

especially for reference use in the Library. Books of history, travel, biography, and the useful and fine arts, are constantly in demand, while the many hundreds of inquires for the cyclopedias, annuals and other books in the reference department, are refreshing evidences that our citizens are alive to the fact that the Library contains a grand store of information on almost every conceivable subject.

ASSISTING READERS.

Remembering that the most elaborate, the most carefully compiled, and the most expensive of catalogues, while exceedingly useful to many, are a fruitful source of trouble and vexation to others, it has ever been my endeavor to assure visitors to the Library that we are only too glad to assist those in search of facts or figures on any special topic. This invitation still stands good. Many hundreds have availed themselves of the offer in the past, and it is hoped that even a larger number, proportionately, will do so in the future. It may be repeating something we have heard before, yet notwithstanding I venture to say once more that the Library is the People's University, and we desire the citizens generally to come and avail themselves of the culture and education to be obtained within its walls.

THE READING ROOMS.

The Reading Rooms continue to be largely used; indeed, as I have already stated, they are frequently crowded to an inconvenient degree. It will probably be advisable soon to consider the purchase of another table for the general reading room. There is room for the same, and when provided it will relieve in some degree the crowding at the reading stands.

References to back numbers of the papers and periodicals continue to largely increase. As the files of the city papers are frequently called for, and we have not complete files of the same, I would suggest that the Board of Management of the Library ascertain if the city papers would not place their complete bound files of papers in the Library. We have an excellent room in the basement which could be used for a newspaper filing room. The volumes could here be kept in proper order, ready for immedi-