

## LIBRARY HISTORY TOLD IN REPRINT

(Continued from Page Three) called the mortgage which she held and donated her equity. A deed was finally given to the village, with the proviso that a library was to be maintained in the building and supported by a half mill tax. The village officers were to have their quarters there also, the triangular space in the front of the lot was to be forever reserved as a park space and the property to be forfeited to the University of Michigan for library purposes if the terms of the deed were not carried out. As the village grew, the library had only the large room on the second floor, the other rooms being given over to the village offices. The library remained there until the completion of the new building.

At that time, the library was kept open three afternoons a week, from 3 to 5, with Miss Daisy Durkee as librarian. She was engaged for this position at a salary of \$3 per week. By the time the library was open for six afternoons a week, Miss Durkee's salary had increased to \$35 a month. Since her death, Miss Esther Hitchcock, Miss Clara Jarvis, Miss Margery Alton (Mrs. Hugh Purdy), Miss Marian Patch and Miss Blanche Kerns have served successively as librarians. Mrs. Nancy Thomas holds the position at present.

Last Thanksgiving day marked the formal opening of Birmingham's new Baldwin library, on the corner of Martin and Chester streets, built at a cost of approximately \$175,000. The library is now open from 10 a. m. until 9 p. m., six days a week and Sundays during the winter season. The library is governed by a board composed of six members: Rhett Barr, president; Clarence Vliet, vice-president; Earl G. Potter, treasurer; J. B. Howarth, secretary; Mrs. Arthur Hartwell and Mrs. John H. Mariotte, members of the board.

Miss Martha Baldwin was the first chairman of the board, and Mrs. Bigelow, Mr. E. R. Griggs and Mrs. Barr have followed here. Among those who have been members of the board since 1907 are Mrs. J. A. Bigelow, Mrs. Addie Stearns, Miss Veron Post, Almeron Whitehead, K. D. M. Johnson, Mrs. Mary Cooper, Mrs. Emma Snow, Mrs. A. Cassius Crawford, Dr. Charles Raynate, Dr. John Rainey, George Mitchell, Mrs. Wilson, E. R. Griggs, Mrs. Bowers, Mrs. Emma Hupp, Cassius Crawford, Frank Bickles and H. B. Clement.

The lot which marked the site of the old Baldwin library at Woodward and Maple avenues has been sold to a Detroit development company, and in the near future a business block will go up there.

## THE ECCENTRIC LISTS NEW BOOKS

In order to bring patrons of the Library news of the latest books to be added to the collection, The Birmingham Eccentric places at the Library's disposal each week, a column in the paper. Every week, a reporter from The Eccentric interviews the librarians, for material for the book review column.

All of the Library's acquisitions for the week are given mention in this feature, with a brief paragraph of summary and comment accompanying each book. In this manner the latest news from the Library is presented to its patrons, saving them the inconvenience of telephoning or making needless trips.

The book reviews are also of value as reading guides for busy persons who must budget their time. The more fortunate readers, after consulting the column, may easily pick the book to suit their mood or interest of the moment.

In all the details of preparing the book-review column, both the Librarian and The Eccentric strive to meet the need for it, and to live up to the expectations of those who follow it regularly.

## The Library As Seen From Baldwin High School



Photo from "The Baldwinian of 1929"

The youth of today are the potential library patrons of tomorrow. With the realization of this fact as a basis, Baldwin Public Library and Baldwin High School are closely cooperating in an extensive program to familiarize young people with the use of library resources.

The plan of procedure is two-fold: To keep teachers informed as to services and materials available, and to provide direct reference help for students. The first objective is

accomplished in a brief talk given by the Librarian at the first general teachers' meeting of the year explaining the facilities and inviting teachers to call upon the library staff freely. An additional effort is made throughout the year to keep teachers informed on new material of special interest to them.

Classes are invited to visit the library with their teachers to make a tour of the building, and to hear a short talk by the Librarian on the privileges the

Library offers. To provide reference help to students, the library has organized a special reserve shelf of books in demand for class assignments.

The Librarian is frequently asked to give talks to groups or special advice to individuals about librarianship as a profession, and the training necessary for it.

The cordial relations developed between the library and the high school are fostered by the entire library staff.

## Pierce School Library Owes Existence To Plan of Public-Spirited Woman's Club

The Present Day Club of Birmingham deserves much credit for successfully planning and executing a very fine club project when it organized the library at Pierce School.

Realizing the children in that part of Birmingham were far from the public library and also that children long for books, the club raised money for a collection of books which they installed in Pierce School. A committee of three from the club acted as librarians once a week, and the library grew to be an established part of the school.

After several years the Baldwin Public Library felt able to take over the Pierce School project, and resources were added in the way of books. When the calamity of the depression descended and the Library found it necessary to close all its school branches, the Present Day Club again took the helm and maintained its former library service. Two years ago it relinquished the project to the Pierce School Parent-Teacher Association, a committee of which is now functioning.

Each summer the books are returned to the main library where they are mended or replaced by

others to be sent to the school again in the fall. Now with an increased library staff, it is possible for the children's librarian to visit the school library occasionally, but the real service is contributed by the mothers who are sincere in their wish to provide recreation in reading for their children.

To sponsor and successfully maintain a library year after year, is an accomplishment of which the women of the Pierce School community can be justly proud.

## VACATION READING CLUBS FIND FAVOR

Summer reading clubs have proved popular for the last two seasons. The first one was an airplane contest to see which boy and girl could fly the farthest by reading the greatest number of books, the prizes being won by Nelda May Smith and Laurie Walker. The second was a circus club with tickets to be punched when a child had read a book that entitled him to admission to the imaginary side show or main act. All children who had received five punches on their tickets were invited to a marionette show and party in the library auditorium.

## FICTION COMES INTO ITS OWN

(Continued from Page Two) romance but in the underworld drama of the police court. Give him a good mystery or detective story and he is happy, trying to decide whether it was the cousin from Australia or the butler's ne'er-do-well son that committed the crime, gorily described on page six. The Arrow Points to Murder or Death Catches up with Mr. Kluck, provides him with a few hours of relaxation and he returns to the office refreshed and stimulated.

If the reader would have some gentler romance, Enchanters' Nightshade or the whimsicalities of Miss Bunclie's Book are the fare indicated. Romance and humor—things that the philosophers tell us are all too rare in modern life, are to be found in books—not in heavy erudite tomes but in novels.

Reflects Spirit of Age Yet the novel has its serious side. Much of the most intelligent comment on modern times has been in fiction—in fact Bernard Shaw, though he wrote plays, was so fond of the idea of promulgating his revolutionary doctrines in sugar coated form that he wrote long prefaces to his plays in order to explain his ideas. The serious writers of the present day find the novel an invaluable medium. Such are the descriptions of East Indian conditions as are recorded in Bromfield's The Rains Came or the picture of a doctor's struggles with ignorance and superstition described in A. J. Cronin's The Citadel. There are few phases of life that have not been portrayed faithfully by an author who was working either for reform as did Dickens, or for the sheer joy of the portrayal like that of Gorge with the Wind.

Many people who keep up with the current book reviews want the new books as soon as they are off the presses. For them, the rental collection maintained, of ten cents, is a small price to pay for the privilege of opening a new book, smelling faintly of printer's ink and bursting with the promise of enjoyment to come.

Yes, fiction has graduated into the realm of literature. It is no longer possible to dismiss fiction lightly as the prerogative of the light and flippant mind. With the exception of the ephemeral novel extended solely to entertain, fiction has a definite place in the fabric of modern life and thought.

## HEADS STAFF

(Continued from Page Three) the Library School of the University of Washington.

Miss Cooke received her initial training in library work at the University of Wisconsin Library School. Prior to that, she acted as teacher librarian in her home city of Kaukauna, Wis.

During her residence in Birmingham, Miss Cooke has made many friends and become widely known.

"The reading public of Birmingham is more than ordinarily broad-minded and literary in its taste," Miss Cooke said, "and it is a pleasure to work with readers of that type. My experience here has been and becomes increasingly pleasant through the very fine cooperation of the library board."

"Never have I known a more pleasant relationship than exists here. I have enjoyed living in Birmingham for the friendship it has brought, and the sincere interest of the library board is a source of inspiration and delight."—M. E. P.

## Library Conforms To ALA Standards

The American Library Association has adopted a set of standards to help libraries to know whether their equipment and personnel are adequate for a city of their size. Birmingham should probably be rated as a class 5 city, 10,000 to 15,000, although the census for 1930 gives the population as 9539.

To qualify for this class a library should meet at least 4 out of 6 requirements. Baldwin Library is above the requirements in the matter of staff personnel, budget, compensation of librarian and hours the library is open per week, and is only slightly below the requirements for the number of books and the circulation of books.

When one adds to this a beautiful building, it can be seen that the library as a whole ranks well among libraries.

## DRAWING WINS PRIZE IN 1935 CENT

The illustration of Baldwin Public Library at the top of Page One of this Supplement, was drawn by Marvin Hahn, Birmingham artist, and was the drawing awarded first prize in a contest sponsored by the Library Board in 1935.

Visit your Library this week. Open house Thursday, Friday and Saturday, at the usual Library hours of 10 A. M. to 9 P. M.