

used by the citizens. In addition to supplying books for ordinary readers, the Library is undoubtedly a powerful auxiliary to the work of the schools in our city, by aiding the scholars in the higher classes in their studies. After school hours during school terms, the reference room presents an animated scene with young people, and older ones, too, searching for facts and figures among the valuable encyclopedias and dictionaries of various kinds placed in this room for ready reference.

And while the Library has proved itself a valuable aid to the scholars and teachers of our city, it has also been of great assistance to many who attended one or other of the courses of lectures or class studies held in the city during the past year; notably the University Extension lecture courses under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association and the local branch of the Convocation of Trinity University, Toronto; also the Browning Class, under the leadership of that talented and hardworking member of our Board of Management, the Rev. S. Lyle, B.D. Special lists were prepared and distributed for these lectures, and it was noticed that most of the books so listed were almost constantly in use.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND THE LIBRARY.

The large room in the basement of our building will soon be finished and will make an admirable lecture hall. Might not the usefulness of the Library be still further enhanced if lecture courses could be given in connection with the University Extension movement in connection with other Associations, or directly under the auspices and management of the Library? It is now recognized that libraries are not merely store-houses for books, but readers must be attracted and welcomed, the books made accessible to readers as far as is consistent with orderly administration, and that while giving every reasonable assistance to students every endeavor must be made to reach and educate those who through one cause or another have left school.

The relation of local public libraries to the University Extension movement is now receiving a great deal of attention from educationalists and librarians. Where the library has a lecture hall—and the modern library is considered incomplete without one—a triple purpose is accomplished, (1) an excellent audi-