

PREFACE.

This LIST tells of some twenty-one hundred books worthy to be read or studied by girls and women. Men and women who know have chosen the books and said about them just what they would tell an inquirer face to face. In some cases trustworthy reviews have been condensed and cited. The selection especially includes books setting forth the manifold new opportunities for bread-winning, education, and culture opened to women within recent years. These new opportunities are notably furthered by the clubs and associations multiplying on every hand in America. To promote their formation, and to render them service, are among the purposes of this LIST. Although the LIST is thus adapted to girls and women, most of its books are as well suited to boys and men as to girls and women—for great literature appeals to all mankind. In planning courses of reading for the young of either sex, librarians, teachers, and parents will find the LIST very helpful.

The American Library Association intends to follow this comparatively short LIST with others, which shall be full and detailed enough to aid the comprehensive reader and the advanced student. During 1896 it is probable that it will issue hand-books on the literature of FINE ART, by Mr. Russell Sturgis; and on that of MUSIC, by Mr. Henry E. Krehbiel; both these authorities are contributors to this LIST. It is hoped that from this beginning the whole round of the working literature of education, science, and art will be passed upon by critics of mark for the behoof of readers and students. Notes condensed for the purpose by contributors may be printed directly on the catalogue-cards of a public library, so that in running over the department of American geology, of electricity, of photography, of engraving, one may be enabled to choose a book as intelligently as if there stood at one's side an authority on the subject—a service this of great importance in an age when books, good, bad, and indifferent, abound and superabound. In the present LIST a good many notes are available for direct transfer to catalogue-cards.

While books in general are in plentiful supply there are some subjects of importance to girls and women upon which no books exist. Co-operative housekeeping is such a subject; throughout the United States diverse experiments are being tried, which, if rightly described and criticised, would be informing to many inquirers; the chapters should be extended to include plans of the best apartment-houses and country-clubs, and to outline the most recent labor-saving appliances, electrical and other, introduced in city hotels. Another theme of interest to women, on which a useful book might be written, is investment. The rate of interest on sound securities is low and tends to become lower. Any method by which women have increased