

and I held the Cross over his face. You have heard men talk about a light breaking on the face of the dying. I didn't believe much in that, but if you will believe me—you will believe me, when I say that the white face broke into a smile, and it seemed that another light than the light of the sun was there. Donnelly looked at this thing, and said, "I see it, I see it." He made a movement with his lips. I was wise enough to know what he meant, and laid the Cross on his lips. He kissed it, and in prayer he went out.

Ladies and gentlemen, that was RIGHT; that is the religion, please God, I hope to preach all my life. I believe if that were the religion that animated the heart of the Canadian people we would soon get this nation into a vital and energizing unity.—Major C. W. Gordon, (*Ralph Connor*).

LIBRARY EXTENSION WORK IN THE U. S. A.

Library extension work consists in reaching the people living in the outskirts or suburbs of cities or towns, and the people living in rural communities. Those living within cities or towns are reached by means of Branch Libraries, Distributing Stations and Delivery Stations, and those in the rural districts by the Traveling Libraries.

The Branch Library, as the title indicates, is a branch of the main city or town library. It has, however, its own permanent collection of books, and is housed separately and circulates its books independently. It is allowed a certain degree of independence in this respect. In some cities the headwork is all done at the main Library, and the branch librarians are only assistants in charge, and perform the details of their work by prescribed rule. Such branches would perform only such functions as were positively necessary to their usefulness as libraries. They would have their own catalogue, but all other administrative work would be performed at the Central office. Or a branch may be practically independent, operated as a separate library, except for a common board of trustees. Its Librarian would select and manage her own staff, and decide on its charging system, its classification, its system of registration and so on. These are the two different types of the Branch Library.

Most of the Branch Libraries are centralized in some respects—as in the purchasing of books in staff training, in cataloging, in prescribing uniformity in charging systems and in the rules that effect the use of books by the public; and are independent in other respects, as in book selection, in discipline, and in the selection of assistants.

The differences between the system of Branch Libraries, and a single independent library are from the

standpoint of the public as follows: The user has all the privileges that he could have and others that he would not be likely to receive with the Branch Library. He has access to the stock not of one library alone, but to the Collections of the main library and all the branches. Consequently he has at his disposal many of the resources and advantages of a large library, with the actual use and informality of a small one.

A few words about the general branch system. As a rule the number of branches should be proportional to population, but in cases where the population is much congested branches may be close together. The number of branches may also be proportional to extent of territory, but in sparsely settled parts of a community to follow this rule alone would not be wise. A branch should always be located in the centre of a group of users rather than on the edge. It is best also to place the branch where it will be used the most—not in the busiest part of a shopping district, or near a factory, but possibly on a side street near these. The attitude of the residents of a district toward a library sometimes determines the desirability of placing a branch.

A person may be allowed to use several Branches at a time or may be restricted to one branch—it all depends on the policy determined when the system was started. Where a borrower has the liberty of drawing from any library, great freedom is allowed. Through the Interbranch loan, branches can borrow from each other, and consequently meet the demands made on them for books not in their own stock.

A Delivery Station is a place where orders may be left for books to be delivered later from a central stock. These are located in places not reached by the branches. They may be in a small store room—and sometimes they have a small permanent collection of reference books. Books are sent to them from the main or Branch Library on request.

The Distributing Station has a stock of books, but not a permanent one, which it sends out from a central point and exchanges for others when needed. These are often located in drug stores, or other stores. They are sent out from the Travelling Library Department of a large library.

The Rural Extension work is done almost entirely through what is known as the Traveling Library System. This system is somewhat different in the various states. Generally speaking travelling libraries are simply collections of a certain number of books, usually 50 to 100 or more, which may be lent for a limited period of time to communities, associations, or individuals, for circulation on payment of a nominal fee to cover expenses of transportation. These libraries are sent out (1) by libraries to supplement their work—for example the city library with its distributing stations within the city