

to the innumerable problems that confront him from morning till night. Trained intelligence, a genuine love for and wide knowledge of good literature, business acumen, native courtesy and helpfulness, tact and discrimination, a good memory, patience, breadth of view; these are some of the essential characteristics of the successful modern librarian. The day has happily gone when the office of a librarian was merely a refuge for some broken-down politician, unsuccessful school-teacher, or man who had made a failure of his profession, whatever it might be. Librarianship is now an honourable profession, the world over. Careful study and preparation is required of those who aspire to the position either of a librarian or library assistant; and it is even beginning to be recognized by Library Committees that a man or a woman possessing the requisite qualifications is entitled to a fair remuneration.

We are merely upon the threshold of a new era in the history of public libraries. What the present century may see, in the direction of increasing and broadening their mission as factors in the educational life of the community, it would be difficult to foretell, but that that influence will be deep and lasting, everyone who has studied the recent development of public libraries, especially in the United States and England, must feel heartily assured.

APPENDIX.

For the benefit of those who might be sufficiently interested in the subject of Canadian libraries, the writer prepared a list of questions, which were submitted to the librarians of all the more important public libraries throughout the Dominion. Through the courtesy of these officers, very complete answers have been secured to the several questions submitted, the substance of which will be found below.

No attempt has been made to procure data from all the Ontario libraries, of which the last Report of the Minister of Education for that Province (1901) records 432 in existence, divided into 303 "Public Libraries" and 129 "Free Libraries," but a certain number of the larger and more representative Ontario libraries were selected, as to which somewhat fuller particulars have been procured than are to be found in the tables of the Education Report. These latter tables con-

A series of works that will be found of inestimable advantage to librarians, library assistants, and those who may be preparing themselves for the profession, is *The Library Series*, edited by Dr. Richard Garnett, formerly of the British Museum. The series is in five volumes, each devoted to a particular branch of library work: construction, administration, etc. The books are published by George Allen, London, England.