

CENTRAL LIBRARY BUILDING, COPLEY SQUARE.

FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES

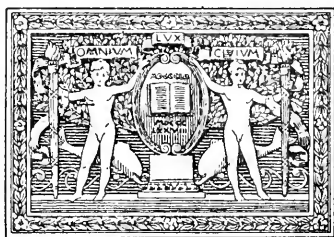
OF THE

PUBLIC LIBRARY

OF THE

CITY OF BOSTON

1909-1910



BOSTON
PUBLISHED BY THE TRUSTEES
1910

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

ON FEBRUARY 1, 1910.

JOSIAH H. BENTON, *President.*

Term expires May 1, 1914.

THOMAS F. BOYLE.

Term expires May 1, 1912.

WILLIAM F. KENNEY.

Term expires May 1, 1911.

SAMUEL CARR.

Term expires May 1, 1913.

ALEXANDER MANN.

Term expires May 1, 1910.

LIBRARIAN.

HORACE G. WADLIN.

ORGANIZATION OF THE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT.

The Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston, organized in 1852, are now incorporated under the provisions of Chapter 114, of the Acts of 1878, as amended. The Board for 1852 was a preliminary organization; that for 1853 made the first annual report. At first the Board consisted of one alderman and one common councilman and five citizens at large, until 1867, when a revised ordinance made it to consist of one alderman, two common councilmen and six citizens at large, two of whom retired, unless re-elected, each year, while the members from the City Council were elected yearly. In 1878 the organization of the Board was changed to include one alderman, one councilman, and five citizens at large, as before 1867; and in 1885, by the provisions of the amended city charter, the representation of the City Government upon the Board by an alderman and a councilman was abolished, leaving the Board as at present, consisting of five citizens at large, appointed by the Mayor, for five-year terms, the term of one member expiring each year. The following citizens at large have been members of the Board since its organization in 1852:

ABBOTT, SAMUEL APPLETON BROWNE, 1879-95.
APPLETON, THOMAS GOLD, 1852-57.
BENTON, JOSIAH HENRY, LL.D., 1894-.
BIGELOW, HON. JOHN PRESCOTT, 1852-68.
BOWDITCH, HENRY INGERSOLL, M.D., 1865-68.
BOWDITCH, HENRY PICKERING, M.D., 1894-1902.
BOYLE, THOMAS FRANCIS, 1902-.
BRAMAN, JARVIS DWIGHT, 1869-72.
CARR, SAMUEL, 1895-96, 1908-.
CHASE, GEORGE BIGELOW, 1876-85.
CLARKE, JAMES FREEMAN, D.D., 1895-1907.
CURTIS, DANIEL SARGENT, 1873-75.
DENORMANDIE, JAMES, D.D., 1895-1907.
DWIGHT, THOMAS, M.D., 1899-1907.
EVERETT, HON. EDWARD, 1852-64.
FROTHINGHAM, RICHARD, LL.D., 1875-79.
GREEN, SAMUEL ABBOTT, M.D., 1868-78.
GREENOUGH, WILLIAM WHITWELL, 1856-88.
HAYNES, PROF. HENRY WILLIAMSON, 1880-95.

HILLARD, HON. GEORGE STILLMAN, 1872-75; 76-77.
 KENNEY, WILLIAM FRANCIS, 1907-.
 LINCOLN, SOLOMON, 1897-1907.
 MANN, ALEXANDER, D.D., 1908-.
 MORTON, HON. ELLIS WESLEY, 1870-73.
 PIERCE PHINEAS, 1888-94.
 PRINCE, HON. FREDERICK OCTAVIUS, 1888-99.
 PUTNAM, GEORGE, D.D., 1868-77.
 RICHARDS, WILLIAM REUBEN, 1889-95.
 SHURTLEFF, HON. NATHANIEL BRADSTREET, 1852-68.
 THOMAS, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, LL.D., 1877-78.
 TICKNOR, GEORGE, LL.D., 1852-66.
 WALKER, FRANCIS AMASA, LL.D., 1896.
 WHIPPLE, EDWIN PEVEY, 1868-70.
 WHITMORE, WILLIAM HENRY, 1885-88.
 WINSOR, JUSTIN, LL.D., 1867-68.

The HON. EDWARD EVERETT was President of the Board from 1852 to 1864; GEORGE TICKNOR, in 1865; WILLIAM W. GREENOUGH, from 1866 to April, 1888; PROF. HENRY W. HAYNES, from May 7, 1888, to May 12, 1888; SAMUEL A. B. ABBOTT, May 12, 1888, to April 30, 1895; HON. F. O. PRINCE, October 8, 1895, to May 8, 1899; SOLOMON LINCOLN, May 12, 1899, to October 15, 1907; REV. JAMES DE NORMANDIE, January 31, 1908, to May 8, 1908; JOSIAH H. BENTON, since May 8, 1908.

LIBRARIANS.

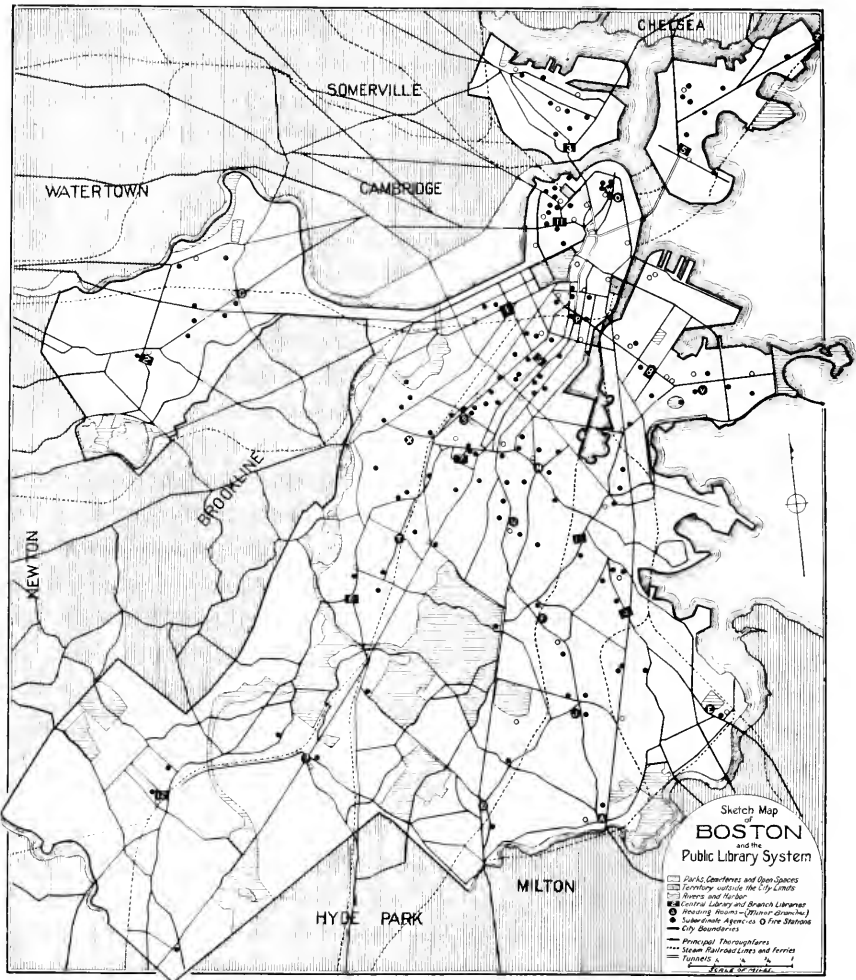
(From 1858 to 1877, the chief executive officer was entitled Superintendent.)

CAPEN, EDWARD, *Librarian*, May 13, 1852-December 16, 1874.
 JEWETT, CHARLES C., *Superintendent*, 1858-January 9, 1868.
 WINSOR, JUSTIN, LL.D., *Superintendent*, February 25, 1868-September 30, 1877.
 GREEN, SAMUEL A., M.D., *Trustee, Acting Librarian*, October 1, 1877-September 30, 1878.
 CHAMBERLAIN, MELLEN, LL.D., *Librarian*, October 1, 1878-September 30, 1890.
 DWIGHT, THEODORE F., *Librarian*, April 13, 1892-April 30, 1894.
 PUTNAM, HERBERT, LL.D., *Librarian*, February 11, 1895-April 30, 1899.
 WHITNEY, JAMES L., *Acting Librarian*, March 31, 1899-December 21, 1899; *Librarian*, December 22, 1899-January 31, 1903.
 WADLIN, HORACE G., LL.D., *Librarian*, since February 1 1903.

LIBRARY SYSTEM, FEBRUARY 1, 1910.

DEPARTMENTS.	OPENED.
Central Library, Copley Sq. Established May 2, 1854.....	Mar. 11, 1895
‡East Boston Branch, 37 Meridian St.....	Jan. 28, 1871
§South Boston Branch, 372 Broadway.....	May 1, 1872
||Roxbury Branch, 46 Millmont St.....	July, 1873
‡Charlestown Branch, City Sq.....	*Jan., 1874
†Brighton Branch, Academy Hill Rd.....	*Jan., 1874
‡Dorchester Branch, Arcadia, cor. Adams St.....	Jan. 25, 1874
§South End Branch, 397 Shawmut Ave.....	Aug., 1877
§Jamaica Plain Branch, Jackson Hall, (temporarily) Centre St....	Sept., 1877
‡West Roxbury Branch, Centre, near Mt. Vernon St.....	*Jan. 6, 1880
†West End Branch, Cambridge, cor. Lynde St.....	Feb. 1, 1896
‡Upham's Corner Branch, Columbia Rd., cor. Bird St.....	Mar. 16, 1896
Station A. Lower Mills Reading Room, Washington St.....	June 7, 1875
" B. Roslindale Reading Room, Washington St., cor. Ash- land St.....	Dec. 3, 1878
" D. Mattapan Reading Room, 727 Walk Hill St.....	Dec. 27, 1881
" E. Neponset Reading Room, 362 Neponset Ave.....	Jan. 1, 1883
" F. Mt. Bowdoin Reading Room, Washington, cor. Eldon St.....	Nov. 1, 1886
" G. Allston Reading Room, 354 Cambridge St.....	Mar. 11, 1889
" J. Codman Square Reading Room, Washington, cor. Nor- folk St.....	Nov. 12, 1890
" N. Mt. Pleasant Reading Room, Dudley, cor. Magazine St.	Apr. 29, 1892
" P. Broadway Extension Reading Room, 13 Broadway Extension.....	Jan. 16, 1896
" R. Warren Street Reading Room, 390 Warren St.....	May 1, 1896
" S. Roxbury Crossing Reading Room, 1154 Tremont St....	Jan. 18, 1897
" T. Boylston Station Reading Room, The Lamartine, De- pot Sq.....	Nov. 1, 1897
" W. Industrial School Reading Room, 39 North Bennet St..	Nov. 3, 1899
" Z. Orient Heights Reading Room, 1030 Bennington St...	June 25, 1901
" 22. North Street Reading Room, 207 North St.....	June 9, 1903
" 23. City Point Reading Room, 615 Broadway.....	July 18, 1906
" 24. Parker Hill Reading Room, 1518 Tremont St.....	July 15, 1907

*As a branch. †In building owned by City, and exclusively devoted to library uses. ‡In City building, in part devoted to other municipal uses. §Occupies rented rooms. ||The lessee of the Fellows Atheneum, a private library association.



Area of City, 43 Square miles.

I. Central Library, Copley Square.

Population (Census of 1900), 565,386.

Branch Libraries, February 1, 1910.

- 1. Brighton Branch, Hoiton Library Building, Academy Hill Road
- 2. Charlestown Branch, City Square.
- 3. Dorchester Branch, Arcadia, cor. Adams St
- 4. East Boston Branch, 27 Meridian St
- 5. Jamaica Plain Branch, Jackson Hall, Centre St

- 7. Roxbury Branch, 46 Millmont St.
- 8. South Boston Branch, 222 Broadway
- 9. South End Branch, 307 Shawmut Avenue.
- 10. Upham's Corner Branch, Columbia Road, cor. Bird St.
- 11. West End Branch, Cambridge, cor. Lynde St.
- 12. West Roxbury Branch, Centre, near Mt. Vernon St.

Delivery Stations, February 1, 1910.

- A. Lower Mills Reading Room, Washington, cor. Richmond St
- B. Roslindale Reading Room, Washington, cor. Ashland St
- D. Mattapan Reading Room, 727 Walk Hill St
- E. Neponset Reading Room, 252 Neponset Ave
- F. Mount Bowdoin Reading Room, Washington, cor. Eldon St.
- G. Allston Reading Room, 9 Harvard Ave
- J. Codman Square Reading Room, Washington, cor. Norfolk St., Dorchester
- N. Mt. Pleasant Reading Room, Dudley, cor. Magazine St

- P. Broadway Extension Reading Room, 13 Broadway Extension.
- R. Warren Street Reading Room, 209 Warren St.
- S. Roxbury Crossing Reading Room, 152 Tremont St
- T. Boylston Station Reading Room, The Lamartine, Depot Square
- W. Industrial School Reading Room, 32 North Bennet St
- Z. Grant Heights Reading Room, 1000 Bennington St
- 13. North Street Reading Room, 209 North St.
- V. 41st Street Reading Room, 542 Broadway
- X. Parker Hill Reading Room, 458 Tremont St

CONTENTS.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES	1
Balance Sheet	28
REPORT OF THE EXAMINING COMMITTEE	32
REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN	39
Index to the Annual Report, 1909-1910	70



TO HIS HONOR JOHN F. FITZGERALD,

Mayor of the City of Boston:

SIR, — The Board of Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston present the following report of its condition and affairs for the year ending January 31, 1910, being their fifty-eighth annual report.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD.

The Board organized on May 7, 1909, by the election of Mr. Josiah H. Benton as President, Mr. Thomas F. Boyle, Vice President, and Miss Della Jean Deery, Clerk.

The term of Mr. Benton expired on April 30, 1909, and he was re-appointed and qualified a member of the Board for five years from that date.

RECEIPTS OF THE LIBRARY.

The receipts of the Library are of two classes: First, those which are to be expended by the Trustees in the maintenance of the Library. These consist of the annual appropriation by the City Council, and the income from Trust funds, given to the Trustees but invested by the City Treasurer under the direction of the Finance Committee of the City. During the past year these receipts were as follows:

Annual appropriation	\$349,455.00
Income from Trust funds, including unexpended balance of previous year	36,667.11
Total	<u>\$386,122.11</u>

Second, receipts which are accounted for and paid into the City treasury. These consist of receipts from fines for the detention of books, from sales of finding lists, bulletins, and catalogues; from commissions paid for the use of telephone facilities; from

sales of waste; from payments for lost books; and from money found in the Library. These receipts, during the year, have been as follows:

From fines	\$5,372.22
From sales of catalogues, etc.	79.19
From telephone commissions	141.12
From sales of waste	210.83
From payments for lost books	314.72
From money found in the Library	3.57
Total	<u>\$6,121.65</u>

The \$314.72 received for lost books, being received only to replace lost library property is, when paid into the City treasury, added to the appropriation for library maintenance. A balance sheet showing all the receipts and expenditures of the Library Department in detail is hereinafter contained.

CITY APPROPRIATION.

The appropriation made last year for the support of the Library was generous, but not in excess of the sum required to maintain and administer the institution efficiently. To provide for its proper administration, taking into account the increase in the population of the City, and the enlarged demands made upon the library system, a progressive increase in appropriations will be necessary. As we said in our report last year: "It was the original design of the wise, sagacious, and public-spirited citizens who promoted the foundation of the Public Library that it should be a means of education for all. Such has been the course of its development up to this time, and such should be its future development. This means constantly increasing appropriations for its support and improvement. The proper maintenance, work, and development of the library system requires an annual appropriation of not less than \$350,000. Without this, the Library will fail to be efficiently worked and improved to its full capacity for the education of our people, and its usefulness will surely decrease. The Library cannot simply mark time. It must either march forward, or fall behind in its work."

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

During the year, 38,637 volumes have been added to the library collection. Of these, 26,297 were purchased, 9,357 were given to the Library, and the remainder were received by exchange, binding of periodicals into volumes, etc.; 13,152 volumes were purchased for the Central Library, and 13,145 for the branch libraries and reading-room stations.

The total amount expended for books, including \$9,952.68 for periodicals and \$2,247.06 for newspapers, was \$42,979.52, or about 12 per cent of the entire expense of the Library for all purposes.

The average cost of all books purchased was \$1.15 per volume. Of the books purchased, 22,356 were bought from money appropriated by the City, at an average cost of \$0.95 a volume, and 3,941 were bought with the income of Trust funds, at an average cost of \$2.33 a volume.

In the purchase of books the Trustees have endeavored, within the means at their command, to provide current instructive and useful books for the people and to replace such books worn out by use. And they have sought as well to provide books for the use of scholars so that the Library may not lose its distinctive character not only as a popular library for the use of the people but also as a library for scholarly research and work. They are convinced that it is only by keeping the Library strong in both these directions that it can continue to be a great permanent educational institution and of the greatest benefit to the City.

BOOK CIRCULATION AND USE OF THE LIBRARY.

There were issued during the year for direct home use 297,567 volumes at the Central Library, and from the Central Library through the branches and reading-room stations 75,372 others, while the branches and reading-room stations also issued 1,124,456 volumes for direct home use. There were also issued from the Central Library, branches and reading-room stations, for use at schools and institutions, 150,451 volumes, making the entire issue for use outside the library buildings 1,647,846 volumes.

The use of the Library for general reference and study, being unrestricted, is not recorded statistically. Its extent, however, is shown by the fact that about half a million call slips for the table use of books in Bates Hall alone are required during the year. The daily use of books and other library material in the Central Library and in the branches is many times greater than the home use of books drawn out upon cards.

BINDING AND REPAIR OF BOOKS.

During the year 31,088 volumes have been bound in the Bindery. Besides this, a large amount of miscellaneous work has been completed, consisting of the folding, stitching and trimming of 201,883 library publications, the mounting of maps and photographs, the repairing of books, the making of periodical covers, etc. The expense of performing this necessary miscellaneous work is equivalent to about 16 per cent of the total expense of the Department. The ability to do it promptly in our own Bindery, greatly promotes the convenience, economy and efficiency of the library work.

The re-binding and repair of books, other than that included in ordinary current binding, had, as stated in our last report, been much neglected on account of insufficient appropriations in past years. But, as the appropriation for this year allowed, this work has been taken up by the Trustees and arrangements made for carrying on the work in the library bindery, by the temporary employment of an extra force. It was begun July 1st, and up to February 1st, 3,056 volumes had been completed. It is proposed to continue the work until all the books in our collection which require attention have been put in good order if the appropriations are adequate to do so.

SALARIES AND WAGES.

The Trustees have deemed it necessary during the past year to increase the salaries paid in many of the positions in the library service. The total annual salary expenditure of the Library on full time has been thereby increased in the sum of \$11,042, or

about 5.3 per cent. These increases make the average salary paid to library employees in the regular library staff, excluding janitors and persons engaged in mechanical work, \$719.43, being \$903.66 for male employees and \$630.45 for female employees.

The employees in the Binding and Printing Departments are paid union wages and work union hours. All other employees, who are classed either as "laborers, workmen or mechanics," are employed at wages prevailing in those employments and for hours fixed by the State law applicable to cities which have accepted its provisions, as Boston has, namely: "not more than eight hours in any one calendar day, or more than forty-eight hours in any one week."

Excluding the librarian, assistant librarian, and ten other persons employed as heads of departments, the average salary paid to the remaining two hundred and six persons of the regular library staff is \$628.57 a year. Of these persons sixty-one are males who receive the average salary of \$646.03 a year, and one hundred and forty-five are females who receive the average salary of \$621.21 a year.

PENSION FUND.

In this connection the Trustees desire to call attention to the importance of legislation which will enable some provision to be made by the Trustees for a contribution to the support of employees who become worn out in the service of the Library. A large part of this service is specialized work, and it is very desirable that persons who enter the library profession for such work should remain in it. In fact, after they have been in this profession long enough to be of the best service to it they are practically unfitted for any other work.

The margin between the salaries which can be paid them and their necessary expenses for reasonable and decent living is very small. As was said by the Examining Committee of last year: "It is manifestly impossible for persons receiving such rates of compensation to create and maintain any adequate fund to which resort can be had in the emergencies of life which confront,

or are likely to confront them." The result necessarily is that persons remain in the library service after their ability to do efficient work is impaired, and when for that reason they should be retired from it without becoming objects of charity or requiring the assistance of others for their support.

The efficiency of the public service suffers from this because the worn-out employee is not able to do as good work as ought to be done, and the expense of the service is also increased because it is necessary to have more employees if a portion of them are unable to do the best work. A worn-out tool is the most expensive tool for use, whether it be a combination of merely material things like wood and metal, or a living human being.

The Trustees have given much consideration to this subject and would be glad to do something in this direction if it were in their power, but they have no trust fund the income of which is applicable to this purpose, and the law does not permit them to retain any portion of the annual appropriation for such purpose.

Indeed it may be said that as the law now stands the employees of the Library themselves cannot, if they had the means, as they have not, create any fund for this purpose. They have established a Mutual Benefit Association to which they make contributions within their means, and out of which benefits are paid for time lost by employees on account of sickness, and a moderate sum paid at death to the beneficiary of the deceased member of the Association. They are much to be commended for what they have done, and we trust that their efforts in this direction may be aided by contributions from others.

But what we wish to earnestly press upon the consideration of the City Government and of the people of the City, is the importance, not only from humanitarian but also from business considerations, of some provision which will render it unnecessary to retain in our service those who have been worn out by years of work in it, and whose retirement with suitable provision for their proper support is demanded, not only because it is humane but because it is for the best business interests of the Library and of the City. The annual expense for this purpose need not be large and it should, we think, be met in part by contribu-

tions from the employees who are to be benefitted by it. But we feel that the interests of the Library require that the Trustees should have the power to deal with this important matter in such just and reasonable way as may be found for the best interests of the City.

HOURS OF SERVICE.

The Central Library and the branches open and their work begins at nine o'clock in the morning. The reading-room stations open in the afternoon at varying hours, most of them at two o'clock. The service continues until ten o'clock at night at the Central Library building and at the West End Branch, and until nine at the other branches and reading-room stations except during the summer months. From June 15 until September 15 the Central Library and West End Branch are closed at nine o'clock. The other branches and reading rooms during a shorter period close earlier than in winter, most of them at six o'clock. The Central Library is in operation 102 week days of twelve hours each, 203 week days of thirteen hours each, 17 Sundays of nine hours each, and 35 Sundays and two holidays of ten hours each, making an aggregate of 359 days, or 4,680 hours, during each twelve months.

The Sunday service has been extended during the year and as now arranged includes the Central Library and the West End Branch throughout the year. All the other branches (except the West Roxbury Branch, which has no Sunday service) and the eight largest reading rooms provide Sunday service from November 1 to May 1 only. The hours are as follows:

At the Central Library and West End Branch, from twelve o'clock to ten o'clock, except that the closing hour is nine o'clock from June 15 until September 15. At the South End and South Boston Branches from twelve o'clock to nine o'clock. At the other branches (except West Roxbury), and at the eight largest reading rooms (namely, Allston, Codman Square, Broadway Extension, Warren Street, Roxbury Crossing, Boylston Station, City Point, Parker Hill), from two o'clock to nine

o'clock. At all of these reading rooms except Codman Square the room is closed from six to seven o'clock.

The total number of hours of Sunday service provided annually at the Central Library and at the West End Branch is 503 each; at the South End and South Boston Branches, 234 hours each; at the other branches (except West Roxbury) and at the Codman Square Reading Room, 182 hours each; and at the following reading rooms: Allston, Broadway Extension, Warren Street, Roxbury Crossing, Boylston Station, City Point, Parker Hill, 156 hours each.

LIBRARY COÖPERATION WITH SCHOOLS, ETC.

The Trustees endeavor to coöperate with the educational work of the schools as far as possible without impairing the Library service in other directions.

During the past year the Library has been daily supplying with books 28 branches and reading rooms, 120 public and parochial schools, 58 engine houses, and 29 institutions, and sending out upon the average from the Central Library, about 400 volumes every day by its delivery wagons. The number of volumes sent on deposit from the Central Library through the branch system was 38,298, of which 7,678 were sent to schools. There were also sent from the branches themselves and from two of the largest reading rooms 19,322 volumes on deposit distributed among 134 places. Of these 14,585 were sent to schools. That is to say, not only is the collection of the Central Library used as a reservoir from which books may be drawn for use in the branches and reading rooms, but each of the branches and reading rooms is in itself a reservoir from which books are drawn for use by teachers in schools in its immediate vicinity.

We desire in this connection, however, to renew the suggestion contained in our last report, that the Library cannot be made a mere adjunct to the schools without impairing its efficiency for public use which is the main purpose for which it is designed and should be maintained. It must also be borne in mind that so far as the Library aids the schools by doing that which the schools would otherwise be required to do, it adds to its own expenses

and correspondingly reduces the expenses of the schools. The question of how far the Library ought, with due regard to its other work, or can within the appropriations made for it by the City Council, increase its work with the schools is therefore important, and requires constant and careful consideration.

BRANCH LIBRARY SYSTEM.

It seems desirable at this time to call attention to the branch library system by a more detailed statement of its growth and work, and of its accommodations, especially in the way of buildings, than has heretofore been made in our reports. The year 1894 is a proper date upon which to base such statement, as early in 1895 the branches were first worked as a system in connection with the new Central Library building opened at that time.

Of the nine branches existing in 1894, the first to be established was in East Boston, opened in 1871 in the old Lyman School building, 37 Meridian Street. Rooms on the second floor of this building were assigned to the use of the branch, and it still retains them, without enlargement or substantial alteration during the thirty-nine years. They are reached by means of a winding and inconvenient stairway leading from the street. The first story of the building is not only occupied by primary school classes, but by the police court. The circulation for home use from the branch in the year following its establishment was 74,804, and in 1895, the year in which the Central Library building in Copley Square was opened, it was 66,386 volumes. During the year just closed it had risen to 89,462.

The second branch to be established was opened in South Boston, May 1, 1872, in leased premises at 372 Broadway, on the second floor of the building, still used substantially without change. It circulated for home use in the following year 101,688 volumes, and in the year 1895, 97,104 volumes. During the year just closed the circulation was 96,999 volumes.

The Roxbury Branch was opened in January, 1873, in a rented building, erected for library purposes by the Fellowes Athenæum, at 46 Millmont Street. Its circulation for home

use in the following year was 64,092, rising in 1895 to 94,073. During the year just closed the circulation was 82,983.

The Charlestown Branch, formerly the public library of the City of Charlestown, was made part of the Boston Public Library system through the annexation of Charlestown to Boston in January, 1874. It occupies restricted quarters on the second floor of the old Charlestown city hall building in City Square. Its circulation for home use in 1874, the first year recorded after the library became a part of our system, was 32,023, rising in 1895 to 59,930. For the year just closed it was 54,661.

In 1874, the Brighton Public Library, known as the Holton Library, also became a branch of the Boston Public Library by the annexation of the town of Brighton. It is located in a convenient building erected especially for its occupancy on Academy Hill Road. Its circulation for home use in 1874 was 9,652, rising in 1895 to 24,389, and in the year just closed to 43,923.

The Dorchester Branch occupies quarters in a municipal building at the corner of Arcadia and Adams Streets. It was opened in 1875. Its circulation for home use in that year was 15,675, rising to 65,929 in 1895, and declining to 50,943 in the year just closed. The space devoted to this branch has recently been increased by an enlargement of the building, but it is still inadequate to the proper use of the branch. The children's room, which is located on the upper floor, is small, low, and is reached by a narrow and inconvenient stairway.

The South End Branch was opened in August, 1877, in rooms formerly occupied by the Mercantile Library Association, at the corner of West Newton and Tremont Streets. It circulated for home use in the following year 41,303 volumes. In 1895 its circulation had risen to 89,219. At that time it occupied rooms in the basement of the English High School building which were very inadequate. In July, 1904, it was moved to the building at 397 Shawmut Avenue, formerly occupied by the Every Day Church, taken under lease by the Library and refitted for library purposes. The direct circulation for home use during the year just closed was 97,700 volumes.

The Jamaica Plain Branch was also opened in 1877 in a building belonging to the City, known as Curtis Hall, which was

destroyed by fire in December, 1908. Plans for a new branch building have been prepared, and an appropriation of \$30,000 made for its construction. It is expected that it will be ready for occupancy during the coming year. This Branch circulated during the year following its opening 28,174 volumes for home reading. In 1895 the circulation had risen to 56,220. During the year just closed the circulation for home use was 40,907. The Library is now located in very inconvenient temporary quarters in Jackson Hall on Centre Street.

The West Roxbury Branch, opened first as a delivery station in 1880 and later as a branch, occupies the second story of a wooden building owned by the City and previously devoted to other uses; but now enlarged so as to make it fairly suitable for its purpose. It is, however, subject to some danger from fire. The circulation for home use from this branch in 1893, the first year for which it was recorded, was 6,953. In 1895 it had become 9,982. For the year just closed it was 36,309 volumes.

These were the nine branches existing at the time the present Central Library building was opened to public use in 1895. There are now two others, — the West End Branch and the branch at Upham's Corner. The West End Branch at the corner of Cambridge and Lynde Streets, was opened in 1896 in the old West Church building which had been purchased by the City and fitted up for library uses. Its circulation for home use in the year following its opening was 81,428, and in the year just closed 149,842.

The latest branch to be added to the system is that at Upham's Corner, located on the first floor of the Municipal Building on Columbia Road. It was first opened in another location as a delivery station merely, and transferred to the present building in 1904. It was made a branch in February, 1907. The circulation for home use, of the delivery station in 1896, its first year, was 9,287; while the branch during the year just closed circulated for home use 74,085 volumes.

THE READING-ROOM STATIONS.

Besides the branches referred to, the branch system includes seventeen reading-room stations in different parts of the city,

nearly all of them opened since 1875, originally as shop stations or places of call merely, for the return and delivery of books. All but two of these occupy rented premises, and they are now all administered as reading-room stations, with small permanent collections of books. They are in effect minor branches, directly controlled by the library staff.

The reading-room stations are located and accommodated as follows:

The Dorchester Lower Mills Reading Room, is in a city building, shared by the Police Station, at the corner of Washington and Richmond Streets. It is adequately provided for at present.

The Roslindale Reading Room, is in a leased building, entirely devoted to library uses, at the corner of Washington and Ashland Streets, Roslindale. It is adequate now, but in a short time should be made a branch, with a new, modern library building.

The Mattapan Reading Room, occupies a leased room at 727 Walk Hill Street. The room was intended for mercantile purposes, to which the remainder of the first story of the building is devoted, the upper stories containing residential apartments. It is adequate now in space but not in equipment, and new and better quarters will soon be needed.

The Neponset Reading Room, is in a small leased building entirely occupied by the reading room, at 362 Neponset Avenue. Its quarters are at present adequate for its uses.

The Mt. Bowdoin Reading Room, is in a leased store, at the corner of Washington and Eldon Streets, Dorchester. It should soon have larger and better accommodation for its increasing use.

The Allston Reading Room, occupies a leased store, at 6 Harvard Avenue, Allston, which is now adequate for its purposes.

The Codman Square Reading Room, is in a city building, devoted entirely to library purposes, except the ward room in the basement, at Codman Square, Dorchester. It is adequate to its purposes and likely to be so for some time.

The Mt. Pleasant Reading Room, occupies rented rooms on the first floor of a building at the corner of Dudley and Maga-

zine Streets. The upper floors are occupied by classes from a neighboring parochial school. The quarters are adequate for present uses.

The Broadway Extension Reading Room, is in a leased store at 13 Broadway Extension. The apartment is much too small, is unventilated, poorly lighted, and so noisy on account of the proximity of the Washington Street Elevated Railway that it should be abandoned for library purposes.

The Warren Street Reading Room, is in a leased store at 390 Warren Street, Roxbury, which is not adequate nor suitable for the best use of the public.

The Roxbury Crossing Reading Room, is in a leased store at 1154 Tremont Street, Roxbury, which is fairly adequate for its present purposes.

The Boylston Station Reading Room, is in a leased store, at Depot Square, Boylston Station, which is fairly adequate but in some respects not well adapted for its public uses.

The Industrial School Reading Room, is in rooms in the building occupied by the North Bennet Street Industrial School, at 39 North Bennet Street. These rooms are wholly inadequate for library purposes.

The Orient Heights Reading Room, has rented apartments on the ground floor of a building at 1030 Bennington Street, East Boston, which are at present adequate for its purpose.

The North Street Reading Room, is in a rented apartment, on the ground floor of the building at 207 North Street, which is adequate for present purposes.

The City Point Reading Room, is in a leased store on the ground floor of the Gray's Hall building, 615 Broadway, South Boston, with a moving picture show over it. This is wholly inadequate for the public use.

The Parker Hill Reading Room, is in a leased store on the ground floor of a building at 1518 Tremont Street, which is adequate for the present public use.

THE BRANCH CIRCULATION.

The nine branches which existed in 1894 circulated for home use in that year 484,768 volumes. The eleven branches which

now exist circulated for home use in the year just closed about 817,814 volumes, and in addition about 23,500 volumes were issued through these branches from the Central Library. This statement, it will be noticed, covers the branches only, and does not include the circulation from the reading-room stations as part of the branch system.

It will be noticed that the circulation for home use in some of the branches has declined since they were first opened, while in others a very substantial increase appears. The decline, where it is found, is due to various causes, such, for example, as the change in residential conditions in the neighborhood served by the branch, the establishment of reading-room stations in the vicinity, which take away part of the patronage formerly bestowed upon the branch, the greater use of the central library collection as supplementary to the branch collections, etc.

The circulation for home use, however, cannot be taken as an adequate measure of the work of the branches, although it is the only part of the work which is recorded so as to be expressed statistically. The increase in the work of the branches as a whole is due to the changed conditions affecting the library system, and especially to the very great increase in the reference work so-called. In 1894, for example, although there were nine branch libraries, they were not worked together as parts of a system operated in connection with the Central Library so as to best serve the public. But irrespective of the circulation of books for home reading the work done through the branches has increased to such an extent that the accommodations provided in many of the buildings occupied by them are most inadequate and inconvenient.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF WORK THROUGH THE BRANCHES.

A comparison of the work performed by the branches when the central library building was opened for use in March, 1895, with existing conditions, gives substantially the following results:

At that time there were nine branches; there are now eleven. There were then five reading-room stations (minor branches) maintained, with small collections of books, and nine shop

stations (places of call) for the delivery and return of books. There are now seventeen reading-room stations all directly controlled from the Central Library, with small permanent collections of books. The number of volumes in the branch collections at the end of the year 1894 was 145,744. It is now 184,816, although many old and little used volumes have been withdrawn from the branch collections. In the reading-room stations at the close of the year 1894 there were not more than a few hundred volumes. Such stations now contain 24,524 volumes.

The yearly accessions for the branches in 1894 amounted to about 4,200 volumes. The accessions of the branches in 1909-10 were 7,530 volumes. Besides these, 2,846 volumes were purchased for the reading-room stations, as against practically none in 1894. Under the present system new books at the Central Library are made available through the branches, thus obviating the necessity of duplicating all new purchases by copies bought for branches. In 1894 there was no collection of books on deposit at the Central Library for branch use. Now 33,107 volumes are kept in a deposit collection at the Central Library and sent out through the Branch Department to branches, reading-room stations, schools, institutions, clubs, etc. In 1894 there was very slight duplication of copies of books purchased for the branches. Now there is extensive duplication.

In 1894 practically no volumes were sent on deposit through the Branch Department to the schools. Now about 22,000 volumes are sent out annually in this way. Then, teachers were not supplied with special collections. Now about 540 teachers are thus supplied. In 1894 there were few volumes reserved at the branches for the special use of students and pupils from the schools. Now a considerable number are thus reserved each year, selected for special occasions or upon the request of teachers, and put on special shelves for reading-room use in the branches.

In 1894 no public or parochial schools received particular attention at the branches. Now, 120 such schools are cared for. Each branch forms a centre, having assigned to it a certain number of schools whose wants are cared for by the custodian. This intimate coöperation largely extends the use of the branch

collections, develops the use of the central collection through the branches as intermediaries, and it brings large numbers of pupils to the branches for reference work and for the general use of the reading tables, thus making each branch an important factor as a library agency in the educational work of the City.

Talks are given at some of the branches, supplementing those given at the Central Library, on the use of the Library, thus extending the knowledge of books. Typewritten lists of books in connection with school work are prepared and posted at the branches. Helps on home reading are given. Teachers' cards are issued. Each year the branches are used as agencies for taking applications for library cards through the schools. About 800 portfolios of pictures are annually sent out to schools from the Central Library through the branches. Small branch collections of pictures are kept at the branches, and from these collections about 18,000 pictures are annually lent to schools. None of this work was attempted in 1894. It is now fully organized and constantly increasing in bulk and importance.

The age limit for issuing borrowers' cards was 12 years in 1894. It is now 10 years, thus bringing large numbers to use the branches. In 1894 the branches closed at 8 P.M. They are now open from 9 A.M to 9 P.M. In 1894 no branches were open on Sunday. Now all the branches (except at West Roxbury) and also certain reading-room stations are opened on Sunday afternoons, closing at 9 P.M., and the Sunday hours at the larger branches have recently been extended. The use of the reading rooms in branches will probably increase. The use of the branches has been extended since 1894 by the introduction of card catalogues, the publication of printed finding lists of books common to the branches, and especially by the placing of a large proportion of the branch collections upon open shelves. Of the nearly 87,000 cards which now are valid for the issue of books for home use, about 62,000 have been issued through the branches. In 1897, the first year of record, only 24,769 were so issued. The total annual cost of the branch system in 1894 was \$40,926. It is now about \$95,000, exclusive of the cost of administration of the Branch Department at the Central Library.

The foregoing comparison shows the importance of the branches as a part of the general library system. The Branches promote the convenience of the public materially, not only by the direct library facilities which they provide, but indirectly as agencies through which the collections of the Central Library may be more conveniently used in the different districts of the City.

CLASSIFICATION OF BRANCHES BY GROUPS.

Upon the basis of circulation for home use the branches at present may be roughly grouped as follows:

1st. The West End Branch. This stands by itself with an annual direct circulation of 149,842. The service expense, i. e., the expense of administration, of this Branch is \$6,663 annually. It occupies a large building which must be properly cared for and kept in repair, and there are two floors to supervise.

2d. The South Boston, South End and East Boston Branches form the next group, with a circulation of from 90,000 to 100,000 volumes. The service expense at East Boston is about \$4,322 annually, and at South Boston \$4,409, each branch being operated on a single floor. At the South End, which occupies a large building with two floors, the service expense is about \$5,305 annually.

3d. The next group includes the branches at Roxbury and at Upham's Corner, with a circulation from 75,000 to 85,000 annually. The Roxbury Branch occupies a large building with a considerable collection of books, upon two floors, and the annual expense is about \$4,969. The Upham's Corner Branch is operated upon one floor, and the annual service expense is about \$2,696.

4th. The next group includes the branches at Charlestown, Jamaica Plain, Dorchester and Brighton, with a circulation from 40,000 to 54,500 annually. The Charlestown Branch, although upon a single floor, contains a large collection of books which must be cared for, and the service expense is about \$4,118. At Brighton, the branch is housed in a convenient building entirely devoted to library uses, although confined to one floor.

There are grounds which must be cared for, and the annual service expense is about \$4,079. At the Dorchester Branch there are two floors, the annual service cost being about \$3,949. The Jamaica Plain Branch, temporarily located upon the second floor of a rented building, requires an annual service expenditure, under present conditions, of about \$3,026.

5th. Finally, there is the West Roxbury Branch, located in a residential district partly rural, with a small collection of books. Its annual circulation is from 36,000 to 38,000, and the service expense is annually about \$2,158.

Of the foregoing branches, all except those at South Boston, Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, and the South End Branch, are in buildings owned by the City. The Jamaica Plain Branch, however, will during the coming year be removed to a City library building. At the South Boston Branch the annual rental charge is \$2,000; at Roxbury, \$1,600; and at the South End Branch, \$2,500, besides taxes and insurance. Of the seventeen reading-room stations operated separately from the branches as a part of the branch system, fifteen are in rented premises, the aggregate rental amounting to \$8,800.

THE NEED OF BETTER BRANCH BUILDINGS.

The circulation of books for home use, which in 1894 represented practically all the activity of the branches, has, it will be seen, now become only one element in their public work. The use of books in the buildings, promoted by the open shelves, by reserve collections for the schools, by special deposits from the Central Library, and by the close general coöperation with educational institutions and study classes, has added very largely to the work performed at the branches. This, grouped under the general and somewhat misleading term of "reference work," is in many ways the most important part of the work of the branches. It constantly increases, and in Boston, as in other cities, requires for its proper administration not only more space, but better arrangement and more generous equipment than formerly, when the use of the buildings was principally as places of call for obtaining and returning books to be read at home. The total

floor area of the ten branches now maintained, which were in operation either as branches or reading-room stations in 1896, is 68,940 square feet. In 1896 these same branches had a floor area of 53,475 square feet. The increase is wholly at the following branches:

Dorchester,	increase	708 square feet
South End,	"	13,800 " "
West Roxbury,	"	957 " "
Fourteen years, total increase		<u>15,465</u> " "

Some of the others are adequate, notably the branches at Brighton and Roxbury, and at the West End, which occupy buildings constructed or re-arranged for library purposes and with due regard to growth. The branch at Jamaica Plain, formerly in the Curtis Hall building, will be amply provided for in its new building, planned especially for its needs, and soon to be erected on part of the lot which was occupied by the old building. Others, especially the branches at Charlestown, East Boston and South Boston, ought very soon to have independent buildings, adapted to the important uses of these leading branches, and there should be a building for a new branch at some proper place in the North End at an early day. The Trustees have had under consideration a new building for the Charlestown Branch, but a suitable site has not been found; and besides the present appropriation of \$30,000 for land and buildings is inadequate for the purpose. The present location is neither central nor suitable. The East Boston Branch is very much crowded, and its location is not satisfactory. Propositions to build new buildings for city purposes in East Boston have not yet included proper arrangements for the branch, nor have the Trustees been consulted as to its needs. The South Boston Branch has a large circulation, and is one of the most important branches from every point of view. It occupies inadequate second-story apartments under lease.

The selection and the procuring of proper sites for branch libraries and reading rooms is a very difficult matter. They must be located where they will best serve the people within the territory for which they are established, and this necessarily confines

the selection to a very limited area. It is seldom that the best premises are available within such area, at a reasonable price. It is worthy of consideration whether the city should not exercise in this matter the right to take by eminent domain, property necessary for this purpose where it cannot be obtained at a reasonable price by purchase, or at a satisfactory rental.

Boston should have the best equipped library system in the United States. Our citizens are proud of its Central Library building, and we believe are satisfied with the administration and working of the Library Department as a whole. But in respect to the branch system, which comes most directly in contact with those of our people who most need the Library, we are, on the whole, behind any other important city in the Union. We have no branch library building so constructed as to be operated with the utmost efficiency and economy and with the best service for the public.

The reading-room stations, which are of very great importance in bringing instructive books to those who would not otherwise have them, — which is the primary purpose of a library supported by taxation, — are many of them inadequate and inconvenient, badly situated for convenient use, ill ventilated, and in general not creditable to a city of the wealth and population of Boston.

We invite the attention of the City Council especially to the matter of better accommodations for some of our branch libraries and reading-room stations. An examination of them, which we trust will be made, will show what they are more forcibly than any description we can give in this report.

The time has passed when the branch libraries can be properly operated in buildings partly devoted to other uses. The scheme of a municipal building devoted to baths, gymnasiums, and other activities, and also providing for the Library, while apparently having advantages from the point of view of a neighborhood centre, does not properly provide for the work of the Library. The work the Library is doing is so far educational that it should be treated with the same consideration as to its accommodations as is given to the schools. Branch library buildings ought to be planned especially and solely for library purposes and should be

dignified but not expensive or elaborate structures. The other important cities in the United States are providing for their branch libraries, independent buildings of modern construction specially adapted to library work. The Trustees are of the opinion that the same course should be followed here. It would add to the efficiency of the service, and benefit the people at large as much as any improvement which could be made in our library system.

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS.

The newspaper room at the Central Library, the papers for which are mainly purchased from the income of a bequest of the late William C. Todd for that purpose, has 343 different papers filed for current reading, of which 255 are in the English language, 16 French, 16 German, 7 Italian, 7 Spanish, 7 Swedish, and the rest in 14 other languages, including one in Old Hebrew, published in Jerusalem, and one in Tagalese and English, published in the Philippines; also Greek, Russian, Armenian, Polish, Welsh, Hungarian, etc. During the last year about 17,151 newspaper volumes were consulted by readers.

One thousand five hundred and sixty-two different periodicals, including serial issues published by institutions and by the state and national governments, are regularly filed and used in the Periodical Room at the Central Library, 167 in the Statistical, Music, Patent, and Fine Arts Departments and in the Children's Room, making with the 89 taken at the branches, 1,815 in all. These include all the leading periodicals of the world in every department of literature and science and in almost every language, all of which find ready readers.

INTER-LIBRARY LOANS.

Under the coöperative inter-library loan system books are occasionally lent to public libraries in other cities or towns for the temporary use of a person who wishes to consult a book which his local library does not possess. In this way there were lent to libraries in the State, during the year 1909, 792 volumes,

and to libraries outside Massachusetts 252 volumes. On the other hand, a person in Boston can by this arrangement obtain in the same way from other libraries books which our Library does not have, and during the year 89 volumes were thus borrowed.

LECTURES.

During the year 32 lectures were given in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library, for which no compensation was paid to the persons who lectured, and admission to which was free to all. The lectures were chiefly on subjects connected with the fine arts, architecture, the æsthetic side of literature and printing, picturesque notes of travel, etc., including among others: "Recent Developments in Civic Art," "Colonial and Revolutionary Churches," "The Future of the City," "Imagination and Literalism in Illustration," "The Nature and Scope of Art," "Types of Art Composition and Drawing," "Style," "Books and Book Lovers," and accounts of picturesque travels in Portugal, Sicily, North Africa, Algiers, Tunis, Biskra, Norway, Spain and Italy.

CENTER ESTATE BEQUEST.

The real estate, 1199 Washington Street, received by the Library as part of the bequest of Joseph H. Center, consisting of land and the brick building thereon, occupied under lease by the South End National Bank, was sold to the bank under a vote passed by the Trustees, April 30, 1909. The sum received therefor, \$14,500, was paid to the City Treasurer and added to the principal of the Center Fund.

The only real estate now held by the Trustees is a small estate on Arnold Street given by the will of Mr. Center, which they have not been able to sell at a satisfactory price. It is assessed at \$1,900.

MONEY FOR MAINTAINING AND WORKING THE LIBRARY.

Substantially all the money which the Trustees can use for the maintenance and working of the library system comes from the annual appropriation by the City Council. The Trust funds,

that is, property given to the Trustees in trust for the uses of the Library, are by law required to be invested by the City Treasurer under the direction of the Finance Committee of the City.

A detailed statement of these funds is annually contained in the report of the City Treasurer and in the report of the City Auditor, and therefore is not presented here. The income received from them in 1909 was \$19,546.10. This income can only be used for the specific purposes of the several trusts under which it is held, which vary widely. Some are for the purchase of books for separate branches; some for the addition of books to special collections, such as books on government and political economy, books in the Spanish and Portuguese languages, valuable rare editions of books, books of a military and patriotic character, books in memory of specific persons, and, in one case only, for books published before 1850.

During the past nine years the estimates of the Trustees, the recommendations by the Mayor, and the amounts appropriated by the City Council have been as follows:

	ESTIMATES OF TRUSTEES.	AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED BY MAYOR.	AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED BY CITY COUNCIL.
1901	\$291,713.65	\$300,000.00	\$302,000.00
1902	310,144.67	305,000.00	300,000.00
1903	318,383.10	305,500.00	305,500.00
1904	320,414.00	300,000.00	305,000.00
1905	325,465.00	310,000.00	310,000.00
1906	324,550.00	320,000.00	324,550.00
1907	326,100.00	325,000.00	325,000.00
1908	332,800.00	325,000.00	310,000.00
1909	335,200.00	335,200.00	349,455.00

GIFT OF THE "ALLEN A. BROWN DRAMATIC COLLECTION."

The Library received in December, from Mr. Allen A. Brown, his valuable and extensive collection of books relating to the stage.

In transmitting this gift Mr. Brown sent the following communication to the Trustees:

I wish to offer to the Public Library my collection of Books relating to the stage and gathered during the past fifty years, subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

1st. The Collection to be known as the "Allen A. Brown Dramatic Collection," and to be kept in an apartment or alcove by itself, and located near the "Allen A. Brown Collection of Music." Each volume to bear a Book-plate or Stamp designating the same as belonging to said Collection.

2d. That it shall be held by the Trustees and treated as a library of reference; nothing to be taken from the Library except for binding and needful repairs, or as hereinafter provided.

3d. That during my life time I may have free access to the Collection at all proper times, and may take from the building such volumes as I may need, holding myself responsible for their safe return.

4th. That I shall have the privilege of inserting in the works any items of interest such as bills of performances, notices of works, and various cuttings relating to the same.

5th. That a Catalogue of the Collection shall be made and issued by the Trustees within a reasonable period: Also that such portions of the Library as still remain unbound, shall be put in condition for the shelves without delay, and that the general style of binding I have adopted be preserved as far as possible.

I also reserve the right of placing the books upon the shelves, in such manner as may best carry out my ideas of economy of space and outward appearance.

Yours very respectfully,
(Signed) ALLEN A. BROWN.

The Trustees thereupon voted to accept the gift, subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in Mr. Brown's letter, and requested the President to transmit a copy of the record of acceptance, with suitable acknowledgment, to Mr. Brown, in the name of the Corporation, which was done by the following letter:

January 7, 1910.

MY DEAR MR. BROWN:

I enclose herewith a certified copy of the record of the action of the Trustees in accepting the generous gift by you of the "Allen A. Brown Dramatic Collection." I beg to assure you not only for myself but for

each member of the Board, that we very much appreciate your action in this matter, and trust you may long be able to give to this Collection the same care and attention you have so generously given to the "Allen A. Brown Collection of Music" which you presented to the Library in 1895. You have conferred a great public benefit upon our City, and have added still more to your monument in the Library for which we all have so much regard.

With assurances of personal regard,

I remain

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

J. H. BENTON,
President.

THE SERVICE OF JAMES LYMAN WHITNEY.

On the 8th of November, 1909, Mr. James Lyman Whitney completed forty years of service in the Library. For twenty years he was in charge of the Catalogue Department. On March 31, 1899, he became Acting Librarian, and on December 22, 1899, Librarian. He resigned as Librarian February 1, 1903, and became Chief of the Statistical Department at that time. He is one of the most eminent scholars in the library profession, and in recognition of that fact in connection with his long service, the Trustees, on November 5, 1909, adopted the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, Mr. James Lyman Whitney, who entered the Boston Public Library on the 8th of November, 1869, will have completed forty years of service on Monday, November 8, 1909, the Trustees of the Library desire to put on record their appreciation of his long, faithful and efficient service in the various important positions which he has filled in the Library service."

IMPROVEMENTS AT THE WEST END BRANCH.

The grounds in front of the West End Branch, at the corner of Cambridge and Lynde Streets, known as Lowell Square, were formerly in charge of the Public Grounds Department, but were transferred to the custody of the Trustees of the Library in July, 1903.

The square was enclosed by a cast-iron fence which had become much dilapidated and was beyond repair. This has

been removed and the square enclosed by a wrought-iron fence upon a brick base with brick piers and stone dressings, and with ornamental wrought-iron gates in front; the design harmonizing with the architecture of the old building, which is one of the historic monuments of the City.

The expense of this improvement was \$2,673. Of this sum \$2,500 was derived from the income of the Phillips Street Fund, appropriated in November, 1899, by the Board of Aldermen, for a fountain in the courtyard of the building in Copley Square, or for any other work of sculpture to be placed in the courtyard. The money was never expended for such purposes, and it appeared that it could not have been so used, unless in contravention of the terms under which the Phillips Street Fund was received by the City, the giver, Jonathan Phillips, having provided in his will that the income from his bequest should be "expended to adorn and embellish the streets and public places" in the City. The amount was therefore re-appropriated by the Board of Aldermen, in January, 1909, to be expended by the Trustees of the Library for the contemplated improvement of Lowell Square.

It is our intention to still further improve the grounds during the coming year by shrubbery planting, and by re-grading and repairing the walks.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

The Trustees appointed an Examining Committee of persons not members of the Board, and joined with them the President of the Board as Chairman, to examine the Library and make to the Board a report of its condition, as required by the ordinance. That Committee consisted of the following persons:

Mr. Jeffrey R. Brackett.
 Mr. George W. Chadwick.
 Mr. Pio DeLuca.
 Mrs. Wirt Dexter.
 Mr. George C. Dickson.
 Mr. Nathan Haskell Dole.
 Mr. Thomas M. Donnelly.

Mrs. James Fay.
 Mr. James A. Gallivan.
 Mrs. Thomas F. Harrington.
 Mrs. George A. Hibbard.
 Mr. Samuel H. Hudson.
 Mr. Stanton H. King.
 Mr. Henry Lefavour.

Mrs. Alice M. MacDonald.	Mr. George H. Sargent.
Mr. Francis P. Malgeri.	Rev. Samuel Snelling.
Mrs. T. E. Masterson.	Mr. Alexander Steinert.
Mr. Oliver W. Mink.	Rev. James A. Supple, D.D.
Miss Alice F. Murray.	Mr. Raymond Titus.
Mr. George P. Sanger.	Mr. Charles H. Tyler.
Mr. George N. Whipple.	

The growing public interest in the Library is indicated by the fact that this year, for the first time, every person invited by the Trustees to serve on the Examining Committee accepted and served. The City is under obligations to these persons who have taken time from their other engagements to give attention to the performance of the duties of this important committee. The report of the Committee is hereto annexed and included as part of this report.

CONCLUSION.

The Trustees have held regular meetings each week during the year except during the summer months, for the transaction of the business of the Department, which is constantly increasing in amount and in the detail required for its proper administration.

They feel that the Library service has been well administered during the year, and that this is due to the industry, intelligence, and loyalty with which the employees of the Library have performed their respective duties. The Trustees are glad to be able to bear testimony to the substantially uniform excellence of their work.

JOSIAH H. BENTON.
 THOMAS F. BOYLE.
 WILLIAM F. KENNEY.
 SAMUEL CARR.
 ALEXANDER MANN.

BALANCE SHEET, RECEIPTS AND

DR.		
CENTRAL LIBRARY AND BRANCHES:		
To expenditures for salaries —		
General administration	\$173,628.33	
Sunday and evening force	25,468.99	
	<hr/>	\$199,097.32
To expenditures for books —		
From City appropriation	\$21,361.07	
Trust funds income	9,340.76	
Carnegie gift, Galatea collection	29.65	
Sullivan gift	48.30	
	<hr/>	30,779.78
To general expenditures —		
Newspapers, from Todd fund income	\$2,247.06	
Periodicals	9,952.68	
Furniture and fixtures	4,931.96	
Gas	2,858.01	
Electric lighting	1,205.50	
Cleaning	8,384.73	
Small supplies	3,706.15	
Ice	236.43	
Stationery	1,919.90	
Rents	19,461.74	
Fuel	12,673.42	
Repairs	6,511.99	
Freights and cartage	2,186.47	
Transportation between Central and Branches	5,644.45	
Telephone	540.27	
Postage and telegrams	1,325.08	
Typewriting	10.60	
Travelling expenses (including street car fares on li- brary service)	400.86	
Grounds	54.55	
Lecture account (lantern slides and operator)	231.05	
Miscellaneous expense	28.14	
	<hr/>	84,511.04
PRINTING DEPARTMENT:		
To expenditures for salaries \$7,028.60		
To general expenditures —		
Stock	1,854.14	
Equipment	60.00	
Electric light and power	327.10	
Contract work	538.45	
Rent	573.01	
Freights and cartage	430.00	
Insurance	220.53	
Gas	262.33	
Cleaning	22.90	
Small supplies, ice, repairs, furniture and fixtures	298.22	
	<hr/>	11,615.28
Carried forward		\$326,003.42

EXPENSES, JANUARY 31, 1910.

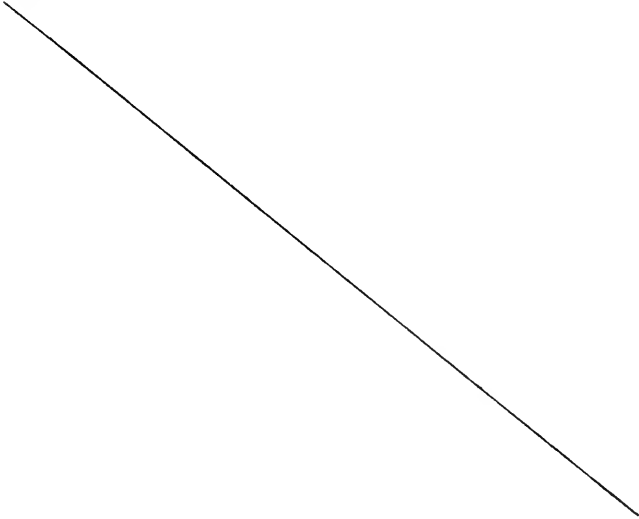
	CR.
By CITY APPROPRIATION, 1909-10	\$349,455.00
Income from Trust funds	19,546.10
Interest credited on bank deposits	226.20
Payment received for books lost	314.72
Income from Center fund real estate	765.42
Carnegie gift for Galatea collection	100.00
Interest credited on Sullivan gift	90.42
	<u> </u>
	\$370,497.86
By BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD FEBRUARY 1, 1909:	
Trust fund income on deposit in London	\$2,847.39
Accrued interest on bank deposits	2,186.17
Accrued income, Center fund real estate	2,546.18
Trust fund income balance, City Treasury	14,346.37
Carnegie gift for Galatea collection	100.00
	<u> </u>
	22,026.11
<i>Carried forward</i>	<u>\$392,523.97</u>

BALANCE SHEET, RECEIPTS AND

DR.			
	<i>Brought forward</i>		\$326,003.42
BINDING DEPARTMENT:			
To expenditures for salaries		\$25,851.00	
To general expenditures—			
Stock		3,702.58	
Electric light and power		81.30	
Contract work		26.80	
Rent		1,006.33	
Freights and cartage		430.00	
Insurance		195.75	
Gas		71.93	
Cleaning		22.90	
Small supplies, ice, repairs		397.02	
			31,785.61
TO AMOUNT PAID INTO CITY TREASURY:			
From fines		\$5,372.22	
Sales of catalogues, bulletins, and lists		79.19	
Commissions for use of telephone		141.12	
Sales of waste paper and other waste material		210.83	
Money found in the Library		3.57	
Accrued income Center fund real estate, to be funded		3,311.60	
			9,118.53
TO BALANCES, JANUARY 31, 1910:			
Trust funds income on deposit in London		\$5,351.01	
City appropriation on deposit in London		3,689.56	
Accrued interest on bank deposits		2,230.47	
Trust fund income balance, City Treasury		19,910.18	
Carnegie gift for Galatea collection		200.00	
Sullivan gift, income		42.12	
			31,423.34
			<u>\$398,330.90</u>

EXPENSES, JANUARY 31, 1910.

		CR.
<i>Brought forward</i>	. . . . .	\$392,523.97
By RECEIPTS:		
From fines	. . . . .	\$5,372.22
Sales of catalogues, bulletins and lists	. . . . .	79.19
Commissions for use of telephone	. . . . .	141.12
Sales of waste paper and other waste material	. . . . .	210.83
Money found in the Library	. . . . .	3.57
		<u>5,806.93</u>



\$398,330.90

REPORT OF THE EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

To the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston:

The Committee appointed by you in accordance with the City Ordinance to examine the condition of the Public Library met for the purpose of organization on November 29, 1909, with Mr. Josiah H. Benton, the representative of the Board of Trustees, as Chairman *ex officio*. Miss Della J. Deery of the library staff was appointed Secretary, and the work of investigation and report was distributed among the following sub-committees:

ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. Raymond Titus, *Chairman*.
Mr. Samuel H. Hudson. Mr. Pio DeLuca.
Miss Alice F. Murray.

BOOKS.

Mr. Nathan Haskell Dole, *Chairman*.
Mr. Francis P. Malgeri. Mrs. George A. Hibbard.
Mr. Thomas H. Donnelly.

BRANCHES.

Mr. Henry Lefavour, *Chairman*.
Mr. George C. Dickson. Mrs. James Fay.
Rev. James A. Supple.

CATALOGUES.

Rev. Samuel Snelling, *Chairman*.
Mrs. T. E. Masterson. Mrs. Thomas F. Harrington.
Mr. George N. Whipple.

FINANCE.

Mr. Charles H. Tyler, *Chairman.*
Mr. Alexander Steinert. Mr. Oliver W. Mink.
Mr. James A. Gallivan.

PRINTING AND BINDING.

Mr. George P. Sanger, *Chairman.*
Mr. Stanton H. King. Mrs. Alice M. Macdonald.

FINE ARTS.

Mr. George W. Chadwick, *Chairman.*
Mrs. Wirt Dexter. Mr. Jeffrey R. Brackett.
Mr. George H. Sargent.

ON THE DRAFTING OF THE REPORT.

Mr. Nathan Haskell Dole, *Chairman.*
Mr. Raymond Titus. Mr. Samuel Snelling.
Mr. George P. Sanger. Mr. Henry Lefavour.
Mr. Charles H. Tyler. Mr. George W. Chadwick.

These sub-committees have held a number of meetings and the general committee has held two meetings for the consideration of the conclusions of the sub-committees, and has now the honor of submitting the following report:

In general, the Committee has found the property of the Library to be well cared for, the officers and employees loyal to their duties, and the general plan of administering the various interests of the institution well adapted to its purpose.

With reference to the financial needs of the Library, the Committee would point again to the conclusions which were reached in the report of last year concerning the constantly increasing demands made upon the resources of the Library for educational purposes, and reinforce the opinion then expressed as to the reasonable expectations of the community that the burdens resting upon the Library shall be cheerfully met by the city authorities, so that the scope of its usefulness may be extended and enlarged. The Committee is gratified by the fact

that the suggestions of the Trustees for an increase in the appropriation on the part of the City were so generously met at a time when, through the demands made upon the City's exchequer in so many directions, the necessity existed for the exercise of the most discriminating care in this and in other particulars.

The Committee has given further consideration to the inquiry instituted by the Committee of last year as to the wisdom of establishing a fund from which contributions can be made for the benefit of those connected with the Library when they become aged or incapacitated, but the obligations which rest upon the City, and are now the subject of such careful scrutiny, lead the Committee to defer for the moment the making of any further recommendations on that subject.

While more books have been purchased than in the preceding year, the demand for new and timely books is far from being satisfied. It is, of course, the duty of the Library to purchase as many books of permanent value as it is possible to buy, not only because the great collection must include all that it may reasonably be expected to contain in order to answer the needs of scholars, but also because certain Trust funds held by the Library have been given for that purpose, still it is more immediately the duty of the Library, which is mainly supported by money raised by taxation, to meet the needs of the citizens in the most convenient manner. To this end, books of present interest should be as generously purchased as possible, and placed not only in the Central Library but also in the branches, where they may be accessible. We find that, after meeting the necessary administrative expenses of the Library and providing for periodicals, only six per cent of the city appropriation for 1909-10 remained available for books, and of these books only one-half were placed in the branches. In order that the interest of the people may be aroused, it is not sufficient to have a copy of any book at the Central Library with merely the title registered at the branches, especially as the chance of obtaining the book when sent for is very small, but the people need to see the books themselves. The display of the new books in Bates Hall and the larger branches shows the usefulness of this principle.

This may mean that a dozen copies of every such desirable book must be purchased, even though their period of usefulness may not extend over many years. It is only in this way, however, that the Library will serve its most useful educational purpose. Popular books rapidly deteriorate and should be repaired and rebound at the earliest moment, preference being given at the bindery to such books. There is a lack of books and newspapers in foreign languages at those reading rooms which are situated in the districts in which live the larger number of people who do not read English, and whose lives it is highly desirable should be helped by making accessible books that they can read.

The Committee believes that the selection of books for purchase might be made more systematic, that the different fields of literature might be more evenly balanced, and the desirableness of certain books for popular educational purposes be more carefully scrutinized. This is especially applicable in the case of the small collections in the reading rooms.

The work of the binding and printing departments merits high commendation. The temporary employment of a larger force to bring the work forward to immediate needs would be a wise expenditure, if the appropriation permits.

The relation of the library system to the schools is very close. It is, indeed, an important part of the educational system of the City, and the best thought of many of the staff is devoted to making the libraries supplement the work of the class-room. The circulation of pictures is of great service, and much skill has been shown by branch custodians in increasing the collection at insignificant expense. An inquiry has been directed to the school authorities as to increasing the serviceableness of the library system, and it is understood that a committee of teachers has been appointed to consider the question.

While the Library Department aims to be of the highest usefulness, it is questionable if it should be called upon to furnish study rooms for children in the districts where the conditions of the homes are such as not to permit children to prepare their lessons in quiet and comfort. The Library should not lessen this privilege until better provision is made elsewhere, but the Com-

mittee believes that the City may well ask that some rooms of the school houses in these districts be made available after school hours in the afternoons and in the early evenings for study purposes. The expense would be small, it would mean a larger utilization of city property which at those hours is now idle, and it would relieve the congestion at some of the library stations and give better opportunities for adult readers.

The work of the ordering and cataloguing departments is well done, and the extent of cross references and abstracting of complete titles of books seems to be wisely limited. The Committee is inclined to question only the time required for placing a book in circulation. It is not in a position to criticize the efficiency of the system, but would suggest that if the time now taken could be diminished, it would be a great satisfaction to the public, which is apt to be impatient at the long interval between the publication of a book and its availability in the circulation department.

The Committee observes with approval the revival of weekly accession lists. It suggests a new edition of the catalogues of standard fiction, and that this should contain likewise the books in Yiddish. The problem of keeping the catalogue cards clean is still unsolved. The Committee recommends a determined search for some celluloiding process, or a varnish or shellac, to be used in covering such cards as are most likely to become soiled. A prize might be offered to technical schools or laboratories for the discovery of such a substance.

Some of the rooms leased by the City for reading rooms are very unfit and inadequate. In particular, the reading room on Broadway Extension is too small, is badly lighted, very noisy and not well heated, and yet it is the most frequented of the small stations. Criticisms of this station have been made for several years, and it is the duty of the City to remedy the difficulty. If it is impossible to rent a suitable room in the district, even at a much larger rental, a building should be purchased. The congested population in this section of Wards 7 and 9 needs far better treatment. The station on North Street is also in need of improvement. As the present room must soon be vacated, it is hoped that its successor will be more satisfactory.

Although Boston has the most beautiful municipal central library building anywhere in use, its branch buildings are far from being commendable. Though some of them are commodious, and some are sufficiently well adapted to the needs of their patrons, there is not a single building that would for a moment compare with the numerous branch buildings of the smaller cities of Cleveland, Cincinnati, or Pittsburgh. If all the buildings that we now have were serving their purpose satisfactorily, it would not be pertinent to criticize the City because of lack of finer buildings. But in several instances the branches are entirely inadequate, uninviting, and insufficiently protected from fire. In some cases, they are situated in buildings owned by the City, but constructed for other purposes, and in these the branches have been placed, simply because the buildings offered some unused space. The burning of the municipal building in Jamaica Plain is to lead to the construction of a small but adequate independent branch library building. Without waiting for a fire, the City should provide other such buildings in the districts where the need is greatest. It would be a wise expenditure of money if each year for the next five or ten years the City should appropriate from taxes or loans the sum of sixty thousand dollars and build therewith a modern attractive building of which the people in the district in which it is built would be proud. In the opinion of the Committee, the need for such branch buildings is greatest in East Boston, where a large work is being carried on in entirely inadequate rooms; in Charlestown, where a new and more accessible location with an inviting building should replace the inconvenience of the old municipal building; and in the North End, where a large population of children is inadequately supplied by the present reading rooms.

In conclusion, the Committee desires to emphasize the service of the Library as a popular educational institution. It is a source of satisfaction to have a large and valuable collection of books to which scholars may resort, but it is far more necessary in a city like this to have the resources of the Library made accessible to the multitude, many of whom cannot afford the necessary car fares to go to and from the central building. More than that, the people need to learn that the Library is not merely a collec-

tion of books, but includes trained servants of the people, whose aim is to make available to them the treasures of knowledge which are in these books, and who are at their disposal for directing their study, and for aiding them in obtaining information in any form whatever, so that the people in any district may look to the nearest representative of the Library for any of these purposes. The machinery of the whole library system should be first applied to meeting these needs of the people, where the people are. It will then be, as it is indeed the desire of the Trustees that it should be, — a people's library, as necessary to them as their schools and worthy of as generous support.

The foregoing was adopted as the report of the whole Committee at a meeting held January 21, 1910.

DELLA JEAN DEERY,
Secretary.

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN.

To the Board of Trustees:

I respectfully submit my report for the year ending January 31, 1910.

REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

During the year many new bookcases and shelves have been placed in the branch buildings and also in the special library galleries at the central building. The entire work of construction was performed by the direct employment of the necessary workmen, under the supervision of the library carpenter, and the material was prepared in our own shop. Under the supervision of our painter, whose labor was reinforced by others temporarily employed, the rooms occupied at the central library building by the Ordering, Catalogue and Branch Departments were completely renovated, and also the Newspaper Room, the Sargent hall, and the stacks. Minor repairs, as usual, have been made at the central building in order to keep the structure and machinery in good condition. The boilers, motors, elevators, and other appliances are in perfect order. During the year it has been found possible to obtain the entire service needed for the building by the use of two boilers only, leaving the third free for emergencies. The boilers and the elevators are regularly subjected to expert inspection.

The terrazo floor in the corridor leading from the entrance hall to the Newspaper and Periodical Rooms at the central building, which had become much worn, has been replaced by marble tiling. The entire basement, except the quarters occupied by the carpenter, has been cleaned and whitened.

Extensive repairs have been made upon the roof at the Brighton Branch, and the lighting has been improved by changes in the gas piping and fixtures. At the Dorchester Branch, since the extension of the building by the Public Buildings Department, an office has been built for the Custodian. Repairs have been made upon the roof at the South End Branch. At the West End Branch a new wrought-iron fence, upon a brick and stone base, has been substituted for the old broken cast-iron fencing. At the Roslindale Reading Room the interior has been repainted. Our landlords at the following reading rooms have made the repairs specified: Mattapan, new heating apparatus and granolithic sidewalk; Neponset, electric wiring and fixtures (partly at our expense); Roxbury Crossing, gas fixtures and radiators re-bronzed; Boylston Station, repainted; City Point, repainted, and the wall of the adjacent building whitened, improving the light; Mt. Bowdoin and Warren Street, various minor repairs.

Signs calling attention to certain branches not centrally located have been placed on the principal thoroughfares in the vicinity, each with an arrow pointing towards the street upon which the branch is located. The stations thus pointed out are the Brighton, Dorchester, Roxbury, South End and Upham's Corner Branches, and the Parker Hill Reading Room.

THE USE OF BOOKS.

The number of volumes borrowed for use outside the library buildings is recorded statistically, and is shown for the year under consideration in the table on page 42. It is necessary to repeat the statement made in previous reports, that these figures furnish an inadequate measure of the use of the Library, and that they are not to be compared with those which relate to circulation in other libraries, unless it is clear that in every case the record is kept in the same way. They are chiefly of value in comparison with our own similar figures in other years. The circulation is affected by various influences, some of which cannot be easily traced. For example, the constant increase in the ref-

erence use of books within the reading rooms, promoted by closer coöperation with the public and parochial schools and other institutions of learning, reduces, to a certain extent, the number of volumes taken out for home use. Periods of fine weather, offering opportunities for out-of-door recreation, diminish the use of books for home reading. Whenever business is active and full employment becomes general, less attention is given to books, and the library circulation declines. These influences, and others which are purely local and perhaps transitory, such as changes in the character of the population of a particular district, the removal of a library station from one location to another, diminution in the supply of new books on account of a reduced appropriation, — affect the recorded circulation, and should be taken into account in drawing inferences from comparisons based upon the figures, even between two successive years. A slight decline appears in the circulation during the present year as compared with that in 1908–09. An increase appeared in 1908–09 as compared with 1907–08, and it is probable that the loss now shown will be more than made up in the coming year. The reduced appropriation in 1908 restricted purchases of books in that year, and this has been felt in the reduced circulation of the year just ended. Some of the other influences which have been mentioned have also been felt.

The figures reported by months by Mr. Frank C. Blaisdell, Chief of the Issue Department, are presented in detail in the following table:

CIRCULATION FROM CENTRAL BY MONTHS.

	HOME USE DIRECT.	HOME USE THROUGH BRANCH DEPT.	SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS THROUGH BRANCH DEPT.	TOTALS.
February, 1909	30,032	7,645	7,371	45,048
March, "	31,462	8,683	7,377	47,522
April, "	27,006	6,436	7,382	40,824
May, "	25,343	5,787	7,375	38,505
June, "	18,635	4,689	6,424	29,748
July, "	18,002	4,134	2,759	24,895
August, "	17,916	3,730	2,420	24,066
September, "	19,115	4,412	4,165	27,692
October, "	26,074	6,500	6,777	39,351
November, "	27,830	7,471	6,935	42,236
December, "	25,568	7,935	6,917	40,420
January, 1909	30,584	7,949	7,032	45,565
Totals	297,567	75,371	72,934	445,872

The following summary condenses the figures for the entire system:

Books lent for Home Use, including Circulation through Schools and Institutions.

From Central Library (including Central Library books issued through the branches and reading-room stations)	445,872
From branches and reading-room stations (other than books received from Central)	1,201,974
Total number of volumes lent for home use and through schools and institutions	1,647,846

Comparative statements follow, showing the circulation of books for use outside the library buildings in each of two succeeding years:

	1908-09.	1909-10.
Central Library circulation (excluding schools and institutions):		
Direct home use	308,178	297,567
Through branches and reading-room sta- tions for home use	83,957	75,371
	<u>392,135</u>	<u>372,938</u>

<i>Carried forward</i>	392,135	372,938
<i>Brought forward</i>	392,135	372,938
Branch Department circulation (excluding schools and institutions):		
Direct home use		
From branch collections	774,058	740,691
From reading-room stations	388,834	383,765
	<u>1,162,892</u>	<u>1,124,456</u>
Schools and institutions, circulation: (including books from Central through the branch system)	124,415	150,452
Totals	<u>1,679,442</u>	<u>1,647,846</u>

The net decline in circulation was 21,576 volumes, in a total of 1,647,846. More than one-third of this loss, namely, 7,475 volumes, was found at the Jamaica Plain Branch, which, since the fire at Curtis Hall in December, 1908, has been operated in restricted quarters with only part of its collection upon the shelves. Notwithstanding the net decline, a few of the branches and reading-room stations report an increase in their direct circulation. These are: Charlestown, Dorchester and South End Branches; Lower Mills, Roslindale, Warren Street, Orient Heights, City Point, Roxbury Crossing and North Street Reading Rooms. The increase at the last named two was slight.

The percentages of fiction and non-fiction in the books circulated for home use were: Central Library (including books sent through the branch system, fiction, 52.3 per cent; non-fiction, 47.7 per cent. Branches and reading-room stations, fiction, 69.8 per cent; non-fiction, 30.2 per cent. Or, reduced to single percentages for the entire library system, fiction, 65.3; non-fiction, 34.7 per cent. The term "fiction" is somewhat ambiguous unless defined. It may include cheap and ephemeral novels without literary merit or interest, as well as books which have become classics. Of the volumes circulated by us, however, and included in these statistical statements, about one-half are carefully selected stories for young readers. The others comprise standard fiction for adults, including the best books among recent publications in this department of literature, and the works of the well-

known writers, — Scott, Dickens, Thackeray, and the other masters of English prose fiction.

Books have been sent on deposit from the Central Library through the Branch Department to 137 different places, as compared with 125 in 1908-09. The number of volumes sent was 38,298 as compared with 33,256 in 1908-09, an increase of 15 per cent. The proportion of fiction, in the books sent on deposit alone, is 48 per cent. Among the new places of deposit are the Boston High School of Commerce, the Newsboys' Club, and the State Prison in Charlestown.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

A statistical summary of the books acquired by purchase appears in the following statement, covering two successive years. It should be borne in mind that purchases were much below the normal number in 1908-09 on account of the reduced appropriation in that year.

Books acquired by purchase.

	1908-09.	1909-1910.
For the Central Library:		
From City appropriation	3,478	10,527
From Trust Funds income	3,868	2,671
	7,346	13,198
For branches and reading-room stations:		
From City appropriation	3,542	10,738
From Trust Funds income	1,604	1,270
By Fellowes Athenæum (for the Roxbury Branch)	640	1,086
	5,786	13,094
	13,132	26,292

The details, showing whether the books added to the Library during the year covered by the present report have been obtained by purchase, gift or exchange, appear in the following statement:

	CENTRAL, VOLUMES.	BRANCHES, VOLUMES.	TOTAL, VOLUMES.
Accessions by purchase	13,023	11,558	24,581
Accessions by gift	8,348	624	8,972
Accessions by exchange	495	.....	495

Accessions by Statistical Department . . .	463	.....	463
Accessions of periodicals (bound) . . .	2,488	450	2,938
Accessions of newspapers (bound) . . .	175	.....	175
Accessions by Fellowes Athenæum . . .	.....	1,119	1,119
	<u>24,992</u>	<u>13,751</u>	<u>38,743</u>

The total number of accessions, 38,743 volumes, compares with 22,931 volumes acquired in 1908-09.

PURCHASES OF FICTION.

There have been purchased 1,236 copies of current prose fiction, comprising 115 different titles, and costing \$1,170.51. The purchases of fiction to replace worn-out and discarded copies number 10,382 volumes, costing \$7,786.50. The sum spent for new copies and replacements of fiction constitutes 25.3 per cent of the entire amount expended for all books. The current fiction purchased, 115 different titles, represents a selection from 785 different works which were carefully read and considered. It is perhaps well to repeat that, as stated in a previous report, our purchases of current fiction include a fair representation of the best fiction, that which is likeliest to remain in constant request, but they are mainly confined to works of the highest merit as determined by a conservative method of selection. Our supply of standard fiction is large and is constantly replaced as the books are worn out. We are liberal in providing good fiction for the young. But, unless our funds are enlarged, we cannot much enlarge our purchases in this field without impairing the growth of the Library in other important directions.

NOTEWORTHY ACCESSIONS.

The annual report prepared by Miss Theodosia E. Macurdy, Chief of the Ordering Department, contains details relating to the important accessions, from which the following are extracted:

PURCHASES.

The following titles represent a selection from the important purchases of the year bought with the income from the Trust Funds.

- Ackermann, Rudolph. History of the University of Cambridge, its colleges, halls, and public buildings. With numerous coloured plates, consisting of views of the exteriors and interiors of the various Colleges and Halls, including portraits of the founders, etc. London. 1815. 2 v.
- Beilstein, Friedrich Conrad. Handbuch der organischen Chemie. 3d revised edition. Hamburg. 4 v.
- Bible. The English Bible, containing the Old Testament and the New, collated with the early editions, etc., by F. H. Scrivener for the Synodics of the Cambridge University Press. Hammersmith. Doves Press. 1903-1905. 5 v. Folio, limp vellum.
- Bodleian Library. Irish manuscripts in the Bodleian Library. Vol. 1. With an introduction and indexes by Kuno Meyer. Oxford. 1909.
- Brown, G. Baldwin. The Glasgow school of painters. With 54 reproductions in photogravure by J. Craig Annan. Glasgow. 1908.
- Boston Burying Grounds. (Records in manuscripts.) Twenty-four volumes of records, epitaphs and tombs, of Copp's Hill, Granary, King's Chapel, Central, Phipps Street, and North and South Dorchester burying grounds.
- Seven collections of newspaper clippings relating to these burying grounds.
- Twenty-seven plans of burying grounds.
- Three manuscripts.
- Cladel, Judith. Auguste Rodin. L'œuvre et l'homme. Préface par Camille Lemonnier. Bruxelles. 1908.
- Codices e Vaticanis selecti phototypice expressi. Le miniature della topografia Cristiana. Codice Vaticano greco 699. Milano. 1908.
- Historiarum Romanarum libri 79-80 quae supersunt. Codex Vaticanus graecus 1288. Lipsiae. 1908.
- Durrieu, Paul. Le Boccace de Munich. Reproduction des 91 miniatures du célèbre manuscrit de la Bibliothèque Royale de Munich. Munich. 1909.
- Fevret de Saint-Mémin, Charles Balthasar Julien. The St. Memin collection of portraits, consisting of seven hundred and sixty medallion portraits, principally of distinguished Americans, photographed by J. Gurney & Son, of New York, from proof impressions of the original copper plates . . . Prefixed a memoir of M. de St. Memin. New York. 1862.
- Hsiang Yuan-P'ien. Chinese porcelain. Sixteenth-century coloured illustrations with Chinese ms. text. Translated and annotated by Stephen W. Bushell. Oxford. 1908.
- Hodder, James. Hodder's Arithmetick: or, that necessary art made most easy. Boston: Printed by J. Franklin, for S. Phillips. 1719.
- Howgill, Francis. The Heart of New England Hardened through

- Wickednes: in Answer to a Book Entitled the Heart of New-England Rent, Published by John Norton, appointed thereunto by the General Court . . . London. Thomas Simmons. 1659.
- Jacobs Kampf- und-Ritter-Platz, allwo der nach seinem Ursprung sich sehndene Geist der in Sophiam verliebten Seele mit Gott um den neuen Gerungen und der Sieg davon getragen. Philadelphia. Gedruckt bey B. F. [Benjamin Franklin]. 1736. [Ephrata Hymn-book.]
- Leinsula, Franciscus. The Kingdom's divisions anatomized, together with a vindication of the armies proceedings. London. 1649.
- Milton, John. Poetical works of John Milton. With life of the author by William Hayley. Boydell edition. Illustrated with three portraits of Milton, and 29 stipple engravings by Schiavonetti, Ogborne, Earlom, and other famous engravers. London. 1794-97. 3 v.
- Patent (A) for Plymouth in New-England. To which is annexed extracts from the records of that colony. Boston. New-England. Printed by John Draper. 1751.

GIFTS.

The following list includes the more notable books and collections of books received by gift:

- Benton, Josiah H. Twenty-eight copies of the portrait of Abraham Lincoln, enlarged from a photograph by Brady, framed in dark oak, 32x38, for the branches and reading rooms, and one framed and two unframed for the Central Library; also one hundred and thirty-four volumes.
- Bierstadt, Oscar A. One hundred and seventy-six historic and artistic bookbindings, dating from the 15th century to the present time, from the originals in the library of Robert Hoe. Vol. 1 and 2.
- A catalogue of books printed in foreign languages before the year 1600, comprising a portion of the library of Robert Hoe. Vol. 1 and 2. Limited editions.
- Bixby, W. K., St. Louis. Inventory of the contents of Mount Vernon. 1810. With a prefatory note by Worthington Chauncey Ford. Limited edition.
- Black, Mrs. Emma L., New York City. A portrait in oil, life size, of Dr. Jerome van Crowninshield Smith, Mayor of Boston. 1854.
- Brown, Allen A. Two hundred and ninety-six volumes of music for the Brown Collection. Also his Dramatic Collection, consisting of 3,500 volumes.
- Bullard, Francis. Seven hundred and sixty-five volumes of miscellaneous works and eighteen hundred and twenty-five numbers of periodicals. From the periodicals forty volumes of Littell's Living Age were made up for the library files. (Two gifts.)

- Case, Mrs. James B. One hundred and twenty-six volumes, chiefly reports, and eighteen numbers of periodicals.
- The Catholics of Boston. Bronze bust of Archbishop J. J. Williams, by Samuel J. Kitson. Also the pedestal.
- Fay, Eugene F. One hundred and forty-six pamphlets, chiefly old almanacks, and a number of theatre programs.
- Geist, Friederika L., widow of Christian E. Geist, M.D. Bronze bust of Samuel Christian Friedrich Hahnemann, M.D.
- Germany, Kaiserliches Patentamt. Patentschriften, 11,468 numbers.
- Green, Dr. S. A. Five engravings from the *Columbian and Massachusetts Magazines, 1787-91*, two of which were lacking in the library set of the *Columbian Magazine*.
- Higginson, Thomas Wentworth. Twenty-four volumes for the Galatea Collection.
- Marrs, Mrs. Kingsmill, Saxonville, Mass. Two hundred and sixty-six photographs of paintings in Italian galleries. For the Graupner Collection.
- Minns, Miss Susan. Eighty-three volumes, including "Frauen Zeitung," 1878-1908. "Über Land und Meer." 2 v. "La Mode Illustrée," 1887. Twelve folios of facsimiles of English, French and Italian bindings of various styles, and thirty-eight volumes, chiefly modern novels in French, German, Spanish and Italian.
- Morgan, J. Pierpont, New York City. Collections Georges Hoentschel, acquises par M. J. Pierpont Morgan, prêtées au Metropolitan Museum de New York. Tome 1-4.
- New England Society in the City of New York. Bronze medal commemorative of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Society.
- Parker, Charles Henry, Children of. Marble bust of James Fenimore Cooper, by Horatio Greenough.
- Parloa, Miss Maria, Estate of. One hundred and fifty-three volumes, books relating to cookery; also \$100 to bind such books in the collection as need rebinding. (The sum not paid over.)
- Perkins, Mrs. Charles F., Jamaica Plain. Two hundred and thirty-one volumes of music, including manuscript and a collection of unbound sheet music.
- Pickering, Mrs. Henry. One hundred and five mounted photographs, miscellaneous collection.
- Rowe, Dr. George H. M. Three hundred and twenty books and pamphlets, miscellaneous collection.
- Thayer, Mrs. Bayard, Lancaster. Four hundred and sixty-three photographs of the architecture of Germany, issued by the German government, and fifteen operas in score.

Walters, Henry, Baltimore, Md. *Incunabula typographica*. A descriptive catalogue of the books printed in the 15th century, 1460–1500, in the library of Henry Walters.

THE CATALOGUE DEPARTMENT.

In this Department, during the year, 55,308 volumes and parts of volumes have been catalogued, covering 32,133 different titles. Mr. S. A. Chevalier, Chief of this Department, in his annual report presents figures which permit the following comparative statement to be made:

	1908-09.		1909-10.	
	VOLS. AND PARTS.	TITLES.	VOLS. AND PARTS.	TITLES.
Catalogued (new):				
Central Library Catalogue	15,784	11,332	22,939	13,555
Serials	6,928	.....	6,830	.....
Branches	11,822	10,534	11,139	10,118
Re-catalogued	21,892	11,423	14,400	8,460
Totals	<u>56,426</u>	<u>33,289</u>	<u>55,308</u>	<u>32,133</u>

There were 160,560 cards added to the catalogues during the year; of these 153,688 were added to the central library catalogues, and 6,872 to the catalogues at the Branches. The use of typewritten entries made in the department in connection with new editions purchased, or gifts received, or transfers made from the Branches, of works previously represented in the central catalogues, has effected a saving in the number of printed cards.

The soiled condition of cards in the public catalogue drawers has required the reprinting of several thousand cards; and many clean new labels have been introduced. The public fiction catalogue has been entirely re-arranged and supplied with new labels on the outside of the drawers. A finding list of the books bequeathed to the Library by Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton has been made and published, and the copy for the printed catalogue of the John Adams Library, now placed within this Library, 3,019 volumes, is completed. The larger part of the books received by gift from the bequest of Abram E. Cutter, and not

previously in the Library, have been catalogued. The printed catalogue of the Allen A. Brown Music Library has been carried through Part IV, completing the first volume; Part V is wholly in type and Part VI is well advanced. The catalogue of the Statistical Department, containing 104 drawers of cards formerly in two alphabets, has been consolidated, re-arranged and re-labelled.

SHELF DEPARTMENT.

The following condensed statement is derived from the statistical tables prepared by Mr. W. G. T. Roffe, in charge of the Shelf Department:

Placed on the central library shelves during the year:	VOLS.
General collection, new books (including continuations)	16,870
Special collections, new books	2,680
Books reported lost, or missing in previous years but now found, transfers from branches, etc.	495
	20,045
Removed from the central library shelves during the year:	
Books reported lost or missing, condemned copies not yet replaced, transfers, etc.	4,021
	16,024
Net gain at Central Library	4,474
Net gain at branches and reading-room stations	20,498

The total number of volumes available for public use in the Library at the end of each year since the formation of the Library is shown in the following statement:

1852-53	9,688	1864-65	123,016
1853-54	16,221	1865-66	130,678
1854-55	22,617	1866-67	136,080
1855-56	28,080	1867-68	144,092
1856-57	34,896	1868-69	152,796
1857-58	70,851	1869-70	160,573
1858-59	78,043	1870-71	179,250
1859-60	85,031	1871-72	192,958
1860-61	97,386	1872-73	209,456
1861-62	105,034	1873-74	260,550
1862-63	110,563	1874-75	276,918
1863-64	116,934	1875-76	297,873

1876-77	312,010	1893	597,152
1877-78	345,734	1894	610,375
1878-79	360,963	1895	628,297
1879-80	377,225	1896-97	663,763
1880-81	390,982	1897-98	698,888
1881-82	404,221	1898-99	716,050
1882-83	422,116	1899-00	746,383
1883-84	438,594	1900-01	781,377
1884-85	453,947	1901-02	812,264
1885	460,993	1902-03	835,904
1886	479,421	1903-04	848,884
1887	492,956	1904-05	871,050
1888	505,872	1905-06	878,933
1889	520,508	1906-07	903,349
1890	536,027	1907-08	922,348
1891	556,283	1908-09	941,024
1892	576,237	1909-10	961,522

These volumes are located as follows:

Central Library	752,182	Roslindale (Station B)	5,191
Brighton	17,633	Mattapan (Station D)	639
Charlestown	21,585	Neponset (Station E)	544
Dorchester	18,946	Mt. Bowdoin (Station F)	2,891
East Boston	15,558	Allston (Station G)	727
Jamaica Plain	15,743	Codman Square (Station J)	3,456
Roxbury Branch:		Mt. Pleasant (Station N)	628
Fellowes Athenæum 26,751		Broadway Ext. (Station P)	2,782
Owned by City 9,241		Warren Street (Station R)	735
Total, Roxbury Branch	35,992	Roxbury Crossing (Station S)	896
South Boston	16,766	Boylston Station (Station T)	769
South End	15,638	North Bennet St. (Station W)	544
Upham's Corner	4,777	Orient Heights (Station Z)	1,167
West End	14,781	North Street (Station 22)	606
West Roxbury	7,397	City Point (Station 23)	1,575
Lower Mills (Station A)	631	Parker Hill (Station 24)	743

PUBLICATIONS.

Under the editorial supervision of Mr. Lindsay Swift, the following serial publications have been issued from the library press:

1. Quarterly Bulletin, four issues, March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31; aggregate pages, 320; edition, 3,000 copies.
2. Weekly Book List, each week; aggregate pages, 318; edition, 2,500 copies.

The usual announcements of the free public lectures, programmes of exhibitions, the Lowell Institute courses, and the

Harvard-Lowell Collegiate courses have appeared in the Quarterly Bulletins. A list of the titles of the books comprising the bequest to the Library from Louise Chandler Moulton appeared in the Quarterly Bulletin for September 30, and an edition of 500 copies was published separately.

THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT.

The Printing Department has performed the usual miscellaneous printing required in the administration of the Library, including the catalogue cards, call slips, stationery, blank forms; etc., and has also printed the bulletins, weekly lists, and the numbers of the Allen A. Brown Music Catalogue which have been issued during the year. Mr. Francis Watts Lee, Chief, has compiled the following table showing the miscellaneous work of the Department, in two successive years:

	1908-09.	1909-10.
Requisitions on hand, February 1	13	3
Requisitions received during year	207	241
Requisitions on hand, January 31	3	17
Requisitions filled during year	217	224
Card Catalogue (Central):		
Titles (Printing Dept. count)	17,190	15,468
Cards finished (excluding extras)	137,686	153,688
Titles in type, but not printed	240	380
Guide cards printed	3,600	800
Card Catalogue (Branches):		
Titles (Printing Dept. count)	424	264
Cards (approximately)	33,920	19,800
Pamphlets not counted by the Editor . . . . .	.....	63,650
Call slips	1,334,000	1,865,000
Stationery and blank forms	555,828	659,937
Signs	651	768
Blank books	56	58

THE BINDERY.

Mr. Frank Ryder, Chief of the Bindery, reports the following for the year:

Number of volumes bound, various styles	34,144
Volumes repaired	1,971
Volumes guarded	1,349

Maps mounted	344
Photographs and engravings mounted	3,514
Magazines stitched	233
Library publications folded, stitched and trimmed	201,883

The miscellaneous work performed, not included in this statement, includes the manufacture of periodical covers, the making of paper boxes, the mounting of cards, the blocking of memorandum paper, etc. The bindery benches have been re-arranged during the year and other changes made in order to accommodate a temporary force upon the special binding and repair of books other than those included in our current binding. Of this class 3,056 volumes have been completed. The entire plant is now in excellent condition, and is equipped so as to execute each year a large amount of work.

DOCUMENTS AND SUPPLIES.

From the Stock Department at the Central Library, in charge of Mr. George V. Mooney, 168,286 copies of library publications have been distributed for public use during the year. Besides these, 1,942,000 call slips have been required in the various departments, and 371,308 miscellaneous forms.

REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT.

From the annual report of Mr. John J. Keenan, Chief of the Registration Department, it appears that the number of cards in the hands of borrowers, entitling them to take books from the Library for home use, was 86,104, on January 31, 1910. The increase for the year in the number of such cards was 632. The department issued during the year 44,810 cards to replace others which had been lost by the holders, or which had become soiled or filled with entries, or which had been rendered invalid on account of the holder's change of residence.

The number of available cards held by men and boys is 27,941, and by women and girls, 58,163. Of the whole number, 68,804 are held by persons over 16 years old, and 21,300 by persons under 16. The teachers' cards number 4,782;

pupils' cards, held by pupils in the public and parochial schools, number 22,092; and those held by students in higher institutions of learning number 19,814.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT.

The number of volumes lent for use at home to borrowers directly applying in the Children's Room at the Central Library increased during the year to 58,949, as compared with 57,551 reported in 1908-09. There were also 16,705 volumes sent to borrowers through the Branch Department. This recorded use of the Children's Department at the Central Library is, however, but a partial indication of the work of the year. Pupils from the schools frequent the rooms whenever the schools are not in session, and there is noted a considerable use of the reading-room opportunities during the forenoon by young men and boys who are engaged in remunerative employment during the afternoon or in the evening. An enlargement of the reserve collection is thus referred to by the Custodian, Miss Alice M. Jordan, in her annual report:

During the last year there has been formed in the Reference Room a group of some of the best books for children, in attractive editions, for reading-room use only. In the past we have frequently been unable to supply to a child who wished to read in the Library, books like Kipling's "Jungle Book" or Dodge's "Hans Brinker," because all the copies were issued to borrowers. Now this defect has been overcome and the best books, which are often popular also, are always at hand for hall use. Even in the short time since these books have been so placed many children have had great satisfaction in using them. We hope the collection will prove of value to older people, who wish to examine good editions of such books.

Copies of certain books especially reserved for the use of teachers and students who are taking the Harvard-Lowell Collegiate courses have been placed upon the shelves of the reference room in this department and have been largely used. In general, the department has received a larger supply of new books than in previous years, comprising, principally, duplicates

of standard works which are in constant demand. As to the work of the department with the schools the Custodian remarks:

Visits have been made by the Custodian to the schools whenever opportunity offered and classes received at the Library whenever they would come. In 1909 about 900 pupils received the lessons on the use of the Library. There have been four satisfactory meetings with the Parents' Associations connected with schools in different parts of the City. At these meetings a talk has been given on the value of good books and the aid to be expected from the Library, information which is always received with appreciation.

The experience of several years has demonstrated the value of the kind of service rendered by this department of the Library, through the direct contact with the pupils and their teachers by means of the visits of classes referred to above. The schools which have accepted this service have generally continued it. The Library will at any time make arrangements with others who have not yet sent classes here.

Two brief finding lists which have been prepared in the Children's Department have been found very useful. These are: "A Brief List of Books for Home Reading for Boys and Girls," issued late in 1908, in coöperation with the Boston Home and School Association, and "Helps in the Public Library to the Study of the History of Boston in the Public Schools." Copies of the last named list were distributed through the schools, and both lists have been in constant demand at the Library.

BATES HALL.

The reference use of the open-shelf collection in Bates Hall continues to increase, and a large number of volumes are also issued daily from the stacks to readers in the hall. Of the character of this use of books within the Library, Mr. Oscar A. Bierstadt, the Chief of the Reference Department remarks:

No other room can accommodate so many visitors, and yet in busy seasons its capacity is sometimes taxed to the utmost. These readers do not come here to read the news of the day, or to look through the latest magazines, and comparatively few call for fiction, but they are mostly

inspired by a desire for serious study, with a thirst for learning. The books used by them are generally of a high order, and the industrious manner in which they take notes indicates a laudable effort to store up knowledge for the future. The total number of volumes consulted would be found very large, if an accurate account were kept of all the works taken from the open shelves and of those called from the stacks. No attempt is made to keep any such statistics. The maximum attendance of 298 readers at one time in Bates Hall was attained on the afternoon of May 9, 1909, and the attendance dropped to 84 on the afternoon of July 3, 1909. During the year, Bates Hall readers have used 320,000 hall use call slips and 680,000 home use slips, making a total of 1,000,000.

A further indication of the extent of the otherwise unrecorded use of books in this principal reading room of the library system appears in the following statement from the report of Mr. Pierce E. Buckley, in charge of the Centre Desk:

On January 15 a record of hall use slips was kept. There were 1,052 slips presented at the desks in Bates Hall. Of this number there were 195 unsuccessful applications, and 1,053 books were sent up on 857 slips. There were 157 books charged on readers' cards. If bad weather had not prevented, the attendance and the number of books asked for would have been much larger.

For the past two months the assistants at the Centre Desk have made a special search for every unsuccessful application. It is quite a task, but many mistakes in the Indicator, Catalogue and Shelf Lists have been discovered. As soon as a mistake has been found it has been rectified.

THE SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

The following details are condensed from the report of Mr. Garrick M. Borden, Custodian, covering the work of the year:

THE FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT.

Photographs and Lantern Slides.

There have been added to the collection: 472 photographs, 442 half-tone reproductions; and a few lantern slides. The collection now contains 19,774 photographs, 8,626 half-tone and process pictures, 1,868 colored photographs, and 2,745 lantern slides. The collection of slides is increased slowly, since

they are bought only as needed in connection with our own lecture courses.

The gift of 461 photographs, received from Mrs. Bayard Thayer, is an important accession. These comprise large size views of German architecture of all periods, including interiors and exteriors. They have been properly mounted and will be arranged alphabetically in portfolios.

Circulation of Books and Pictures.

There were issued for home use from the Fine Arts Collection (included in the statement of total circulation, page 42), directly, 17,295 volumes; and from the collection through other departments 5,878. Besides these books issued from the special Fine Arts collection, 11,417 books from the stacks were issued from the Fine Arts desk.

BARTON-TICKNOR ROOM.

The following statistics show the recorded use of this room:

Barton-Ticknor books issued	12,539
Maps issued	1,077
Books from other departments, issued for readers applying in this room	10,739

These figures indicate an increased use as compared with the preceding year.

ALLEN A. BROWN MUSIC ROOM.

To the collection in this room, 529 volumes have been added during the year. Of these, 296 were presented by Mr. Brown. The important additions include:

Early editions of chamber music by Handel, Corelli, Geminiani, Sammartini, and Avison; Book I of the first edition of Purcell's Orpheus Britannicus; early English operas, namely, Bononcini's Camilla and Graber's Albion and Albanus. Of the full scores of orchestral works there are Loeffler's Pagan Poem, Mahler's Seventh Symphony, Grieg's incidental music to Peer Gynt, and Ravel's Rapsodie espagnole. The

operatic full scores include: Franck's *Hulda*; Bruneau's *L'attaque du moulin*; and d'Albert's *Tragaldabas*.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL LIBRARIES.

The statistics gleaned from the annual reports of the special libraries afford but slight indication of the importance of these collections. The use of the books, photographs, and other material contained in them, by individual students and by classes, increases every year and requires the careful attention of trained specialists in the staff. Many of the most important books are restricted to reading-room use within the library building, and the circulation of these volumes is not apparent in the recorded statistics which cover only books taken from the building. The photographs, which do not circulate out of the Library, are especially valuable in class and exhibition work, and are in constant demand. The larger cabinet folios, and the more expensive volumes relating to the arts of architecture, painting, and decoration are extensively used, but the use is not recorded statistically. Students from the art schools or sent by private instructors are engaged in tracing, or are otherwise employed with drawing materials, using the books which the Fine Arts Department contains, without formality, tables being set apart for this purpose. The entire Allen A. Brown Collection is reserved for hall use, but, although not recorded statistically, this use is neither restricted nor unimportant. The tables in the Barton Gallery are reserved for persons engaged in authorship or in extended research, and this quiet reading room is largely used by readers whose books are not enumerated in the tables of circulation.

Visits of Classes.

The reservation of tables and the provision of library material in the Fine Arts Reading Room has been required for 58 visits of study clubs, attended by 877 members; and for 49 visits of classes from schools or colleges, attended by 492 students. There were also 59 classes under private direction, which were accommodated in the same way, including 316 persons. The

conferences between the students who are taking the Harvard-Lowell Collegiate Courses and their instructors, for which provision is made in the Fine Arts Reading Room, have required about 2,200 individual visits.

Circulation of Pictures.

The following table exhibits not only the number of folios of pictures issued during the year for use in the public and private schools, and by classes out of the library building, but shows the progressive increase in this branch of the service since 1905 :

Portfolios of Pictures Issued by Years.

BORROWERS.	1909.	1908.	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.
Public schools . . .	860	832	646	493	264	173
Private schools . . .	26	21	32	50	30	30
Clubs	35	49	68	88	53	26
Classes	22	24	12	12	6	15
Miscellaneous . . .	64	26	15	32	28	12
Totals	1,007	952	773	675	381	256

LECTURES AND EXHIBITIONS.

The free public lectures given in the Lecture Hall, and the exhibitions given in the Fine Arts Exhibition Room, which, in many cases, have reference to the subjects of the lectures, are enumerated in the following lists :

Lectures.

1909. February 4. Some Masters of the Graphic Arts. By Emil H. Richter. Under the auspices of the Museum of Fine Arts.
 February 10. Abraham Lincoln. By William H. Lewis.
 February 11. Some Types of Roman Art. By Karl P. Harrington.
 February 18. A Visit to Samos and the Coast of Asia Minor. By Lacey D. Caskey.
 February 25. The Future of the City. By Walter H. Kilham.
 February 25, at 3 P.M. Greek Domestic Life, as illustrated by the Collections of the Museum of Fine Arts. By L. Earle Rowe.

- March 4. Imagination and Literalism in Illustration. By Charles H. Caffin. Under the auspices of the Society of Printers.
- March 11. Some of the Treasures of the Museum of Fine Arts. By Henry Warren Poor.
- March 15, 3 P.M. Homes and Haunts of Ruskin. By Wm. C. Minifie. Before the Ruskin Club.
- March 16. German Art. By Edmund Von Mach.
- March 18. Glimpses of Ireland's Bright Side. By Daniel J. Dwyer.
- March 25. The Madonna in Art. By H. H. Powers.
- May 6. The Paintings of Sorolla. By W. E. B. Starkweather. Repeated May 10.
- May 14. On Trees. By John G. Jack. For the benefit of pupils from the public schools.
- October 21. The New Museum of Fine Arts. By Arthur Fairbanks.
- October 28. The Nature and Scope of Art. By F. Melbourne Greene.
- November 4. Types of Composition and Drawing. By M. Melbourne Greene.
- November 11. Style (in art). By F. Melbourne Greene.
- November 15. Rembrandt's Etchings. By F. Melbourne Greene.
- November 18. Books and Book Lovers. By Harry Lyman Koopman. Under the auspices of the Society of Printers.
- December 2. Portugal. By John C. Bowker.
- December 6. Hawaii. By Mary E. Haskell. Under the auspices of the Field and Forest Club.
- December 9. Picturesque Sicily. By Minna Eliot Tenney.
- December 30. Through North Africa, including the Buried Roman City of Timgad. By George B. Dexter.
1910. January 6. Algiers, Tunis, Biskra. By George B. Dexter.
- January 10. Alaska. By Charles A. Stone. Under the auspices of the Field and Forest Club.
- January 13. A Summer in Norway. By Minna Eliot Tenney. Repeated January 17.
- January 20. Spanish Cities and Spanish Artists. By Martha A. S. Shannon. Repeated January 24.
- January 27. Italy. By Henry J. Kilbourn.

Exhibitions, Central Library.

1909. February 1. Lincolniana.
- March 1. The New Museum of Fine Arts.
- March 1. German Art. In connection with the exhibition of German Art of the Copley Society.
- March 17. Ireland.
- March 22. Madonna in Art.
- March 22. Bibles.

- April 8. Photogravures of the work of Van Meer of Delft and Fabritius.
 May 3. Modern Spanish Painting. In connection with the exhibition of the works of Sorolla of the Copley Society.
 May 15. Work of Abbey at the Pennsylvania State Capitol (Copley Prints).
 June. Chromolithographs by Prang of the Walters Collection of Chinese Porcelain and Japanese Porcelain. (Mr. Prang died June 15, 1909.)
 July 20. Chaucer Exhibition, books and pictures. In connection with the pageant at Gloucester, August 4.
 July 23. O. W. Holmes Centenary Exhibit.
 August 2. Recent acquisitions of photographs (mainly Mansell photographs of paintings in Great Britain).
 August 5. Tennysonianana, portraits and books.
 September 25. Photographs of German Architecture. Four hundred and fifty photographs presented by Mrs. Bayard Thayer.
 September 25. Dictionaries and Pictures of Samuel Johnson.
 September 25. Pictures and books in connection with the Hudson-Fulton Celebration in New York.
 October 1. Books and pictures in connection with the inauguration of President Lowell at Harvard College.
 October 4. Second installment of photographs of German Architecture.
 November 1. Views of Old Boston. In connection with the Boston 1915 Exhibition.
 December 1. Portugal photographs.
 December 1. Airships and Flying Machines pictures.
 December 7. New Medici prints.
 December 13. Sicily photographs.
 December 27. Pictures of Northern Africa.
 December 28. Colored etchings and pencil drawings by Lester G. Hornby.
 1910. January 10. Pictures of Norway.
 January 20. Pictures of Spain.
 January 27. Pictures of Italy.

DEPARTMENT OF DOCUMENTS AND STATISTICS.

This Department is in charge of Mr. James L. Whitney. From the records it appears that the number of volumes placed upon the shelves during the year which ended January 15, 1910, was 695. Twenty-one volumes have been eliminated. The net gain is, therefore, 674 volumes. The entire collection now numbers 16,160 volumes, exclusive of the documents in the second

gallery and on the Special Libraries floor. The gifts through the American Statistical Association comprise 512 volumes and 1,876 numbers or parts.

The work of cataloguing the Chamberlain manuscripts in detail has progressed faster than in former years. During the past twelve months Mr. Whitney has personally completed a descriptive schedule list covering 3,843 manuscripts and 1,780 autograph signatures. In passing from the literary part of the Chamberlain collection to the historical and political, these manuscripts have increased in interest and significance.

BRANCHES AND STATIONS.

EXPENSE OF OPERATION.

The total expense of operation of the branch system, chargeable against the city appropriation, including the 11 principal branches and the 17 reading-room stations, or minor branches, was \$107,287.41 for the year.

Mr. Langdon L. Ward, Supervisor, thus reports upon certain parts of the work:

THE SCHOOLS AND THE BRANCHES.

The number of volumes sent on deposit to the schools from the Central Library and the branches is 22,263, as against 19,638 in the year 1908-09, and 19,555 in 1907-08, a very gratifying increase. The number of schools supplied has increased and also the number of teachers. The latter number is 577. Of these teachers 406 were supplied by branches, as against 367 in the preceding year.

The number of volumes lent out for use at schools at any one time from a large branch often exceeds 1,000, and these may be in the hands of nearly fifty teachers.

The requests for school deposits came in earlier and in greater number this year than ever before. At the Central Library there were approximately seventy requests between September 8 and September 30, and 2,204 volumes were sent in response.

A few talks to classes have been given by custodians this year, the places being the Dorchester and Upham's Corner Branches and the Codman Square Reading Room.

The Director of vacation schools was informed last summer of the willingness of the Library to send books to his schools, and some playgrounds were supplied. A conference was held in September with the Supervisor of parochial schools, for the purpose of extending the work with these schools.

The number of pictures lent from the branch collections, chiefly to schools and reading rooms, is 17,772, as against 11,097 in 1908-09, an increase of sixty per cent. At one branch, during the month of October, 713 pictures were asked for and sent to schools. Through one reading room 663 branch and central pictures were sent to teachers. The branch collections of pictures have grown steadily. The custodians are allowed a small sum yearly for buying them, but most of them are cut from periodicals and mounted at the branches. Several reading rooms also are building up small collections. The lists of pictures in the branch collections, which were printed about a year ago, have proved most useful. One custodian says: "We lent 3,045 branch pictures, the requests covering a variety of subjects, largely folk life and nature topics, but including also such variety as Arctic Regions, Old Boston, 'Sunlight and Twilight,' Occupations, Industries, Races of the World, Forms of Water, Land and Shore Forms, etc."

REFERENCE AND DEPOSIT WORK.

Though we have few figures to show the attendance of readers at the branches and reading rooms, the Custodians' reports indicate that it has been large, and that a slight loss in circulation has not meant a decline in the activities of the branches.

The branches and the two largest reading rooms sent out on deposit this year 19,322 volumes, as against 16,629 volumes in the year 1908-09 (11 1/2 months), and 16,352 volumes in 1907-08. The number of places to which the deposits were sent was 134. This part of the activities of the branches depends greatly upon the enterprise and judgment of the custodians, and is increasingly satisfactory.

The collections of reference books at the branches and reading rooms, but particularly at the latter, have had substantial additions this year, and the use of these books continues to increase.

One custodian says: "The reference books are used constantly by pupils from the schools. All sorts of questions are brought to the custodian to settle, from the area of the delta of the Nile to the family name of King Edward. Where there was a constant demand for a certain book it was held at the desk for the use of the school. In this way two books relating to the Hudson and Fulton celebration, ten on gardening, three on industries, two on Thanksgiving, one on Christmas, and one on physics were ready for use at any time."

Another says: "Our material gain has been in helpfulness. We have not only given out books, but we have been able to give the particular books that people desired. We have catered to specific needs."

The number of volumes of new books placed upon the shelves at the branches is 3,146, as against 3,653 in the year preceding. The replacements, however, number 4,384 volumes, as against 2,148 in 1908-09 (11 1/2 months). The additions to the permanent collections of the reading room stations number only 2,846 volumes, as against 5,259 volumes in 1908-09. Of the volumes added, however, many were expensive reference books, such as the New International Encyclopaedia, the Century Dictionary, and Nicolay and Hay's Life of Lincoln.

The importance of the branches in the library system increases each year. Through them the use of the books in the Central Library, as well as of those in the individual branches, is largely extended. At the Upham's Corner Branch an additional room has been provided for the especial use of children. The proposed new branch building for the Jamaica Plain Branch is under contract, and will probably be ready for occupancy during the coming year. This work is not under the control of the Library Department, but is in charge of the Commissioner of Public Buildings. The new building will provide for the separation of the adult and juvenile readers, and will present such other desirable features as are required in modern branch library buildings. All the books will be upon open shelves, and the basement will contain a small lecture hall, for the use of study classes, an occasional story hour for the children, or for other library uses. It is extremely important that, as soon as possible, similar facilities shall be provided for the effective operation of every branch in the system.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PATENTS.

During the year 391 volumes have been added to the Patent collection. The total number in this department is now 10,968. The recorded number of persons who have consulted the files is 8,538, a gain of 1,744 as compared with the previous year. They have used 70,807 volumes, as compared with 66,454, the number of volumes consulted in 1908-09.

THE PERIODICAL ROOM, CENTRAL LIBRARY.

The number of periodicals now regularly placed upon the periodical reading tables is 1,477, exclusive of government and state publications or library bulletins.

The usual record of attendance is appended, showing the number of readers in the Periodical Room, at specified hours, aggregated for the year, in each of two successive years:

HOURS.	10	12	2	4	6	8	10
	A.M.	M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
1909-10	9,632	13,430	19,027	24,932	20,119	23,099	7,949
1908-09	8,844	13,239	15,421	22,861	17,585	21,135	4,164

The number of bound volumes from the files consulted during the year, in the daytime (week days only), was 28,559; and in the evening or on Sundays 8,008. In each case the figures show a considerable increase as compared with the preceding year. Besides these, 23,507 unbound back numbers of periodicals were issued to readers at the tables during week days, and 15,540 in the evening or on Sunday.

THE NEWSPAPER ROOM, CENTRAL LIBRARY.

The Newspaper Reading Room is generally filled with readers. The maximum attendance for the year was 192, at 5 P.M., January 28.

Mr. Pierce E. Buckley, in charge of the Department, thus reports upon certain accessions to the files of old newspapers during the year:

A large number of 18th century American newspapers were added to the files, filling many breaks. They were: Pennsylvania Chronicle, 1768-9, 72 nos.; Pennsylvania Journal, 1752-83, 13 nos.; Pennsylvania Ledger, 1778, 1 no.; Boston News Letter, 1761, 30 nos.; Boston Gazette, 1761, 62, 68, 80, 22 nos.; Boston Evening Post, 1760, 2 nos.; Newport Mercury, 1761, 30 nos.; Independent Gazetteer, 1724-1786, 144 nos.; Independent Ledger, 1781, 1 no.; N. H. Gazette, 1774-83, 2 nos.

There were also added some interesting English papers: St. James Chronicle, 1764-1780, 13 nos.; Lloyds Evening Post, 1769, 1 no.;

Morning Post, 1782, 1 no.; Public Advertiser, 1791, 7 no.; British Press, 1812, 2 nos.

These papers were purchased because of their historic interest to Boston. The St. James Chronicle for December 6, 1764, gives an account of a meeting of the House of Representatives regarding the condition of affairs in New England. In the issue for October 8, 1765, of this paper are accounts of the Stamp Act Riots and the burning of the Governor's property. In the issue for November 16, 1780, there is an account of the capture and hanging of Major André. The Morning Post for December 12, 1782, has a notice of "Articles being signed between England and the United States."

In all, 265 volumes of newspapers were added to the files. There are now 7,243 bound volumes in the collection, many of them of great value in reference work relating to the progress and development of the City, or in historic research. The files were consulted by 7,231 persons during the year, who used 17,151 bound volumes.

A tablet in memory of William C. Todd, who gave to the City the sum of \$50,000, of which the income is devoted to the purchase of newspapers for the Library, has been placed upon the wall of the Newspaper Reading Room. This tablet was designed by Mr. Frank Chouteau Brown, and the expense was met by Mr. Edmund K. Turner, the executor of Mr. Todd's estate.

SUNDAY AND EVENING SERVICE.

The Sunday service has been extended during the year by opening the Central Library at 12 o'clock noon, instead of at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and a similar extension of Sunday hours has been made at the West End, South Boston and South End Branches. The usual diminution of evening service during the summer was this year delayed until June 15, instead of taking effect June 1; and ceased September 15 instead of September 30, as formerly. The evening service, both week days and Sundays, has thus been extended during a period of four weeks in the summer, beyond that provided in the preceding years. The average number of books lent upon Sundays and holidays for

use at home was 725; the largest number on any single day being 1,101. The largest attendance on any single Sunday in the Bates Hall Reading Room was 293, at 5 P.M., on the ninth of May. For the purpose of determining approximately the number of visitors at the Central building on an ordinary Sunday, a count was made of the number of persons who entered and left the building on Sunday, January 16.

HOURS.	In.	Out.	HOURS.	In.	Out.
12-1 . . .	406	178	5-6 . . .	734	931
1-2 . . .	382	180	6-7 . . .	527	767
2-3 . . .	675	367	7-8 . . .	336	650
3-4 . . .	997	689	8-9 . . .	242	475
4-5 . . .	1,048	846	9-10 . . .	37	301
			Totals . . .	5,384	5,384

EXAMINATIONS.

Examinations for the library service were given as follows:

June 19, 1909, Grade E (65 applicants, 24 passed); September 10, Grade E (7 applicants, 3 passed); and December 18, Grade E (89 applicants, 56 passed).

CHIEFS OF DEPARTMENTS AND CUSTODIANS OF BRANCHES AND STATIONS.

As at present organized, the various departments of the Library and the Branches and Reading-room Stations are in charge of the following persons:

Samuel A. Chevalier, Chief of Catalogue and Shelf Department.
 Theodosia E. Macurdy, Chief of Ordering Department.
 Oscar A. Bierstadt, Custodian of Bates Hall Reference Department.
 Pierce E. Buckley, Custodian of Bates Hall Centre Desk, Patent and Newspaper Departments.
 Garrick M. Borden, Custodian of the Special Libraries.
 Frank C. Blaisdell, Chief of Issue Department.
 Langdon L. Ward, Supervisor of Branches and Stations.
 Alice M. Jordan, Chief of Children's Department.
 John J. Keenan, Chief of Registration Department.
 James L. Whitney, Chief of Statistical Department.

Francis W. Lee, Chief of Printing Department.
 Frank Ryder, Chief of Bindery Department.
 Henry Niederauer, Chief of Engineer and Janitor Department.
 Louise Prouty, Custodian of Brighton Branch.
 Elizabeth F. Cartée, Custodian of Charlestown Branch.
 Elizabeth T. Reed, Custodian of Dorchester Branch.
 Ellen O. Walkley, Custodian of East Boston Branch.
 Mary P. Swain, Custodian of Jamaica Plain Branch.
 Helen M. Bell, Custodian of Roxbury Branch.
 Alice M. Robinson, Custodian of South Boston Branch.
 Margaret A. Sheridan, Custodian of South End Branch.
 Mary L. Brick, Custodian of Upham's Corner Branch.
 Eliza R. Davis, Custodian of West End Branch.
 M. Addie Hill, Custodian of Station A, Lower Mills Reading Room.
 Grace L. Murray, Custodian of Station B, Roslindale Reading Room.
 Emma D. Capewell, Custodian of Station D, Mattapan Reading Room.
 Mary M. Sullivan, Custodian of Station E, Neponset Reading Room.
 Elizabeth G. Fairbrother, Custodian of Station F, Mt. Bowdoin Reading Room.
 Katherine F. Muldoon, Custodian of Station G, Allston Reading Room.
 Gertrude M. Harkins, Custodian of Station J, Codman Square Reading Room.
 Margaret H. Reid, Custodian of Station N, Mt. Pleasant Reading Room.
 Cora L. Stewart, Custodian of Station P, Broadway Extension Reading Room.
 Mary L. Kelly, Custodian of Station R, Warren Street Reading Room.
 Laura N. Cross, Custodian of Station S, Roxbury Crossing Reading Room.
 Elizabeth P. Ross, Custodian of Station T, Boylston Station Reading Room.
 Florence Bethune, Custodian of Station Z, Orient Heights Reading Room.
 Iside Boggiano, Custodian of Station 22, North Street Reading Room.
 Josephine E. Kenney, Custodian of Station 23, City Point Reading Room.
 Mary F. Kelley, Custodian of Station 24, Parker Hill Reading Room.

I desire to record my acknowledgment of the faithful service of the foregoing, of the employees generally, and especially that of Mr. Otto Fleischner, Assistant Librarian, whose loyal coöperation in the work of administration has been of great assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

HORACE G. WADLIN,

Librarian.

INDEX.

- Accessions.** (See Books.)
John Adams Library, copy for printed catalogue completed, 50.
Additions. (See Books.)
Appropriation. (See Finance.)
Attendance. Bates Hall, 57, 68; Newspaper Room, 66, 67; Patent Room, 65; Periodical Room, 66; Special libraries, 59.
Average cost of books, 3.
Balance sheet, 28-31.
Barton-Ticknor Room, 58.
Bates Hall, 56, 57.
Benton, Josiah H., reappointed Trustee for five years, 1; elected President, 1.
Bindery Department, employees, 5; work of, 35, 53.
Binding and repair of books, 4.
Board of Trustees, organization, 1.
Books, accessions, 3, 45-51, 58; average cost, 3; binding and repair, 4; for children, 55; circulation, 3, 13, 14, 40-45, 55; comparisons at branches, 15; expenditures, 3, 34; fiction, 44, 46; more new titles needed, 34; needs of foreign population, 35; music collection, 58; newspapers and periodicals, 21, 66; Patent Room, 65; proportion of city money spent for, 34; reference use, 4, 56, 57; reserved for special use, 55, 59; sent to schools, etc., 8, 35, 55, 63, 64; Statistical Department, 62; typewritten lists for schools, 16; total volumes, 51.
Borrowers. (See Card holders.)
Branches and reading-room stations, 63, 68; children's room at Upham's Corner, 65; circulation, 13, 44, 55; classification by groups, 17; custodians, 68; development and comparison of work, 14, 16; cost of system, 63; service cost, 17; detailed statement, 9; improvements needed, 36; need of better buildings, 18; new building for Jamaica Plain Branch, 65; separate buildings, 20; reference and deposit work, 8, 45, 63, 64; repairs and improvements, 25, 39, 40; Sunday service, 7, 67; talks at, 16; total volumes, 52; typewritten lists of books for school work, 16; work with schools, 8, 35, 55, 63, 64.
Boyle, Thomas F., elected Vice President, 1.
Brown, Allen A., gift of Dramatic collection, 23; Music collection, additions, 58; work on music catalogue, 51.
Card holders, number, 54.
Catalogue Department, 36, 50.
Center bequest, sale of real estate, 22.
Chiefs of Departments, 68.
Children's Department, 55.
Circulation, 3, 9, 13, 40-45, 57; Children's Department, 55; deposit collection, 65; pictures, 58-60; Sundays, 67-68; with schools, 63.
Classes and clubs, provision for, 56, 59.
Comparisons, branch system, 9, 14.
Cutter, Abram E., library catalogued, 50.
Deposits, 8, 45, 63.
Documents, department of, 62.
Employees, Mutual Benefit Association, 6; service well administered, 27; salaries and wages, 5.
Examining Committee, 26; report, 32.
Examinations, 68.
Exhibitions, 61, 62.
Expense. (See Finance.)
Fiction, circulation, 44; purchases, 46.
Finance, Balance Sheet, 28-31 (tables); Center bequest, sale of real estate, 22; city appropriations necessary, 2; for nine years, 23; cost of branch system, 16, 63; maintenance and work, 22; proportion of city money for books, 34; receipts and expenditures, 1, 28-31; service cost of branches, 17; Trust funds income, 23.

- Fine Arts Department**, 57.
Fleischner, Otto, assistance of, 69.
Foreign population, more books and newspapers for, 35.
Gifts, 23, 48.
Harvard-Lowell Collegiate courses, books reserved, 52, 55, 60.
Hours of service, 7; extended on Sundays, 67.
Improvements and repairs, 39.
Institutions, deposits sent to, 8, 45, 63.
Inter-library loans, 21.
Issue Department, 43.
Lantern slides, 57.
Lectures, 22, 52, 60, 61.
Librarian's report, 39.
Library, as an educational institution, 37; service, pension fund, 5, 34; cost of branches, 17, 63; salaries and wages, 4, 5; hours, 7, 67; Sunday and evening service, 7, 67; service well administered, 27.
Manuscripts, 63.
Moulton, Louise Chandler, Library, finding list, 50, 53.
Mutual Benefit Association, 6.
Newspapers, 21, 66.
Ordering Department, 36, 46.
Patent Department, 65.
Pension fund, 5, 34.
Periodicals, 21, 66.
Phillips Street Fund, used for improvements at West End Branch, 26.
Photographs and other pictures, 16, 35, 57, 58, 60.
Pictures. (See Photographs.)
Printing Department, 5, 35, 53.
Publications, 50, 52, 53, 56; number distributed, 54.
Reading-room stations. (See Branches.)
Reference work, 4; Bates Hall, 56; Children's Room, 55; Patent Room, 65; branches, 64.
Registration Department, 54.
Repairs and improvements, 26, 39.
Salaries and wages, 4.
Schools, work with, 8, 35, 55, 63, 64.
Shelf Department, 51.
Special Libraries Department, 57, 59.
Statistical Department, 62.
Stock Department, 54.
Sunday and evening service, 7; extension of, 67.
Todd, William C., memorial tablet, 67.
Whitney, James Lyman, completes forty years of service, Resolution adopted by Trustees, 25.
Working hours, 7, 67.

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