

in charge of the teachers. This is thought to be a great success in the United States. In this country objection has been raised to it on the ground that the children have enough to do to get up their studies.

In the Trustees' Section of the conference papers were read on the relation of the librarian to the trustee, and library buildings, the latter of which was especially interesting, in view of the great number of donations for building new libraries from Mr. Carnegie.

The programme in full would require a great deal of space, but the papers might be interesting to Canadian librarians.

The president, Mr. Henry J. Carr's address, was on "Being a Librarian; and Some Ethics of the Profession." The first paper was on "What May Be Done for Libraries," discussed from three points of view. On July 5, simultaneous meetings were held by different branches of the conference. The National Association of State Librarians discussed the subjects of "Early Newspaper Literature in Ohio," "Decimal Classification and Cataloguing of Public Documents," and the "Gathering of Local History Material."

The Children's Librarians Section discussed the value of certain classes of books to children, the papers being "Book Reviews, Lists and Articles on Children's Reading; Are they of Practical Value to the Children's Librarian?"; "The Books Themselves; How to Tell a Good Book—How to Tell a Poor Book, (1) in Fiction; (2) in Fairy Tales, (3) in Books of Science." The last paper in this section was "Reference Work for Children; Some of the Possibilities and the Necessary Equipment."

In the evening the same meetings were continued, the State librarians reading papers on their own duties and powers relative to free libraries and library commissions, and on the subject of loaning books from the reference library, "Under What conditions and Limitations they Should be Loaned."

Among the special papers of note were: "Collection and Cataloguing of Early Newspapers," and "Some Principles of Book and Picture Selection."

On July 8, the conference was invited to Madison, the capital of the State, and there were entertained by a local committee, visiting the new building of the Wisconsin Historical Society and the library of the Wisconsin University.

During the sessions in Madison, papers were submitted on "European and American Libraries—A Comparison" and "From the Reader's Point of View—and the Era of the Placard."

The conference returned to Waukesha in the evening, and on the following day some interesting papers were read on "Book Copyright," "Trusteeship of Literature" and "Relationship of Publishers, Booksellers and Libraries." Many other papers were read, and the discussions on them were of great interest, though shortened considerably on account of the length of the papers.

The conference was entertained by different associations and organizations in Waukesha and Madison.

Speaking of their visit to Madison, Mr. J. H. Denton, one of the Canadian delegates, said: "What impressed me most in my visit to the conference was the immense amount of money that the American people and American cities invest in public libraries. It is enormous; and our own contributions, in comparison, are indeed very small. In Madison, which is a city of only about 20,000 people, there is a beautiful library, which cost about \$600,000, and it is not a circulating library, either. Milwaukee, a city of about Toronto's size, built a library at a cost of \$500,000, and many other places, small and large, have library buildings on the same huge scale."

Mr. Denton was much pleased with the conference, and was of the opinion that such meetings were productive of much good.

## WINDOWS AND DISPLAYS

THE question as to what is the best size for a show window was recently asked by a jeweller in his trade journal and the answer might prove valuable to stationers who are thinking about fixing up their window or are going to build new premises. Not all of the suggestions are applicable to the stationer's trade, but many of them are and can be put into practice, especially in the matter of displaying small goods. The store in question had an eighteen-foot front and was fifteen feet high.

The suggestions made must be subject to change on account of the environment, of which nothing has been said. Upon general principles a broad, low window is better than a high narrow one, but this depends somewhat upon the goods to be displayed.

As the inquiry is especially concerning a two-window front, the width of each window will necessarily be about six feet and about twenty inches deep. The sides of the window should be on an angle of about thirty-four degrees. This will leave about three feet eight inches for the doorway. With these approximate figures the other proportions of the windows should be: height from ground, three feet; height of window, eight feet.

There should be a two-foot transom over the door, and to obtain more light, always essential, a row of five lights, twenty-seven inches high and three feet wide, may extend across the building above the doorway and windows. These will break up the blank space ornamentally, as well as afford a good light within. A border of stained glass may be used if desired.

A much more satisfactory window may be obtained if there is but one in a front of this size. Then the window can be nine feet wide and two feet deep and still leave six feet for the doorway. This will afford room at the corner of the building beyond the door for a portable showcase, which is very useful in displaying inexpensive articles. Such a case may also be used for special sales, where it is desirable to give some articles a distinctive prominence.

In this case the flooring of the window will be two feet above the ground and a three-foot transom may be placed over the door. A front so arranged will be plain and substantial looking and will not detract from the window displays.

One of the advantages of a large window is that it may be made to appear smaller, whereas a small one cannot be increased in size. In this way large articles may have the benefit of the large space and be displayed to far greater advantage.

When the display is to be made up of small articles, have a platform built about six inches smaller than the window on the front and sides and about ten inches high. The sides of this platform will therefore slant backward from the glass six inches. Have the sides either of polished wood with the firm name in intaglio lettering in gold, or covered smoothly with dark felt and aluminum letters, according to taste and the amount to be expended. If the original flooring of the window is raised at the back and it should be at least three inches higher the platform which is built on the level will therefore be raised in the same proportion.

If the display is to be small articles alone put another platform on top of this. The latter should be a foot smaller and four inches high. This will give a three inch slope to the sides and leave nine inches of the lower platform showing. This space should be covered with dark felt like the upper platform. Of course, neither of the platforms will slope at the back, but will be flush with the original flooring of the window.

By following these regulations one may regulate the size of his window at will and have one that is suitable for displaying all of his stock.

The suggestions as to the platforms for small goods can be acted upon by stationers also with good advantage. It is difficult to show such goods as fountain pens, cards, or fancy pens, in a large window with any satisfactory result, unless a great deal of goods is put in the window, and in some large windows so many of these would be required as to necessitate a very heavy stock.

As to the advantages of having a very large window, no doubt they are greater than could be obtained from a very small one; but I have in mind a stationer's window which is somewhat smaller than the average and yet it is so tastefully trimmed that it never fails to attract attention. Indeed, the proprietor of this store told me that whatever he put in the window, he sold. His own opinion was that if he had six windows he could sell six times as much, and I believe it to be true. But if he had a very large window, I doubt if the display that he could make would be as satisfactory as in the small one.

The stationer's stock does not lend itself to large displays, as does that of the dry goods merchant, furrier, or grocer. His goods are all comparatively small, and to fill a very large window must be shown in bulk, boxed up or otherwise, which detracts greatly from their appearance.

Those who have given the subject of window trimming special attention, as a general rule agree that only as many goods should be shown in the window as will make an effective display. It is always possible to put in a large assortment of goods, but when too many are shown, not only is there a crowded appearance given the window, but there is no chance to arrange the different articles so that each will be seen to the best advantage.

This does not mean that small windows are preferable, but only that, in deciding on show windows, there are many points in favor of a small or medium sized one that are usually overlooked, when there is an opportunity to secure a larger one.