

The other features which we have been tracing do not appear clearly in the present tables and are evidently characteristic of recent years.

The observations from these six tables should be of some value to founders of new museums who are inquiring into the possibilities of different sources for the support of their undertakings. Further, they are of interest as records of steps in the evolution of museums.

CONTROL OF PUBLIC MUSEUMS

The control of museums can not be inferred in many cases from the nature of support. This appears from the fact, for example, that city appropriations are given to museums controlled by the city and also to independent establishments.

Of the biennium's new public museums 31 are controlled by non-political boards of trustees while 9 are controlled by city, county, or State authorities. Comparable figures for the decade are 154 and 33, respectively. This leaves out of consideration museums that are under libraries, business firms, and individual owners, as well as museums of the Nation most of which are located in national parks.

The typical plan of museum administration in this country has always been that of control by an independent board—either self-perpetuating or elected by the members of a society. This plan has led over all others together by only about three times in the biennium, whereas it led by nearly five times in the decade. It may be that the indicated disparity between the decade and the biennium discloses a drift toward governmental control, which is the dominant system in every other country of the world.

DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLIC MUSEUMS BY SIZE OF COMMUNITY

The question of where museums are found and where new ones are appearing is one of interest because it gives a measure of the progress being made toward the ideal of museum service for all the people. Museum facilities have been developed most extensively in large cities, and there has been some discussion as to whether they can be extended to small communities—and if not, as to where the threshold lies in the scale of population.

Table 11 throws some light on this.

Leaving museums in national parks out of consideration, we see that 40 out of the 50 new museums, or 80 per cent, are in communities with fewer than 100,000 inhabitants. One naturally asks what these new small-community museums are, and whether their appearance in such numbers was characteristic of earlier years. The second question is quickly answered by anticipating the next two tables. During the decade there were 156 out of 223 new museums, or 70 per cent, so located. Among all museums existing in 1930 there