

A word as to the situation created by the opening of the Carnegie Library with reference to our Society.

As until this year there was no public library in the City, the Society felt it its duty to minister as far as its limited means permitted, to the needs of the community and thereby became a quasi public library, at the cost of departing to some extent from the purpose for which it was declared to be founded, "the cultivation of literature and science." It would seem therefore, that the opening of the Carnegie Library should further the interests of the Literary and Scientific Society by relieving it of the task of supplying general reading matter, especially of the more ephemeral kind, and thereby permitting more attention to be bestowed in another direction.

In a society like ours, it seems to me that the most important object to accomplish is to cultivate the living element, rather than to accumulate books; books should only be means to an end. I have for years recognized that we have here in Ottawa more literary and scientific men and women in proportion to population than any other city in Canada, and on the other hand I have deplored for a long time the absence of adequate facilities for these persons to meet, become acquainted with each other, and by attrition of thought and interchange of knowledge and opinion, foster a true literary and scientific spirit. When the Carnegie offer of \$100,000 was received, the opinion was expressed in some quarters that Ottawa's wealthy citizens should have been approached, and that, had this been done, the appeal would have been adequately answered. The public library is built, but we want, Ottawa wants, Ot-