

THE LIBRARY COLUMN.

*** In future this will be a regular feature of BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER and will contain the latest information of value to libraries.

HENRY MOTT, assistant librarian of the university library at McGill, is retiring on a pension after many years of useful service. Mr. Mott was presented by the students with an address and a set of furs.

Montreal's free library, the Fraser Institute, has lately suffered from book thieves. Among the copies taken are two copies of "Hochelaga Depicta," volume I, of Charlevoix, small 8vo., volume I, of Labat's "Isles d'Amerique," small 8vo. All books belonging to the library, in addition to the book plate, are marked on page 9 with an embossing stamp bearing the words "Fraser Institute, Montreal," and most of the French books have the words "Fraser Institute" printed in gold on the back.

The Westminster library has had a most successful year, and now has 3,099 volumes, and receives 10 periodicals. There were in June 1,720 members, August, 1,851, September, 1,991, and in December the number rose to 2,095.

Mayor Campbell has been notified by Andrew Carnegie that he is pleased to grant the town of Cornwall \$7,000 to build a public library, on condition that the town gives a site. The corporation has assured Mr. Carnegie that \$700 a year will be contributed to the support of the institution. Cornwall has a public library at present, but its quarters are not suitable.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has offered to give Stratford \$12,000 for a public library on condition that the city grant a free site and provide \$1,200 yearly for its maintenance. The offer has been unanimously accepted by the board. Overtures were made to Mr. Carnegie by a member acting entirely on his own responsibility. Under present circumstances the public library quarters in the city hall are decidedly limited. The reading room is large enough to meet the wants of the public, but the stockroom is becoming more and more congested with the arrival of each new lot of books, and there is no way of enlargement unless the reading room is intruded upon. Enlargements have been under consideration for some time, but these were considered impracticable.

Edna Wilson has been appointed librarian of the Perth Public Library, in place of James Smith, resigned.

St. Catharines has a Carnegie offer of \$20,000 on the usual terms.

The McGill travelling libraries have just had set of stereopticon slides added to them, and this is an entirely new departure in such organizations. The idea is that they shall be treated as a book

and lent out to families to take home for a few days, and study at their leisure. Reading matter, explaining the pictures, is sent with them, and also a stereopticon. One set illustrates the South African War, and the principal cities and other features of the country, as well as the military operations. Another gives views of the Dominion from Halifax to Vancouver. A number of books for children on mythology, medieval romances, natural science, and the Duke of Argyll's "Life of Queen Victoria," have also been added to their special collection.

Orangeville electors voted January 6 on a proposition to take over the library and make it free. Hitherto the library has received a grant from the town, all members paying a fee.

As a hint to others in ordering periodicals, we give the list in the reading room of the Chatham, Ont., library.

Ordered from Robert Cooper.

Harper's Magazine,
Toronto Globe,
Detroit Free Press,
New York Clipper,
Toronto Saturday Night,
Boys' and Girls' Own (2),
London Times (weekly),
Ladies' Home Journal.

Ordered from W. J. Kenny.

McClure's Magazine,
North American Review,
Review of Reviews,
Treasure House,
Manitoba Free Press,
Wide World Magazine,
Scientific American,
do. Supplement,
Century Magazine,
Cosmopolitan Magazine.

Ordered from Charles Dingman.

Nineteenth Century,
London Graphic,
London Punch,
Victoria, B.C. Colonist,
New York Times,
London Saturday Review,
Scottish-American Journal,
Harper's Bazaar,
Canadian Magazine,
Chatham Banner,
Chatham Planet.

The finances of the London board show a revenue during 1901 of \$8,922.96 and expenditures of \$7,868.15, leaving a balance to the good of \$1,054.81. The following were discontinued from the reading room: The Mail, London, Eng., Montreal Gazette, Current Literature, Edinburgh Scotsman, New York Tribune, Literature. In their place were ordered: Daily Times, Monthly Review, The Craftsman, Montreal Star, Scottish-American, Newcastle Chronicle, American Field.

Dr. A. G. Boughty has been appointed joint librarian of the Quebec Legislature with Dr. Dionne.

Miss Johnston, the librarian, reports that the Stratford library has 6,237 volumes. Of these 516 were purchased in 1901, and the circulation of books in the same year was 10,591 volumes. The receipts were \$1,183 and the expenses \$1,156, leaving a balance on hand of several hundred dollars.

The first book after Christmas is a novel by Mr. Arnold Bennett entitled "The Grand Babylon Hotel." He describes it as a "fantasia on modern themes."

Mrs. Humphry Ward has nearly finished her new novel, but, as yet, she has not announced the title of it. The story is to appear serially in Harper's, beginning in the Spring. Mark Twain will also contribute a novel—if his stories are to be called novels, in the strict sense of the word—to Harper's next year.

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