

Travelling Libraries.

WE clip from the Silver Cross the following account, by Margaret Hardinge, of a wise work undertaken by the King's Daughters. The success of the plan might suggest imitation on the part of some of our Leagues:

The travelling libraries of the King's Daughters are not made up of new books, listed and purchased to accompany definite courses of study, as are those used with the University extension lectures. To send to a country Sunday School twenty-five or fifty books, all of real service to pastor, teacher, and pupil, in carrying out the course of study planned for the year, would be a work far in advance of anything yet accomplished by us. To do so is part of our dream, unrealized as yet, but, we believe, not impossible in the future.

The need of books in communities at a distance from libraries was so apparent to our present state secretary, that in January, 1897, she suggested that the Mary Lowe Dickinson Union collect and maintain a travelling library, to be circulated in the state under the direction of various circles of the King's Daughters. At a meeting of the Union the following April, fifteen bound books were given, and in July the committee had received forty volumes. These constituted our first travelling library, which was sent in August to the leader of a helpful circle in Lee County, who became responsible for the care and circulation of the books.

The library was stationed in a Sunday School room for eleven months, and was used by about forty borrowers; more grown people than children read the books. The favorites were "Ben Hur," "Old Fashioned Girl," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and "Little Dorrit." Boys of fourteen years and older were much interested in "Black Beauty."

A request that the librarian name books desired but not contained in the travelling library, met with a cordial response. Among those mentioned were Dickens, "Child's History of England," "Franklin's Autobiography," Lowell's "Vision of Sir Launfal," Scott's "Lady of the Lake," and Wood's "Natural History."

In July, 1898, this travelling library was transferred to another Sunday School, where it remained six months.

Here it served some thirty readers, about evenly divided between children, young people, and adults."

In September, 1898, enough books had been contributed to form a second library of forty volumes, which was forwarded to the faithful librarian who had first taken charge of No. 1, to remain under her care for a year. Among the favorites in library No. 2, as indicated by the librarian's report, were "Idylls of the King" and "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland." The habit of talking about the books read was encouraged by the librarian in charge, and resulted in mutual helpfulness and increased interest in the library.

Requests for libraries have been received from several stations which we are not yet able to supply. The committee hopes to send out Library No. 3 during this summer vacation, and believes that there is no work which appeals more strongly to general sympathy and generous support than this of furnishing hungry minds and souls with material for growth.

The travelling library work in Kane County is carried on by the Federation of Women's Clubs, which has placed eight libraries of fifty volumes each in the Fox River farming districts since April, 1898. This has been accomplished without money, the books having been given by clubs and individuals.

Miss Le Baron (chairman of the Library Committee, Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs), reports that the "supply from generous friends will not last long." Also, that some travelling library work has been done in Bureau, Champaign, and Whiteside Counties.

Until the passage by our state legislature of a bill to provide books for the districts whose tax rolls are insufficient to establish and maintain public libraries we can only share, by means of clubs and unions, our own book privileges with our neighbors, and hope that in the time being to act as a tutor, under whose training they have learned to do their own blacksmithing.

Love for Love.

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