

The Librarian's Fifth Annual Report.

WINDSOR, JANUARY 8, 1900.

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, WINDSOR PUBLIC LIBRARY:

Gentlemen—I have the honor to present to you, for the fifth time, my annual report, being that for the year ending December 31st, 1899.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The number of volumes in the library at the beginning of the year just closed was 8223. To this number during the year were added altogether 1113 volumes, 1088 by purchase, etc., and 25 by donation from various sources, or to be more specific:

(a)	Volumes in library at the beginning of 1899.....	7369
(b)	" of fiction purchased during 1899.....	371
(c)	" of general works purchased during 1899.....	356
(d)	" of bound magazines added during 1899.....	48
(e)	" of juvenile literature purchased during 1899.....	313
(f)	" donated.....	25
(g)	" wornout and withdrawn.....	68
(h)	" now in the library.....	8414

Quite a number of these works, however, are duplicates of works—nearly all works of fiction and juvenile books—which we already had in the catalogue but which had been withdrawn from circulation as books worn out. With every year in fact, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep account of the books actually in the library. This being the case, and as no doubt a few books have been lost altogether in unaccountable ways, it might be well during the coming summer, choosing some dull season, to close the library for a few days and take stock of the books in our possession.

THE LIBRARY.

The books in the library are in good condition. Many have been rebound during the year. These are nearly all works of fiction and juvenile books. Since the library started, five years ago, only about half a dozen books belonging to the general works department have become so worn with use as to require rebinding. Small repairs on works, *i. e.*, such as do not require the skill of an expert, have been constantly attended to. Bound volumes of magazines, especially have been examined and loose leaves fastened in their places. So that it may be affirmed that the books are in good condition.

The number of holders of borrowing cards, I am sorry to say, has decreased considerably during the past year. The year closed with 1285 on our register as against 1424 of the previous year. I cannot suggest any reason for this. This is somewhat singular, however, in view of the fact that the circulation of books and periodicals in all departments shows a slight increase over that of the previous year. A partial explanation of this may be found in the circumstance of the greatly increased circulation of magazines and periodicals. I have noticed that the demand for the latest works of fiction is greatly on the increase. Many books have an active life for a month or two, and then are relegated to long terms of repose on the back shelves.

THE READING ROOM.

The reading room continues to be well patronized. Children of public-school age are frequently to be found in the building during school hours. I would suggest that the truant officer be instructed to pay occasional visits to the reading room. With a few exceptions the conduct of readers is very good.

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