

CUS417/22.4

REPORT ON SUMMER VACATION SCHOOL FOR LIBRARIANS OF  
RURAL SYSTEMS.

*Arranged under the Auspices of the*  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.  
SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP.

The Summer School was held at the University of Bristol in the fortnight August 30th to September 11th, the earlier date contemplated by the Librarianship Committee proving impossible owing to the fact that the University Hostel was closed during the previous month. There were 31 entries, and 30 Students attended the Course, one withdrawing through illness after having registered. Had various accidental delays in advertising the Summer School been avoided, there would no doubt have been a larger attendance. Thirteen of those who joined were regular Students of the School of Librarianship; fourteen were librarians or assistants from Library Systems in Wales (6), Scotland (3), and England (5); three were new to Library work, and of these two have now become full-time Students.

Twenty-five Lectures were given—ten on the Practical Working of Rural Libraries, by Mr. R. Wright; five on Classification, by Mr. Sayers; five on Cataloguing, by Mr. Prideaux; four on Book Selection, by the Director; and one on Rural Library Systems, by Col. Mitchell. The Students were expected to attend at every lecture, and, with few exceptions, this expectation was realised. All the lectures were carefully adapted to the special requirements of the rural librarian, and were made thoroughly practical, with illustrations on the blackboard, from books, and by actual appliances. Those on Book Selection, for example, dealt largely with ways and means of educating country readers in the intelligent use of books, and of encouraging them to choose wisely for themselves. Stress was laid on the importance of cultivating local initiative.

The Students were taken on organised visits to the Somerset County Repository at Burnham, the Bristol Public Libraries, and the Bath City Reference Library; a number also visited the Wilts County Repository at Trowbridge. At the end of each Course of Lectures a test paper was set, to be done by the Students at home, the intention being to keep a detailed record of the performance of each Student. The papers have now been returned to the Students with corrections by the Lecturers, and a record has been kept of the work done by each Student.

The Lectures usually ended at 3.15 P.M., after which the Students were taken on visits to places of interest, including Bristol Cathedral, the Church of St. Mary Redcliffe, the Lord Mayor's Chapel, the Red Lodge, St. Peter's Church and Hospital, the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, the Church and monastic remains at Westbury-on-Trym, and the prehistoric earthworks at Clifton. Well-known local authorities kindly acted as conductors. At the week-ends, whole day excursions were arranged at Bath and Cheddar and Wells. At Bath the party were entertained to luncheon by Alderman Chivers, and were shown over the Baths by the Director and the City Architect, the Art Gallery by the Chairman, the Guildhall and the City Archives by the Town Clerk, the Holburne Museum by the Curator, the Abbey Church, the Botanic Gardens, etc. Mr. Frederick Harrison met the Students at luncheon. At Wells, Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, late Director of the British Museum, showed the party the Cathedral Library, and read a paper on the Cathedral, etc. A Lecture on local prehistoric finds was given at the Museum by the Curator, and the party visited the Bishop's Palace, where they were met by the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

The Public Inaugural Meeting was held at the University, the Lord Mayor of Bristol in the Chair, and was attended by about 100 persons, including the Chairman of the Public Libraries Committee,

the Chairman of the Education Committee, various Aldermen and Councillors, representatives of County Education Committees, the Educational Association, etc. Long reports appeared in the Bristol, Clifton, and Bath newspapers, and both the School of Librarianship and the Rural Library movement in general will doubtless benefit by the publicity given to the views of the speakers and to the work of the Summer School. Some extra expense was incurred in advertising the Public Meeting, but when the accounts are made up the deficit will be considerably less than the amount which the Librarianship Committee sanctioned as the limit not to be exceeded. The three members of the College Staff (*i.e.* the Director and Messrs. Pridaux and Sayers) gladly contributed their services without further remuneration.

On the whole, the Summer School was an experiment well worth carrying out, and there is every reason to think that a second School next year would be still more successful. The Students were all very keen, they worked hard, and at the same time they enjoyed both the Lectures and the excursions. The latter were of such a nature as to stimulate the interest in local history and topography, which is important to the rural Librarian. Most of the Students stayed at the University Hostel, where every attention was paid them by the Warden and the Housekeeper. The School is much indebted to the Lord Mayor and to other leading citizens for their kind services and hospitality.

(Sd.) ERNEST A. BAKER.

report most favourably on the work of their Day Classes (less favourably on the Evening Classes, the attendance at which was small), at the same time admitting that in the first Session it was unavoidable of a more or less experimental nature, and that the knowledge acquired by the Students in such subjects as Palaeography, Public Library Law, and Literary History, needs continued application, if it is to be really sound and permanent. The study of each subject was made as practical as might be, and as far as possible the practical work was directed to useful purposes, certain members of the Class in Cataloguing and Indexing, for instance, being utilised as assistants on the "Subject Index to Periodicals," and other Students in compiling lists of books for purchase by society libraries. The reports received from the several Lecturers provided useful guidance in drafting the extended syllabus of classes for the new Session.

The absence of a Library of Technical Literature was felt as a severe handicap during the greater part of the Session. The collection belonging to the Library Association began to be transferred from the London School of Economics during the Easter Vacation, but it was discovered soon after that a large part had been gradually received in remainder of the books and pamphlets were gradually received in the Summer Vacation; two Students were employed to complete the reorganising, stock-taking, and cataloguing, and in October the Cataloguing Class prepared a shelf-register, leaving the Library ready for full use by the Students. A sum of £50 has been spent in filling gaps and supplying necessary duplicates, but it will be advisable to spend a larger sum in the new Session.

Most of the Students took the Class Examinations at the end of the Session, and 29 were Candidates in the first part of the Diploma Examination, the second part to be taken at the end of their Course.

The following is a summary of the results:—

Bibliography	14	13	1
Library Routine	14	12	2
English Composition	9	8	1
Library Organisation	7	6	1
Palaeography	4	3	1
Cataloguing and Indexing	21	17	4
Classification	10	8	2
Literary History and Book Selection	11	9	2
French	1	1	—
German	1	1	—

The Sir John MacAlister Bursary was awarded to  
 HESTER RAVEN-HART,  
 and the Director's Prize in Book Selection to  
 FRANCIS WILLIAM THOMPSON, B.A.

A special report on the Summer Vacation School is appended. Many requests have been received from Public Libraries and other institutions for recommendations of Students to vacant posts. In a number of cases the salary offered has been lower than I have considered adequate, and I have declined to suggest any Candidate, but have expressed the hope that the terms of such appointments would be reconsidered. In most cases no Student was willing to break off his two years' training, but some accepted appointments, including Mr. C. B. Oldham, who has been placed on the Staff of the British Museum. A register of appointments for which the School is asked to suggest Candidates and of Students desirous of securing early employment will be kept, now that more Students are nearing the end of their period of training.

(Sd.) ERNEST A. BAKER

Director, School of Librarianship.

# UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

## SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SESSION 1919-20.

The School opened on October 6th, 1919, a week later than the advertised date on account of the Railway Strike, and lectures began on Wednesday, the 8th.

The number of Students who enrolled themselves for the first Session is shown in the following table:—

<i>Full-time Students.</i>	<i>Part-time Students.</i>			<i>Total.</i>
	Subjects.			
	One.	Two.	Three.	
38	20	35	6	99

The full-time Students came from all parts of the British Isles; the larger number of the part-time Students from libraries in the London area. Of the full-time Students, fourteen were ex-service men enjoying Government Grants, and formerly, with one exception, Library assistants; the rest were chiefly persons proposing to enter the Library profession, some ten of them taking Librarianship as a postgraduate Course.

All the Students worked till the end of the Session, except five who left earlier through obtaining library or other appointments outside the London area, and one or two who found the Course too exacting.

The Students enrolled in the different classes were as follows:—

Bibliography .....	43
Cataloguing .....	67
Classification .....	28
Library Organisation.....	16
(including Public Library Law by Mr. Fovargue)	
Library Routine.....	38
Literary History and Book Selection* ..	89
Palæography and Archives .....	21

\* This subject is taken by most Students as a two years' Course, hence most of the Students attend it.

Students in the Routine Class attended the demonstrations in Bookbinding given by Mr. Gillman of the British Museum, and made a series of visits to the British Museum and the other State Libraries, the leading municipal, and several society and specialist libraries. On these visits, not only were the libraries shown, but the methods of organisation and working also were explained by the Lecturer or by the Librarian of the Institution. Several of the other classes similarly had the benefit of visits under expert guidance to libraries and printing and publishing works. The Students attended the eight Public Lectures, which also attracted very satisfactory public audiences.

The gentlemen forming the Staff of Lecturers carried out their work with zeal and efficiency. A number of classes, seminars, demonstrations, and visits were arranged in addition to those announced, at the request of Students or through the exigencies of the Courses. No fewer than five lectures a week and two seminars were provided in Literary History and Book Selection (Professor Ker and Dr. Chambers admitting Librarianship Students to two of their lectures for English Honours Students); but a further weekly lecture on Book Selection was demanded by the Students towards the end of the Session. The Lecturers undertook this extra work with great willingness. They