

To the Library Board of the Logan Public Library:

I herewith present my report of the Twenty-ninth annual meeting of the Iowa Library Association, held at Waterloo, Oct. 7-9, 1919.

Respectfully submitted,

*Winifred McCoid*

Librarian.

In the forenoon of the first day, nothing was done but registration, paying dues and getting acquainted.

The afternoon session was opened by an address of welcome by Mr. M. H. Reed, the president of the Board of Library Trustees of Waterloo, and the response by Mrs. Bertha S. Baird, librarian at Mason City, and also first vice president of the Association. These addresses were enthusiastic and gave a good start to the meeting.

An address on "The Child and the Book" by Dr. C. M. Case of the State University of Iowa, was the next number on the program. This was a scholarly address, the main thought being the powerful influence of a child's reading on his character, and in behalf of better reading for the children.

The address by Mrs. F. E. Whitley of Webster City on "Socializing the Library" was to the point.

To make the library more of a social center would tend to the growth of the library spirit. When we have our own building, this will be more nearly possible.

The reports of the secretary and treasurer were given next. Miss Robinson's report was not given.

In the evening the address, "Recollections and Impressions of Lowell" by Mr. Johnson Brigham, was exceptionally good. Mr. Brigham was a student under Lowell at Cornell University, also a fraternity brother, and he made his talk very personal. Mr. Brigham, as you know, is state librarian, and chairman of the Iowa Library Commission, and appears to be a very refined,



scholarly man. After this lecture there was an informal reception, with a few entertaining features and refreshments.

The Wednesday morning session opened with a book discussion on recent fiction by Miss Helen McRaith of Iowa City. The list of books discussed was given us for reference. We have four of them. Six of the books were reviewed at Miss McRaith's request, by six different librarians. Next was the report of the committee on certification, which brought forth much discussion, but no action was taken at this time.

In the afternoon, a discussion of children's books was conducted by Miss Alice Hatch of Davenport. This was very interesting, and I took the names of the books she recommended. This is the most difficult department in any library, as there are so many books for children not worth buying.

Next the "Librarian as an Educator," by Miss Harriet Wood of St. Paul, Minn., would have been especially interesting to members of school boards, as the state of Minnesota has combined the educational department and the library commission, and the latter is now known as "Educational Department, Library Division." Miss Wood spoke of how closely the school and library should be related to do the best work in each, and she thinks that Minnesota's plan will soon be adopted by most of the states. Oregon was the first to adopt it, and Miss Wood worked there several years before coming to St. Paul. I was told that in many Iowa towns the librarian of the public library takes care of the school library (using a self-charging system) and is paid by both the library and school boards.

There were two addresses by Mr. Frederic Melcher of New York, one on the "Enlarged Activities of the American Library Association," and the other on "Book Distribution in America." Both were interesting.

The round tables were next on the program, and I attended the one on "Small Libraries," conducted by Miss Charlotte Crosby of Webster City. There was not much time for



this and the discussion was mostly about magazines. I took the list of those most specially recommended for the smaller libraries. There was also some discussion about librarians' salaries at this meeting.

The business men of Waterloo had arranged for an auto ride for the visitors, and this was taken at the close of the afternoon session. We were taken to see the various parks, factories and other places of interest.

At 8:30, the Waterloo Community Drama League entertained us with a play, "Mrs. Bumpstead-Leigh," an American comedy, exceptionally well given by amateurs. Anyone who shows talent is entitled to join this drama league, which is composed entirely of amateurs, with a professional trainer. This entertainment was given in the auditorium of the new high school building, claimed to be the finest in the state. The auditorium seats twelve hundred people.

Thursday morning the book discussion on non-fiction, conducted by Miss Wharton of Burlington, was good, but she was slow and didn't get nearly through, so the list of books she recommends is going to be mailed to all librarians in the state.

Following this was the second address by Mr. Melcher.

The business session was last, but not least by any means. The report of the committee on resolutions, <sup>was</sup> followed by the report of the committee on nominations and election of officers for the ensuing year. We were all very much pleased to elect Miss Maria Brace, librarian at Waterloo, but whose home is at Dunlap, the next president.

The committee on certification again read their suggested plan and this brought forth much discussion, and after a few changes had been made, it was adopted almost unanimously. This does not affect librarians now in service, but those who are entering the field. They fixed the standard high, but not as high as it is in New York.

Next there were several letters read inviting the



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Association to meet at Cedar Rapids and at Des Moines, the meeting place to be determined later.

Following this the convention was adjourned.

All the members on the program were good and I know that it was well worth while to get the general information and the broader vision that such an inspiring meeting gives one, and my only regret was that there were no trustees with me. There were 137 librarians, 19 trustees and 7 visitors in attendance.