

to be found in private unprofessional libraries, and of which the want is more felt in provincial towns than anywhere else.

There are books of universal interest which should not be wanting in any library; but at the same time, in order to make a provincial public library perfectly useful, the wants of the population ought to be first consulted; it is not intended here to adopt the idea that, "It should never be attempted to use, as a popular library for the working classes, the large libraries intended for a superior class of readers," except in one sense, viz., that to be well supported by the lower classes, the library must contain books that a narrow-minded librarian might consider only amusing. It might be sufficient for the committee to join with themselves on each occasion the most regular readers, and go to the ballot for any book proposed; an absolute majority should be required, or else grave inconveniences may occur. In such a system, suggestions from the working classes would receive attention, and all works would be admissible, for religion, and politics, and novels, could not be excluded from the shelves. The deficiency of modern foreign works in almost all English libraries, is mentioned as something very observable in relation to the great spread of the knowledge of the French and German languages.

The statistics of the mechanics' institutes shew that the members read a little history and political economy, and a great deal of fiction; in the United States, the same thing occurs, with the addition of travels, agriculture, and horticulture, while in England, the demand for works on the different sciences is gradually increasing. In addition to political, military, civil, literary, artistic, scientific, and natural history, the trustees will have to provide works of local importance; for instance, Manchester, in England, possesses a large class of operative naturalists, a set of botanists, and a museum of natural history; Birmingham and Newcastle have given attention to geology; in the Midland Counties, the works most in demand seem to be the older historic chronicles and works of similar interest. The demand for books relating to different occupations and trades is said to be very limited compared with that for the above-mentioned branches of literature; it is not only probable, but given in evidence, that miners, for instance, never wish to study mining, thinking that they know more about mines than the writers of books: in short, popular libraries must have novels and light literature.

When therefore the committee has taken into consideration the nature of the works generally desirable, and has made some calculation, based upon the extent to which they will favor particular departments, the division of the number of volumes in each group by 46 may be fairly supposed to give the architect the number of times in which a space two feet high by two feet wide will be required: i.e. four square feet will hold about 46 volumes on an average throughout a library, be it a public establishment or a large private collection. This is easily tested by application to even a moderate bookcase.

Among the regulations specially affecting large public libraries abroad are the following: the public admitted to view the library, but not the reading rooms; children under sixteen (on a note of their names and addresses signed by a parent or schoolmaster), and between sixteen and twenty years (upon production of their tickets of admission to a college or great school), allowed to be readers, but in some cases those under sixteen enter with a proviso that they accompany a person above twenty-one years old, who is to be responsible for their conduct; no admittance in the evening except to readers engaged in serious study; books brought in by a reader, to be shown to an attendant, who will give passes for them; in some places there is no such pass given at all, but on the contrary all books once in the library must remain there; it is forbidden to walk about, to converse, to stand near the readers or to look at their books, to look at papers on the desks of the attendants, to sit anywhere but at the tables, to write upon the furniture or walls, to sully the building in any way, or to attempt to pass into the interior. Many of these ordinances are fortunately not thought requisite in writing, as warnings to readers at the British Museum, where they are even permitted to assist themselves to the books of reference which are placed in the cases round the room; on the continent persons are reminded that they are not to touch anything exposed to view, not to use the steps and ladders, in short not to lay hands upon anything not delivered to them by the attendants, except, in a few cases, the catalogues.

The directions issued for the British Museum, which may be varied according to circumstances, stand as follows:

"The reading room of the museum is open every day, except on Sundays, on Ash-Wednesday, Good-Friday, Christmas-Day, and on any Fast or Thanksgiving Days ordered by authority: except also between the 1st and 7th of January, the 1st and 7th of May, and the 1st and 7th of September, inclusive.

"The hours are from nine till four in the months of November, December, January, and February; from nine till five in the months of September, October, March, and April; and from nine till six in the months of May, June, July, and August, with the exception that on Saturdays in these last months it closes at five. [The hours of some evening libraries range between five and eleven.]

"Persons under eighteen years of age are not admissible.

"The librarians are strictly enjoined to use all possible despatch in supplying the readers with the printed books or manuscripts they may apply for; but in so extensive a library it may not be possible to find every article immediately.

"Readers, before leaving the room, are to return the books or manuscripts they have received to an attendant, and are to obtain the corresponding ticket; the reader being responsible for such books or manuscripts so long as the ticket remains uncanceled.

"Readers will be allowed to make one or more extracts from any printed book or manuscript; but no whole, or greater part, of a manuscript is to be transcribed, without a particular leave from the trustees. The transcribers are not to lay the paper, on which they write, on any part of the book or manuscript they are using; nor are any tracings allowed without particular permission of the trustees.

"No person is, on any pretence whatever, to write on any part of a printed book or manuscript belonging to the museum; but if any one should observe a defect in such book or manuscript, he is requested to signify the same to the officer in waiting, who will make proper use of the information.

"It may be sufficient merely to suggest, that *silence* is absolutely requisite in a place dedicated to the purposes of study.

"N.B. Readers are, under no circumstances, to take any book or manuscript out of the reading rooms."

In compliance with the continental system of education, translations of the classics are denied to young persons under sixteen years old, and to those above that age and under twenty-one who do not show that they are at a college; there must be a power in the hands of the librarian to deny certain books to youths and to ladies; besides these there are regulations in the libraries abroad, which do not allow him to give out *editiones principes*, etc., except at discretion; to issue engravings, maps, plans, etc., until they are bound, etc., or to furnish any works until their edges have been cut, and the proper process of collation, stamping, placing, numbering, and cataloguing has been performed; manuscripts are to be asked of the librarian himself, and to be read at a separate table; particular books, periodicals, collections, and literary and scientific journals in parts, are only to be read at reserved tables, on which no ink is allowed, and where extracts or sketches must be made in pencil only; evening readers are expected to ask for the works which they will want, on the evening or morning beforehand; if only one attendant be in the room, he is to be excused leaving it in search of books; at the British Museum, manuscripts are not furnished half an hour, and printed books a quarter of an hour, before closing; in some libraries the latter are not given half an hour before that operation. A good specimen of the mode of asking for books is offered by the example of that used in the British Museum, of which a copy is subjoined.

(IN FRONT.)

Press Mark.	Title of the Work wanted.	Size.	Place.	Date.

(Date)

(Signature).

Please to restore each volume of the Catalogue to its place, as soon as done with.

(AT THE BACK.)

READERS ARE PARTICULARLY REQUESTED

1. Not to ask for more than *one work* on the same ticket.
  2. To transcribe *literally* from the Catalogues the title of the Work wanted.
  3. To write in a plain clear hand, in order to avoid delay and mistakes.
  4. Before leaving the Room, to return the books to an attendant, and to obtain the corresponding ticket, the READER BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOOKS SO LONG AS THE TICKET REMAINS UNCANCELLED.
- N.B. Readers are, under no circumstances, to take any Book or MS. out of the Reading Rooms.

In some French libraries the reader gets a numbered pass on entrance, and an attendant calls the numbers in regular order at the close; but this seems unnecessary, for at the British Museum, a bell, rung five minutes before the time, is obeyed by the restoration of the books by the readers. The supply of books is variously determined abroad as follows: No reader to have more than one book at a time; than two volumes at a time, and only one of each work that may happen to be in more than one volume, especially if in octavo or duodecimo; than two works at a time; than three books during one time of service, the third not to be given while any other demands remain unsupplied; while the most liberal arrangement on the continent does not allow many books, but leaves the quantity of the supply to the discretion of the librarian: books in parts, and journals, not to be given out, except