

work at home, and this privilege is not confined to the capital. The Koninklijke Bibliotheek is, in the truest sense, a national library. It is maintained for the benefit of the people of Holland. Books may be borrowed by residents of The Hague for a period of two weeks, and students elsewhere in Holland are permitted to keep books for a month.

The people of Switzerland, in their Stadt Bibliotheek at Berne, possess an equally efficient and broadly accessible national library of some two hundred thousand volumes, housed in a new building carefully planned to meet all the needs of such an institution. The books in this library are absolutely free to residents of every part of Switzerland. A student in the most remote hamlet may send a request to the capital for any work he needs, and if it is available, he gets it by mail, without any unnecessary formalities or other expenses than the actual cost of transportation. He may borrow as many as six volumes at a time.

The Kongelige Bibliotheek, at Copenhagen, offers the use of its 650,000 volumes to all the people of Denmark. Its books are preserved in a splendid building, equipped with every modern facility, and they are carefully classified and catalogued. As in Holland and Switzerland they are available to students throughout the country.

What has been said of these countries applies pretty generally to the national library of Sweden, at Stockholm (320,000 volumes); to the Norwegian national library at Christiania (100,000 volumes); to the national library of Greece, at Athens (305,000 volumes); to the Bibliothèque Royale at Brussels (600,000 volumes); and to the Bibliotheca Nacional at Lisbon (400,000 volumes). That it applies also to the great national libraries of England, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Austria, and Spain, goes without saying, but the object here has been to confine consideration to the smaller countries of Europe, which in population and wealth stand more or less on a footing with Canada. In so far as they are weaker than this country, the comparison is damaging to us and to our self-respect; all the more so, since, over some