

ing after the day's work than to spend an hour or two in reading wholesome works of imagination. The mind readily becomes interested in such reading, and is not taxed by it. The humble home or lonely lodging loses its dullness and monotony, and its occupant escapes to and lives amidst livelier scenes. He becomes detached as it were, from his present surroundings by the beneficent gift of imagination, and for a time inhabits a brighter world than the one he daily lives in. This power of detachment, one of the most blessed capacities of our nature, gradually but surely exercises its refining influence, and ministers to our self-dependence.' Before passing from this topic, let me suggest that the supply of works of fiction, while abundant, should exclude third-rate and inferior productions, and everything that is vicious or trashy. Donations of books considered objectionable should be declined as being unsuitable to the objects and aims of free libraries, which are to safeguard and strengthen the young against temptation, by supplying pure, wholesome and instructive reading."

I would respectfully urge on the Board, the advisability of fixing a minimum and maximum amount of remuneration for the lady assistants in the Library. What I mean is, fix a rate per week or per annum on entering, and an increase of so much per annum for each year of service until the maximum amount is reached. I would also suggest that a maximum amount of salary be fixed for the Librarian in his capacity of Librarian, Secretary and Treasurer, and would suggest that that amount be placed at \$1500.00 per annum; and that in consideration of the amount of work done by him, and the high state of efficiency the Library has been placed by him, I would say he is now entitled to the maximum amount.

Since our last annual meeting, the first name has been added to the death roll of the members of this Board. We have to mourn the death of our highly respected and former colleague, Mr. David McLellan. A little over a year ago he was with us, a bright and shining light, with a heart full of affection and good will to all mankind. May it be long before the next name is added to the roll of our honored dead.

On January 11th the Hon. Mr. Laurier visited our Library and Reading Rooms, where he was met by the Librarian and a