

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

ESSEX PUBLIC LIBRARY 1955-1956

Members and Board of Trustees of the Essex Library Association:

The Librarian's report for the year 1955-1956 is herewith submitted. It has been prepared with the co-operation and assistance of Mrs. Mildred Lord, Librarian Emeritus.

Book Collection- The book collection of the Essex Public Library now numbers 6801 volumes. Of this number, 464 purchased volumes and 100 gift volumes have been added during this year. 206 volumes have been withdrawn. These figures include both adult and juvenile books.

Circulation- This year 10,294 books and 658 magazines have been circulated. The number of registered borrowers of the Library is 393.

Service- Beginning in July the hours for Library service were increased to 23 hours a week. The Library is now open a part of five days a week.

Library Service Center- The book collection of the Library has been increased by the loan of books from the Middletown Library Service Center, which operates under the State Department of Education. The books, for the most part non-fiction, are loaned to the Library for a period of one month or longer on request. The books are delivered monthly by bookmobile. The Service Center also functions very efficiently as a loan source, obtaining books from other libraries as required. The Center has loaned the Library 232 books since February 1956.

Equipment- The Library Board of Trustees has purchased a large table, eight reading chairs, four leather occasional chairs, a swivel chair, a typewriter and stand, and a card catalog cabinet of thirty trays.

Gifts- The Library is most appreciative of the gifts it has enjoyed, both from individuals and from organizations. The Women's Club presented to the Library the 1956 edition of the "Encyclopedia Britannica" of 24 volumes, and the bookcase made especially to contain it. Their generous gift also made possible the purchase of a table with eight chairs for the use of young readers.

To the Rotary Club of Essex, the Library is deeply indebted for the gift of a new charging desk.

All of these very useful and handsome additions will enable the Library to serve more efficiently.

Activities- A pleasant occasion was the Library tea held in April for the members of the Library Association.

A successful activity has been the Story Hour for children conducted by Miss Isabel Brown, Librarian of the Valley Regional School. It is hoped this project may be resumed this year.

Personnel- In July, Mrs. Mildred Lord became Librarian Emeritus, and Mrs. Dorothy C. Williams was appointed Librarian. The Librarians have been very ably assisted during the year by Mrs. Bernice Post and Mrs. Evelyn Schwanneke.

November 5, 1956

Respectfully submitted,

Librarian