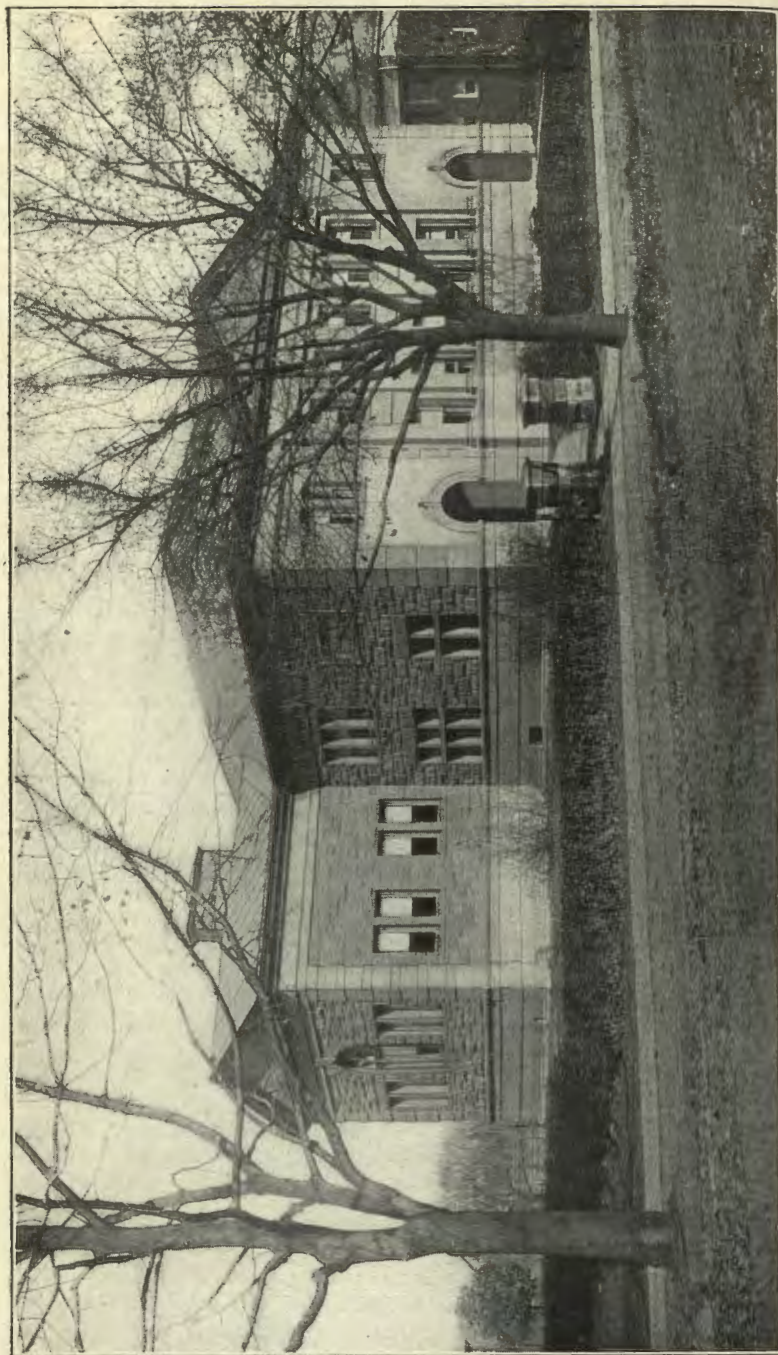
28. The nature and character of the books to be purchased shall be determined and controlled by the said commission, or a majority of them, and the purchase of all books to be used in connection with the said traveling libraries shall be made as said commission may direct. The commission shall have authority to purchase, from any appropriation that shall be made, such and so many small book-cases and outer traveling cases as experience and the useful and successful operation of the said system of traveling libraries may require, and they shall have full authority, from any appropriation which may from time to time be made, to repair and keep said cases in good order and to purchase new cases when necessary, and to keep the books in said traveling libraries in good condition by rebinding, or by repurchase, or substitution of books, or otherwise, and provide all necessary printing and cataloguing for the same.

29. Said traveling libraries shall be used and operated at such points as the said commission may direct, but the said commission shall not be authorized to spend moneys for the rental of any place or places in any municipality in this state from which distribution shall be made from said traveling libraries.

[By Chapter 115, of the Laws of 1906, it is provided: "The traveling libraries provided by the act to which this act is a supplement, may be furnished to the several penal and correctional institutions of this State, but books so furnished shall not thereafter be forwarded to any municipality of this State, but shall be used exclusively in such institutions."]

XI. APPROPRIATIONS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND FREE READING ROOMS.

30. It shall be lawful for the common council of any city of this State to appropriate, from any moneys not otherwise appropriated, such sum of money, not exceeding one thousand dollars, as may in their judgment be deemed necessary to establish or aid public libraries and free reading-rooms.



Rutgers College Library—New Brunswick.

PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION.

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31. It shall be lawful for the governing body of any borough, town, township or village to appropriate from any moneys not otherwise appropriated such sum of money, not exceeding three hundred dollars annually, as may in their judgment be deemed necessary to establish or aid public libraries and free reading-rooms in such municipality.

32. It shall be lawful for the governing body of any town, township, village or borough to raise by taxation any sum, not exceeding one thousand dollars annually, to aid public libraries and free reading-rooms in any such municipality; *provided*, the same be first assented to by a majority vote of the legal voters of any such municipality at their annual election.

33. Every free public library established pursuant to any general law shall be governed by the provisions of this act, and all acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved April 14th, 1905.

PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION.

AN ACT to promote the establishment and efficiency of free public libraries.
Approved March 20, 1900.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Governor, within thirty days after the passage of this act, shall appoint five persons, residents of this State, who shall constitute a public library commission; such appointment, if made during the session of the Legislature, shall be with the advice and consent of the Senate; one member of said commission shall be appointed for a term of five years, one for four years, one for three years, one for two years and one for one year, who shall hold office until their successors are appointed; annually hereafter, within thirty days after the assembling of the Legislature, the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint one member of said commission for a term of five years; all vacancies on said commission, other than by expiration of term, shall be filled by the Governor for the remainder of the unexpired term, within thirty days after notice thereof shall be given to him in writing; and all such appointments to fill vacancies, if made during the session of the Legislature, shall be with the advice and consent of the Senate; said commission shall make a report of its doings to the Legislature in January of each year.

2. No member of said commission shall receive any compensation; but said commission, for its necessary traveling and other incidental expenses, and for clerical assistance in the discharge of its duties, may expend a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars annually, in addition to the expenditures hereinafter provided; all sums expended, under the provisions of this act, shall be paid from the State treasury, after the bills therefor have been approved by the commission, and sent to the State Comptroller, who shall audit and certify the same to the State Treasurer.

3. The librarian or trustees of any free public library in this State, or any person or persons desirous of organizing a free public library, may ask said commission for advice in regard to the selection of books, the cataloguing thereof, and any other matters pertaining to the establishment, maintenance or administration of such library, and the commission shall give such advice in regard to such matters as it shall find practicable.

4. Said commission is hereby authorized to donate to any free public library under municipal control in this State, upon the application of its board of trustees, a sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate one hundred dollars, for books for such library; *provided*, that the board of trustees of such free public library shall first satisfy said commission that they have set apart from the funds of such free public library an equal sum of money to be expended for the purchase of books for such library; *and provided further*, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any free public library having upwards of five thousand books.

5. Said commission shall not incur any debt or make any donation or expenditure exceeding in the aggregate the appropriation made for its use from time to time by the Legislature of this State.

6. This act shall be deemed a public act and shall take effect immediately, and that all acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

AN ACT to establish a system of public instruction (Revision of 1900).

Approved March 23, 1900.

ARTICLE XXVI.

232. The State Comptroller shall draw his warrant on the State Treasurer upon the order of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and in favor of the custodian of the school moneys of a school district, for the sum of twenty dollars for any public school situate in such district for which there shall have been raised by special district tax, subscription or entertainment a like sum to establish in such school a school library, or to procure books of reference, school apparatus or educational works of art; and the further sum of ten dollars annually upon a like order, upon condition that there shall have been raised by special district tax, subscription or entertainment a like sum for the maintenance of such library for such year.

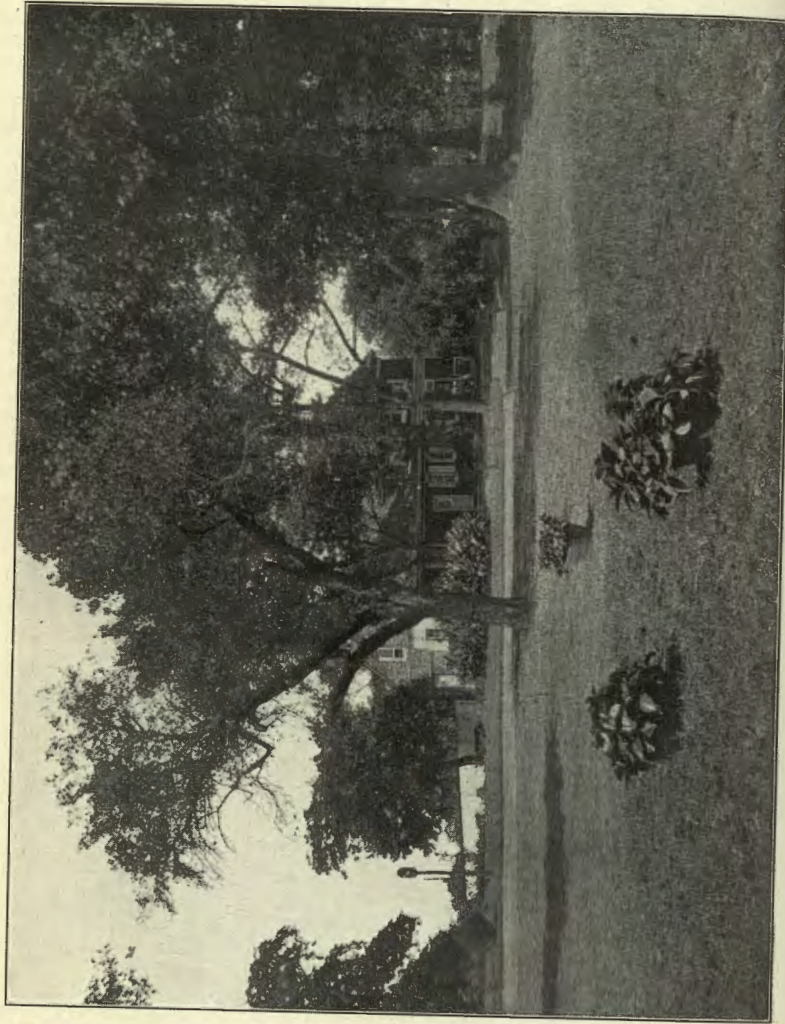
233. All selections of articles aforesaid purchased in part by State funds shall be approved in such manner as the State Board of Education may by rule direct.

234. In any school district in which there shall be more than one school-house, the school library committee of two or more of such schools may consolidate and establish in one place the school libraries under their control, and said committees shall constitute a joint committee for the control and management of such consolidated library.

ARTICLE XXVII.

235. Whenever in any county there shall have been raised by subscription a sum of money not less than one hundred dollars for the establishment of a library of pedagogical books for the use of the teachers of the public schools, the State Comptroller shall, upon the order of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, draw his warrant on the State Treasurer in favor of the County Superintendent of Schools of said county, for the sum of one hundred dollars for the benefit of such library, and annually thereafter there shall be paid on a like order a sum not less than fifty dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, upon condition that there shall have been raised by subscription a like sum for the maintenance of such library for such year.

236. The County Superintendent of Schools and three teachers of public schools in such county, appointed by him, shall constitute a committee to select and purchase books and apparatus for such library, and to make rules and regulations for the management, use and safe keeping thereof.



Pyne Point Free Library—Camden,