

BULLETIN OF THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY MANCHESTER

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No. 1

LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS.

AT the January meeting of the Council of Governors the sixteenth annual report was presented, in which the work of the library during the past year was reviewed. As the circulation of this report is restricted to the governing body of the library it may not be out of place in these pages briefly to summarize such portions of the information which it contains as are likely to be of interest to our readers.

As we looked forward at the commencement of the year it was not unnatural to anticipate a decline in the library's activities. We had become obsessed by the war; it ^{1915.} had entered into every phase of our work, and at times it seemed to overshadow, if not actually to obscure all our visions of usefulness. It is therefore with feelings of relief, as we look back, that we find our gloomy forebodings have not been realized.

Libraries, museums, and art galleries have been marked down as victims of municipal and state retrenchment to an extent which astonishes all who care for the intellectual future of England, and we are grateful to the Editor of the "Saturday Review" for the strong and timely protest which he raised against this mistaken policy. "It will not materially help the country financially to economize in things of the mind, or in any of the things which give a genuine grace and dignity to life. The financial results of such economy are small, and they are tremendously outweighed by the irreparable loss to the country of intellectual force, and of all means by which a nation's spirit is kept alive and fresh. Those who think literature a mere luxury to be cut down with as little compunction as petrol are exceedingly ill-advised. They can have very little idea as to what precisely it is we are fighting to preserve. The nation which is starved in mind and fancy is as little likely to survive the searching test of war as the nation which is starved for bread and cheese."

Libraries are the keepers of the forces which more than any other can effectively fight against and resist the intellectual enslavement which may be described as the roots from which the present world conflagration has sprung. The fruits of the world's thought upon our shelves are a never-failing store of weapons calculated to help the public to assert that freedom to think, to choose, and to believe for themselves if militarism is to be prevented from becoming the pattern to which the whole world is made. Another direction in which the libraries of the country can help at this time is to provide avenues of escape from too much thinking about the war.

Fortunately, the governors have had no illusions of the kind referred to ; they have realized their responsibility, not only to "carry on," but also to open out, wherever possible, new avenues of service, and with most encouraging results. The number of readers in the library not only has shown no decline, but has actually shown an increase, with this difference from former years that there have been fewer male readers, for obvious reasons, whilst the lady readers have increased to such an extent, that at times the seating capacity of the library has been taxed to the point of congestion, and the need for increased accommodation, to which we look forward, is once more emphasized.

By the approaching completion of the new building which should be ready for occupation towards the end of the present year, or at the commencement of 1917, not only will the congestion in this respect be relieved, but the sorely needed additional accommodation for book storage will be available, to the relief of the overcrowded bookshelves.

At the meeting of the Council held in December, 1914, the Governors resolved to give some practical expression to their deep feelings of sympathy with the authorities of the University of Louvain, in the irreparable loss which they had suffered through the destruction of the University buildings and the famous library. It was further decided that this expression of sympathy should take the form of a gift of books, to comprise a set of the publications of the library, together with a selection from the stock of duplicates, which have gradually accumulated in the library, through the purchase *en bloc* from time to time of large and special collections.

A list of upwards of two hundred volumes was drawn up to

THE
RECON-
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OF THE
LOUVAIN
LIBRARY.

accompany the offer, when it was made to the Louvain authorities through the medium of Professor Dr. A. Carnoy, at that time resident in Cambridge, who, in gratefully accepting the gift, stated that "this was one of the very first acts which tend to the preparation of our revival".

Since the University was, as it remains for the present, dismembered and without a home, we gladly undertook to house the volumes, which thus formed the nucleus of the new library, until such time as the new buildings should be ready to receive them. At the same time it was felt that there must be many other libraries, and similar institutions, as well as private individuals, who would welcome an opportunity of sharing in this expression of practical sympathy. An appeal, therefore, was made in the pages of the "BULLETIN," which met with an immediate and encouraging response from all classes of the community, not only in this country, but in many parts of the world, thanks to the valuable assistance rendered by the Press, in giving to our appeal a publicity it would have been impossible to secure in any other way.

Already upwards of 6000 volumes have been either actually received or definitely promised, and each day brings with it fresh offers of assistance. We feel encouraged, therefore, to entertain the hope that the new library, which is already rising phoenix-like from the ashes of the old one, will be richer and more glorious than its predecessor, and we are anxious that the agencies through which this is to be accomplished should be as widely representative as possible.

A careful register of the names and addresses of the donors of the various works, with an exact record of their gifts, has been instituted for presentation with the library. This will serve as a permanent record of the widespread desire to give tangible proof to the people of Belgium of the sympathy so widely felt with them in the calamities that have befallen them, and also of the high and affectionate regard which their heroic sacrifices have inspired.

This is an excellent beginning of the new library, yet, when it is realized that the collection of books so insensately destroyed at Louvain numbered nearly a quarter of a million of volumes, it will be evident that very much more remains to be done if the work of replacement is to be completely successful.

It is with the utmost confidence that we renew our appeal for help, and in doing so we desire to ask those of our readers who may be

desirous of participating in our scheme, to be good enough, in the first instance, to forward to the Librarian of the John Rylands Library a list of the works which they propose to present, so that the register may be examined with the object of obviating a needless duplication of gifts.

We have been compelled through considerations of space to hold over the record of contributions received since December last, but we shall furnish the particulars in our next issue.

Since our appeal was issued, a committee has been formed, under the leadership of Viscount Bryce, as President of the British Academy, to co-operate with the Institut de France in the formation of an International Committee with the ultimate aim of the restoration of the University of Louvain and its library. Invitations were issued to the learned societies and principal libraries throughout the country to appoint delegates to assist in the realization of this aim, and Sir Alfred Hopkinson, K.C., with the Librarian were appointed to represent this library. The inaugural meeting was held at Burlington House in December last, when steps were taken to form a small executive committee to consider ways and means. This executive committee has since been formed, with Lord Muir Mackenzie as Chairman, to work in connection with the French Committee, and is now considering the best way of organizing the movement effectively.

INTERNATIONAL
LOUVAIN
COMMITTEE.

The efforts which have been employed throughout the year to develop the resources of the library along lines which hitherto have been productive of such excellent results, and at the same time to reduce the number of lacunæ upon its shelves, have again met with most gratifying success. In this respect the officials have to acknowledge the valuable assistance which they have received from readers, who in the course of their investigations have been able to call attention to the library's lack of very important authorities. In most cases these deficiencies have been promptly supplied, whilst in the case of works of rarity, which are not so readily procurable, steps have been taken to obtain them with the least possible delay. Suggestions of this nature, which tend to the improvement of the library, are not only welcomed, but they are invited, and receive prompt and sympathetic attention.

GROWTH
OF THE
COLLECTIONS.

It may not be out of place again briefly to refer to the help and

guidance which the officials are constantly called upon to render to readers and students, not only by personal attention in the library itself, but also in response to requests received through the post. Such service cannot be reduced to any reliable statistical statement, but they bear fruit in the grateful acknowledgments of indebtedness to the library, which constantly find expression in the footnotes and prefaces of published works.

Notwithstanding the absence of the six members of the staff who have joined His Majesty's Forces, the service of the library has been maintained at its regular level of efficiency, thanks to the loyal co-operation of the remaining members, who from various causes are ineligible for military service.

The additions to the library by purchase and by gift since the presentation of the last report number 3060 volumes, of which 2670 were acquired by purchase, and 390 by gift.

The acquisitions by purchase contain fewer works of current publication than usual, by reason of the fact that there has been something like a pause in authorship since the war began, except in war books. Many prominent scholars have exchanged the peaceful pursuit of literature for the service of the King, and in several cases have already given the last pledge of loyalty to their country. We have therefore been able to pay greater attention to the acquisition of some of the older works, in which the library is still deficient.

The printed books include many rare and interesting items, amongst which are the following: The rare original editions of three of Sir William Alexander's works: "Doomes-day," 1614, "Paraenesis to the Prince," 1604, and "Aurora," 1604; Mexia's "The Forests or collection of Histories," 1571; Joshua Silvestre's "Lachrymae lachrymarum," 1613; Richard Brathwaite's "Whimsies," 1631; the earliest publication of King Edward VIth's reign towards the reformation of ecclesiastical affairs: "Injunctions given by . . . Edward VI. . . ." 1547; Henry Jacob's "Defence of the Churches of England," 1599; Increase Mather's ". . . Trials of New England Witches . . ." 1693; a collection of tracts and broadsides relating to the Popish Plot, 1679-1681; "Breviarium Carmelitanum," 1480; the original edition of Florio's translation of the "Essays of Montaigne," 1603; the original edition of John Harington's translation of "Orlando

Furioso of Ariosto, 1591; John Florio's "*Second Fruites . . . and Gardine of Recreation*," 1591; also a large selection of important works upon the history of British India, made with the help of Professor Ramsay Muir; a collection of books on Eastern archæology, including an important group of works on the history of Ceylon, from the library of Professor Rhys Davids, etc.

The manuscripts include: "The original record of the Royal receipts and expenses in Ireland for the year of 20 James I," 1622, in 4 vols.; a collection of eighty volumes of records, of which the outstanding item is a volume of the fifteenth century "*Cartulary of Fountains Abbey*," which was lost sight of for a very long time, and was unknown to Dugdale, Dodsworth, and the later editors of the "*Monasticon Anglicanum*," the volume is in a perfect state of preservation, and retains its interesting fifteenth century stamped binding; the other volumes in the collection consist for the most part of seventeenth century transcripts of State Papers, but include some original documents, which may prove to be of considerable historical importance, including an "*Ancient Rent Roll of Oswestry*," "*Book of Offices under the Crown*," "*Statutes of Savoy Hospital*," etc. A collection of eighty Pali manuscripts on palm leaf, metallic lacquer, or paper, including a number of very rare and unpublished texts, together with a small group of unknown works from the Bali Island beyond Java, in Bali character, from the library of Professor Rhys Davids. A large collection of memoranda, reports, and letters relating to the East India Company, mostly covering the middle of the nineteenth century, with a quantity of material dealing with the earlier history of the Company. The collection seems to have been made by John Charles Mason (1796-1881) who held the office of Marine Secretary of the Indian Government, and was for many years employed at the East India House, upon confidential duties under the Committee of Secrecy. A number of "*Court Rolls*" of the time of Queen Elizabeth, and a "*Legal Commonplace Book*" of a Preston solicitor, also of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

These are but a few of the works, taken almost at random, but they suffice to furnish some idea of the importance of the accessions which are constantly being obtained.

In the following list of donors, we have fresh proof of the sustained practical interest in the library, and we take this opportunity of renewing the thanks, already expressed in

GIFTS TO
THE LIBRARY.

another form, for their generous gifts, at the same time assuring them that these expressions of interest and goodwill are a most welcome source of encouragement to the governors.

Miss E. M. Barlow.	Dr. Wickham Legg.
The Right Hon. Earl Beauchamp,	The Rev. E. Le Mare.
K.G.	H. C. Levis, Esq.
R. Benson, Esq.	The Librarian.
J. H. Benton, Esq.	Monsieur J. B. Martin.
W. K. Bixby, Esq.	The Rev. R. M. Martin, O.P.
The Rev. D. P. Buckle.	F. R. Marvin, Esq.
Dr. Isak Collijn.	Rai Biraj Narain.
G. G. Coulton, Esq.	Dr. Axel Nelson.
F. A. Crisp, Esq.	Lieut.-Col. J. P. Nicholson.
The Mary Baker Eddy Fund.	Julian Peacock, Esq.
The Rev. G. Eyre Evans.	A. Philip, Esq.
The Rev. H. A. Folkard.	Mrs. Reeves, per the Rev. J. B.
Sir H. G. Fordham.	McGovern.
The Rev. Canon J. T. Fowler.	Monsieur Seymour de Ricci.
S. Gaselee, Esq.	Prince Paul Z. Riedelski.
R. Griffin, Esq.	H. Laing Roth, Esq.
The Rev. Professor J. Gwynn.	Visconde de Sautarem.
J. J. Hess, Esq.	C. L. H. Smith, Esq.
C. H. St. John Hornby, Esq.	O. S. Straus, Esq.
Charles Hughes, Esq.	A. Swann, Esq.
Sydney Humphries, Esq.	Mrs. M. A. Tanner.
W. H. A. Jacobson, Esq.	G. Thomas, Esq.
R. Jaeschke, Esq.	Dr. Paget Toynbee.
C. Janet, Esq.	J. Urquhart, Esq.
The Executors of the late Thomas	Mrs. Watson.
Kay, Esq.	J. H. Watson, Esq.
T. W. Koch, Esq.	The Rev. Dr. W. T. Whitley.
Monsieur Paul Lacombe.	O. U. Wihl, Esq.
Wm. Lees, Esq.	G. A. Wood, Esq.

British and Foreign Bible Society.

Cairo. The Khedivial Library.

Cambridge. Magdalene College.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Chicago University Library.

Chicago. John Crerar Library.

Copenhagen. Det Store Kongelige Bibliothek.

Cornell University Library.

Durham University Library.

Groningen. Rijks-Universiteitsbibliotheek.

Habana. Biblioteca Nacional.

Humanitarian League.

International Institute of Agriculture, U.S.A.

Jamaica. Institute of Jamaica, Kingston.

Japanese Government Railways.

London. British Museum.

London. Middle Temple Library.

Manchester Egyptian and Oriental Society.

Manchester Museum.

Manchester University Press.

Manchester. Victoria University.

Saint Andrews University Library.

South Australia Public Library.

Stubbs' Publishing Co.

Testimony Publishing Co.

Toronto. Provincial Museum.

Utrecht. Rijks Universiteitsbibliotheek.

Washington. Congressional Library.

Washington. Surgeon-General's Office Library.

Washington University Library, St. Louis, Mo.

Worcester, Mass. Clark University Library.

Yale University Library.

Interest in the public lectures, which have come to be regarded as one of the established institutions of Manchester, has continued unabated throughout the year, in spite of the war. Eight evening and two afternoon lectures have been arranged, thanks to the help so ungrudgingly given, by such scholars as Dr. Rendel Harris, Principal Burrows, Professors Herford, Ramsay Muir, Richard Moulton, Peake, Tout, Elliot Smith, and Mr. Walter Poel. On each occasion the lecture-room has been well filled with a most appreciative audience.

LECTURES
AND DE-
MONSTRA-
TIONS.

A number of special lectures and demonstrations to teachers, students, Sunday School workers, and craftsmen, have also been given during the year, with a view to assist them in obtaining a better knowledge of the contents of the library, and how it can serve them in their respective studies and work.

In connection with the Tercentenary of the Death of Shakespeare, which is to be commemorated in the week following Sunday, the 23rd of April, arrangements have been made for the delivery of three lectures; one by Mr. William Poel on "The Globe Play-house," and two by Professor Richard G. Moulton, on "Shakespeare as a Dramatic Artist," and "Shakespeare as a Dramatic Thinker".

TERCEN-
TENARY OF
SHAKE-
SPEARE'S
DEATH.

It is also the intention to arrange for the occasion a special exhibition illustrating the work of Shakespeare and his contemporaries, and to issue one of our usual illustrated handbooks, with a view to reveal, not only to students, but also to the general public, the wealth of material which is available to them in the library for the study of Shakespearian literature.

We congratulate Dr. C. E. Vaughan, one of the Governors of the Library, upon the laborious piece of work which he has just brought to fruition, in the publication of "The Political Writings of Jean Jacques Rousseau," in two octavo volumes, by the Cambridge University Press. This is the first time that the political writings of Rousseau have been brought together in this way. In establishing a correct text, furnished with due critical apparatus, and enriched by introductions which put the reader in the way of attaining a fair view of Rousseau's position in the history of political thought, Dr. Vaughan has rendered a service to scholarship, the value and importance of which it is impossible to overestimate. The publication is timely, for the influence of Rousseau is almost unparalleled, and is always with us. The part which he played in shaping the French Revolution is generally recognized, but it is doubtful whether his influence upon the present war of nations and ideas is understood. This point Dr. Vaughan makes clear. Fichte was the disciple of Kant, and Kant of Rousseau. We are told that Fichte's works, embodying his theory of the absolute state, are "manifestly the arsenal from which the later prophets of German nationalism . . . have drawn their heaviest artillery".

DR. VAUGHAN'S
EDITION OF
ROUSSEAU.