

## Public Libraries

Public libraries are universally recognized as an index and necessary feature of present day progress. Standard books of science, history, literature, the arts and kindred subjects should be freely available in every community for intellectual advancement and stimulus. A public school education is as far as the majority of citizens advance; a considerable number enter the high schools and collegiate institutes, and the few pass to the universities. The educational influence of libraries offers a post-graduate course to the masses. There is no "entrance examination," and they afford opportunity to every one who can but read, to attain the highest walks in life. That, in the light class of literature often supplied, they are subject to abuse is undoubted. But strong influences are at work to improve the standard of public libraries in this respect.

a popular order. Definite subjects such as electricity, chemistry, history, music, can be dealt with in this way. A librarian should not be a machine to lend and receive books, nor a watch-dog to protect them. His chief usefulness can be in giving assistance and encouragement wherever possible.

The generosity of ANDREW CARNEGIE has done much to enable a number of Ontario municipalities to secure libraries of a creditable character in every way, and to place them on a liberal working basis. Towns receiving aid from this source and the amount are: Berlin, \$24,500; Brantford, \$35,000; Brockville, \$17,000; Chatham, \$19,000; Collingwood, \$14,500; Cornwall, \$7,000; Galt, \$23,000; Goderich, \$10,000; Guelph,



GUELPH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Guelph Library was completed and the building opened in 1905. It is constructed of cement-concrete, and is an excellent object lesson as to the results obtainable from artificial stone. The cost was \$20,000 and of the furnishings \$4,000. The interior finish is of oak and Georgia pine, and the hot water system of heating is used. In addition to strictly library requirements, there is provision for lectures and entertainments. The basement contains an auditorium, a lecture room, work room, sitting room, furnace room, and dressing rooms. On the first floor is the stack room, reference room, board room, general reading room and ladies reading room. Provision is made for enlarging the stack room.

Public libraries are the university of the many who completed their education at the public school. A large proportion of the borrowers look to the libraries for fiction. Books of reference are highly desirable to meet the needs of those who will use them, but the library should not be crippled for the benefit of a limited number. Good fiction is essential. But the more solid class of reading should be encouraged. To this end courses in reading should be mapped out by experts in science, art, literature, etc., and printed in pamphlet form. These courses should be kept up-to-date by the addition of new books relating to each subject. They should be made as attractive as possible by the selection of works largely of

\$24,000; Lindsay, \$13,000; Ottawa, \$100,000; Orangeville, \$——; Palmerston, \$10,000; Paris, \$10,000; Sarnia, \$20,000; St. Marys, \$10,000; St. Catharines, \$25,000; St. Thomas, \$27,000; Smith's Falls, \$11,000; Stratford, \$15,000; Waterloo, \$10,000; Windsor, \$27,000.

Gifts made by Mr. CARNEGIE in 1906 were: Dresden, \$8,000; Milton, \$5,000; Perth, \$10,000; Picton, \$12,000; Bracebridge, \$10,000; Gravenhurst, \$7,000; Oshawa, \$12,000; Wallaceburg, \$11,500; Kincardine, \$5,000; Kemptville, \$3,000; Hanover, \$10,000. A new library is in course of erection in Toronto, to which Mr. CARNEGIE will contribute \$350,000.