

LIBRARY INTERESTS

Carnegie Libraries

The concept of the free public library as an institution of social service, education and recreation, under local ownership and control, has been so long associated with the Carnegie name that the term "Carnegie library" is one of common parlance today, and bids fair to remain so for at least another generation.

It may be that, as the years pass and new and more adequate buildings and services are created, the term "free public library," which really indicates Mr. Carnegie's ideal, will replace the earlier designation. Not one-third of the buildings erected by Carnegie money were christened with his name.

In recent years the Carnegie Corporation, as a successor to Mr. Carnegie, has been so identified with library interests that many librarians, and a large part of the educated public, believe that the Corporation was established by Mr. Carnegie largely for the benefit and control of libraries and librarians. Despite the fact that the final grants for library buildings were made in 1917, the Corporation still receives an average of one hundred requests a year for buildings. Many demands are made each year that the Corporation do something about conditions in a given library, or that the Corporation rebuke a local library committee for permitting or refusing to permit some particular meeting to be held in a library; that certain books be removed at once from a collection; or that the Corporation buy, say, 20,000 copies of some one book for distribution to Carnegie libraries. People find it hard to realize that the Corporation does not own, control, supervise, administer or advise any library or library board anywhere; and that it does not have a library at 522 Fifth Avenue for its own use.