

LIBRARY

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HALIFAX, CANADA

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**Programme of the Fifth Annual Conference of the
Maritime Library Institute
Halifax, N. S., June 22-23, 1939**

Thursday, June 22

- 9.30-12.30 Business meeting and reports of the libraries.
- 1.15 The Halifax Library Club will entertain the members of the M.L.I. at luncheon at the Lord Nelson Hotel.
- 2.30 Tour of the libraries of Halifax.
- 8.15 Public meeting at the Lord Nelson Hotel. Miss Nora Bateson will be the speaker.

Friday, June 23

- 9.30-10.30 "Financing the Regional Library" - a discussion led by Miss Bateson.
- 10.30-11.30 President Chandler will speak about the analysis of reading interests which he has been making lately.
- 11.30-12.30 Address: "Adult Education and the Library", by Mr. John Fisher.
- 3.00 A drive followed by afternoon tea at Green Acres, Waverley. Miss Bateson will be the hostess at the afternoon tea.

Meetings, unless otherwise stated, will be held at King's College. All persons interested in library progress in the Maritimes are cordially invited to attend.

The Lord Nelson Hotel has offered a reduced rate of \$2.50 a day for either a single or double room with a bath to any member of the M.L.I. attending the meetings. Any person wishing accommodation in private rooming houses or hotels should get in touch with Mrs. W. L. Maclean, 222 Robie Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

THE MONTREAL CONFERENCE

(The following charming letter gives informally the impressions of one of the members of the M.L.I. who attended the Conference of Library Associations and Institutes that met in Montreal last April. As Miss Falconer reminds us, full reports will be found in the Ontario Library Review.)

You asked me to give you some of my impressions of the joint Library Conference which was held in Montreal at Easter time. Let me begin by saying that I found it one of the pleasantest Conferences that I have ever attended. Of course for me it meant not only an interesting and full two days, but also an opportunity of meeting a great many old friends; and this naturally added a great deal to my enjoyment.

Before I begin my story I feel that apologies are in order, as it will be so largely the story of the Conference from the Children's Librarian's point of view. With the exception of the first general session on Monday morning, the only meetings that I attended were in connection with children's work. That first meeting was, I am sure, the highlight of the Conference. Mrs. Elliot, the President of the Ontario Library Association, gave an address of welcome; and then she introduced Miss Bateson who spoke on our own Nova Scotian problem of Regional Libraries. Miss Bateson's address, which by the way is given in the last number of the Ontario Library Review, seemed to me to strike the perfect note on which to open a Conference; so different from the rather dull reports to which one is usually subjected at a first meeting. Everyone was interested, and after the meeting I heard people on all sides discussing what Miss Bateson had said and clamouring for copies of "the report."

I was awfully sorry that more people from the Maritime Provinces were not able to attend the Conference. On the first morning when I came to register I looked hopefully around for some familiar faces other than those of my Ontario friends, but alas! there were very few. I saw Mr. Chandler and had a few words with him; but apart from Miss Bateson and one or two McGill Library students I did not meet a single Maritimer.

The Conference was held in the Windsor Hotel where we had good accommodation, a large registration desk, and adequate rooms for meetings. There were men hard at work re-decorating some of the halls near us and we were told that this was in preparation for the Royal visit, and that the King and Queen were to be entertained there. On Monday afternoon the main meeting of the children's section was held, when the problem of library work with children in the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario was discussed. The speakers were Miss Jean Thompson, who told of new developments in some of the smaller Ontario libraries; Miss Donald Putnam, who gave an excellent historical sketch of the development of Children's libraries in Quebec; and I did the best I could with the regrettably small amount of material at hand.

We had most unfortunate weather in Montreal. It was bitterly cold

and slushy; and there was little to tempt one to venture out of the hotel. However, I did go to the re-union dinner, given by the University of Toronto Library School, in one of the typically French restaurants of the city. We were late in getting back from dinner and so missed the evening meeting and the reception which followed.

It was hard to struggle up on Tuesday morning for a breakfast meeting at 8.30, followed by what the programme called "A Story-Telling Symposium." It sounds rather deadly, but actually was a very pleasant occasion. After a hearty breakfast we pushed back our chairs, and the waiters had the tables cleared in less time than it takes to write it. We then heard six stories, from six different story-tellers. There was a great variety in these stories; we began with an "Uncle Remus"; then there was an Indian Legend, followed by a Japanese fairy tale, The Pied Piper of Hamelin, the story of the Monkey and the Crocodile, and another Uncle Remus to top off with. To me the greatest proof of the success of this meeting was the fact that someone who was not on the planned programme actually volunteered to tell a story at the end. When we finally broke up, the general session was nearly over, so we missed Mr. Kyte's address.

What I really enjoyed most of all was seeing the Montreal children's libraries themselves, and on Tuesday afternoon we were taken to three of these. Unfortunately, the only one which had children in it at the time of our visit was the French branch. It is a tiny room in a poor district, but it was simply crowded with children. Some were returning their books and choosing others quickly; some were sitting down at the tables and poring over French picture-books and magazines. We were the guests of the Montreal Children's Library at tea in one of their branches: a most charming room on MacKay Street. A cheerful fire was burning when we arrived and everything looked most inviting, with the attractive books, and bright pictures and posters. I strongly advise anyone who visits Montreal to make a point of going to call there.

As I was returning to Toronto for a visit, and as my friends were anxious to get back to their libraries, we decided that our best plan was to get part way on our journey that evening. We left Montreal at about 5.30, and so missed the final dinner and the closing festivities.

This is a very inadequate report of the Conference as a whole; but fortunately a detailed account of the proceedings can be read in the last issue of the Ontario Library Review.

Yours sincerely,

Mary W. Falconer

HOME ECONOMICS LITERATURE

By Clarabel O'Blenes, Assistant Professor of
Household Economics, Acadia University

The Library Committee of the Nova Scotia Home Economics Association is grateful to the Editor of this Bulletin for the opportunity of presenting to its readers an article regarding Home Economics literature.

For a number of years our Committee has maintained a small circulating library and almost from the beginning of our organization in 1926, we have circulated a few magazines among our members. For some time we have felt that much of our literature is of such a nature that it would be enjoyed by those other than Home Economists. We would be interested in knowing how many Home Economics books are on the shelves of the Maritime libraries.

A short time ago a prominent educationalist, in addressing a group of Home Economists, said that when he was asked to speak he decided he should find out what Home Economics was concerned with. He visited several libraries for information on the subject and all he could get was a cook book. This statement probably shows the idea held by many as to the content of Home Economics literature.

Home Economics applies material from fields to matters that concern the home. Some of the literature comes from authors in such fields as sociology, psychology and education, not to mention the pure sciences. Home Economics stands for an enrichment of life through the application of any knowledge that might help members of households to become better individuals, physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

There are a number of books and magazines of a pure scientific and technical nature that would be interesting chiefly to those specializing, but there are a number of others that would be of interest to all members of homes. These books are found in various branches of Home Economics. A rule that Home Economists apply to their choice of books is: Choose authors of known repute. Space will permit simply a list.

Rose: Feeding the Family
Sherman: Food and Health
McCollum: Food, Nutrition and Health
Justin, Vail and Rust: Foods
Settle: Clothes Line
Hopkins: Dress Design and Selection
Bigelow: Family Finance
Coles: The Consumer-Buyer and the
Market
Edited by Weiss: The Shopping Guide

Nimkoff: The Family
Nimkoff: The Child
Blatz and Bott: Parents and the
Pre-School Child
Rutt: House Furnishings
Blair: The Creation of a Home
Cocks: Etiquette of Beauty

The above books would be of value for Reading Clubs or Study Groups.

For a long time the study of some phases of family life have been somewhat resented; but today we are realizing that, if the home is to exert its best influence, the more we can delve into the secrets of those homes that produce worthwhile products (well-adjusted individuals), the better for the coming generations. We must put aside prejudices and do all we can to help homemakers in a difficult task. Today's homemaker has the attitude of the student. Knowledge regarding her task is never final and complete. Learning is co-existent with life.

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NOTES AND PERSONALS

Miss Nora Bateson, Secretary to the Nova Scotia Regional Libraries Commission and Director of Libraries, has been speaking recently to interested audiences in King's and Annapolis Counties. She believes, and we believe also, that these two counties might well combine as a regional unit and establish a central library in one of the important towns, with the understanding that it would serve whatever branches might be formed later in all possible places throughout the two counties. The M.L.I., representing as it does the library interests of the Maritimes, public, legislative, archival, college and university, should stand united in support of Miss Bateson and the Commission. Write the Regional Libraries Commission, Provincial Building, Halifax, N. S., for copies of a pamphlet prepared by Miss Bateson and published a few weeks ago: Libraries for Nova Scotia. It contains as appendix An Act to Provide for the Support of Regional Libraries (Chapter II of the Acts of 1937, as amended in 1938 and 1939).

How far should a librarian assume the office of a pedagogue and correct the English of borrowers at the desk? A member of the M.L.I. writes that a reader asked for the book, I Seen It Myself. She handed him a copy of Barbusse's I Saw It Myself, and he went away, pleased with his progress in pursuit of knowledge and culture.

Just off the press is the Catalogue of the John Clarence Webster Canadiana Collection (Pictorial Section) in the New Brunswick Museum. In appearance it is a marvel of good bookmaking. Dr. Webster says in his Introduction: "As a rule I have not been particularly interested in merely charming Canadian views, rather seeking always those with some historical significance." The portraits, sketches, engravings, paintings, maps, listed in this Catalogue are by no means of exclusive significance for the people of New Brunswick; their range is Dominion wide. In Wolfiana there are two hundred items listed; in fact, Dr. Webster's is the largest collection ever made in this field.

Mrs. Berdia M. Moore, Librarian of Moncton Public Library, made last St. Patrick's Day the occasion of an exhibit of the library's holdings in Irish literature. An enthusiastic reporter in "The Moncton Times" lists with delight the favorites he discovered on display. "You'll find Kate O'Brien there . . . honest Padraic Colum . . . you'll find Sean O'Casey . . . Bernard Shaw . . . lovable Donn Byrne . . . poor George Moore, the great Moore, the confused, the brilliant Moore . . . the greater brilliance of W. B. Yeats, who died only a few weeks ago."

We have received a copy of the Report of the P.E.I. Libraries for the year 1938, and suggestive lists of new books purchased. We quote the following from the Report: "The Libraries have in the past three years worked continuously with the Adult Education League in the supply of material to study clubs and in the general promotion of the aims for which the League stands. The rapid growth of the movement is convincing evidence of the need for the work and of its appeal to the people of Prince Edward Island . . . There has been a continuous reaching out of library service to communities distant from the branch libraries. The demand for material is always in excess of what the library can supply."

A general summary of the conclusions drawn from the statistics at the end of the Report indicates: 1. A circulation of over a quarter of a million volumes; 2. Over five thousand new books catalogued during the year; 3. An increase of seventy-five per cent in books circulated in rural schools; 4. A direct relation between the number of new books and the circulation.

The following is an excerpt from a letter of the Superintendent of the P.E.I. Libraries to the Editor of the Bulletin: "You will be interested to know that our libraries have just been presented by the Carnegie Corporation with a complete set of fine arts equipment consisting of about 100 volumes and 900 pictures. We plan to put this collection into use for the rural people of the province, so that they may have some share of a cultural amenity which urban centres enjoy through art museums... In addition to the branch libraries we can make use of the Women's Institutes, the rural school, the village hall and the study club to give our people the opportunity to see and know this collection. We also plan to cooperate with the formal centres of education, Prince of Wales College and St. Dunstan's College, in this regard."

Two members of the M.L.I., Miss Marion Gilroy of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, and Miss Doreen Harper of the New Brunswick Legislative Library, have completed a year of graduate study in the School of Library Service, Columbia University.

A few years ago it was almost impossible to obtain a comprehensive idea of libraries in Canada. Details of the holdings and working force of a few libraries were published, but no person was so sanguine as to dream that these could be coordinated into a national survey. In 1931 the Education Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics did undertake such a survey, and published its results in a pamphlet of 55 pages. In 1933 another such pamphlet was issued and now a Biennial Survey of Libraries in Canada is published regularly by the Government. The fourth issue of the series appears in a changed format and gives for the first time detailed information on the hospital libraries of Canada. To the student in the library field, whether he lives in Canada or elsewhere, the whole series is invaluable.

Recent federal legislation has given greatly reduced postage rates on books circulated by libraries and other agencies for the benefit of readers throughout the country. A good and abundant book service for all citizens is our objective.