

## North Midland Library Association.

A MEETING of this Association was held at the Free Public Library, Leicester; amongst those present being Mr. W. Crowther (Derby), President, Mr. C. V. Kirkby (Leicester), Vice-President, Mr. John T. Radford, Hon. Sec., Mr. Easom (Nottingham), Mr. Walton (Derby), Mr. F. S. Herne (Leicester), Miss Horton (Leicester), Mr. G. H. Andrews, (Loughborough), and others. In the absence of the chairman of the Leicester Free Library Committee the Association were welcomed by Mr. Kirkby, after which a visit was paid by the members to the Westcotes branch library, which met with the approval of all present as a model of what a branch library should be. Tea was provided at the Welford Coffee House. The members then met at the Central Free Library for business. Letters of apology were read from absent members. The President (Mr. Crowther) next dealt with current events having relation to libraries and librarians. A paper on "Branch Libraries," by Mr. John Potter Briscoe was, in the absence of the writer, read by Mr. Radford, and raised an animated discussion in which Messrs. Kirkby, Crowther, Radford, Walton and Herne took part.

The Hon. Sec. then drew the attention of the members to the great usefulness of the "Index to Periodicals," issued from the *Review of Reviews* office, and recommended its use in all libraries, either in conjunction with "Poole's Index" or separately. A question having been asked as to the number of libraries which placed the *Sportsman* on their tables, it appeared that at none of the libraries represented was it to be found.

Mr. C. V. Kirkby next opened a discussion on "damaged books," dealing with damages caused by water, abstraction of leaves or plates, written remarks or pencil marks. A sheet of questions sent to one of the members by Mr. Cotgreave, London, was read and discussed.

Votes of thanks to the Free Library Committee for the use of the room in which the meeting was held, and to the chairman for presiding, brought the meeting to a close.

## Publications of the L.A.U.K.

### SPECIAL OFFER.

WE believe we shall be doing our readers a service by bringing under their notice the publications of the L.A.U.K.

The council did not begin the publication of the *Association Series* as a speculation or in hope of making gain. For several years the association, both publicly and privately, had been urged to produce such hand-books, and as soon as funds permitted a start was made. The sole object was to advance practical librarianship and promote the interests of libraries, and therefore, the price of each number was fixed at cost, and as a certain amount of free distribution was necessary it is obvious that even if each edition were sold out there would still be a considerable money loss to be borne by the association; but this was cheerfully anticipated in the belief that the result would justify the expenditure. The work of the authors and editors has been in every case a labour of love, and they have cheerfully given an amount of time and work which, if devoted to private ends, would undoubtedly have earned substantial reward.

The circumstances have forbidden any expenditure on advertising and the council has had to trust to the gratuitous recommendations of the press, of purchasers, and of members of the association. It thus happens that although some of the hand-books have been out for more than twelve months the hon. secretary is frequently asked to give information, not only to the public, *but to members of the association* on matters which have been fully and authoritatively dealt with in hand-books which can be purchased for sixpence !

This is not as it should be, and we feel that we shall do good service by calling the attention of our readers to the L.A.U.K. publications from time to time ; and this month we are happy to be able to make the following pleasing announcement :

With the view of making them more widely known the council has resolved to dispose of fifty copies of each of the L.A.U.K. publications at reduced prices from now until the end of May, 1894. All orders will be dealt with in strict rotation as received, but no order will be supplied unless accompanied by a *remittance in full, together with a reasonable allowance for postage or carriage of parcel*. If too much is sent the difference will be returned with the books.

As it would be unreasonable to burden the honorary secretary with avoidable correspondence on this subject, intending purchasers are requested to prepare their orders carefully, according to the terms of the subjoined list.

N.B.—All orders must be marked *Publications* —“ Special Offer,” and addressed—

The Hon. Secretary, L.A.U.K.,  
20, Hanover Square,  
London, W.

#### PUBLICATIONS OF THE L.A.U.K.

All of the following are offered at the reduced prices affixed.

**N.B.—NO MORE THAN 50 COPIES OF ANY PUBLICATION WILL BE SOLD AT THE REDUCED PRICE.**

##### *Transactions :*

International Conference,	London,	1877,	10s. 6d. for	5s. 3d.
Second Annual Meeting,	Manchester,	1879,	10s. 6d. „	5s. 3d.
Third „ „	Edinburgh,	1880,	10s. 6d. „	5s. 3d.
Fourth „ „	London,	1881, }	in one	
Fifth „ „	Cambridge,	1882, }	vol. 21s.	„ 10s. 6d.
Sixth „ „	Liverpool,	1883,	10s. 6d. „	5s. 3d.
Seventh „ „	Dublin,	1884,	12s. „	6s.

##### *Proceedings :*

Eighth „ „	Plymouth,	1885,	4s. „	2s.
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#### ANNUAL MEETING.

[N.B.—The *Transactions* and *Proceedings* were discontinued after the Plymouth volume, and thereafter the papers and reports of meetings have been published in *The Library Chronicle* (1885-1888) and in *The Library* from 1889 onwards.]

*Monthly Notes.* January, 1880, to December, 1883. A few odd volumes 6s. each, and loose numbers 6d. each. *Reduced price:* vols. 3s., parts 3d.

*The Library Chronicle.* Edited by E. C. Thomas. 1884-1888, 5 vols. £2 12s. 6d.; *reduced price* £1 10s.; a few odd volumes 8s. each; *reduced price* 4s., and loose numbers 4d. each.

*The Library.* Edited by J. Y. W. MacAlister. 1889-1892. Vols. I.-IV., cloth, £2 2s.; *reduced price* £1 1s.; single vols. 10s. 6d.; *reduced price* 5s.; monthly numbers 6d.; Vol. V., 1893. Monthly numbers 1s.

*N.B.*—Cases for binding "*The Library*" can be obtained, *price* 1s.

*Public Library Manual.* Edited by J. Y. W. MacAlister and Thomas Mason. PART I.—LIBRARY LEGISLATION (1855 to 1890), by H. W. Fovargue and J. J. Ogle. Demy 8vo, 2s. 6d.; *reduced price* 6d.

*The Library Association Series* (la. 8vo). Edited by J. Y. W. MacAlister.

No. 1.—LIBRARY APPLIANCES, by James D. Brown, 1s.; *reduced to* 6d.

No. 2.—PUBLIC LIBRARY LEGISLATION: being the Law relating to Public Libraries and Technical Education, and all Statutes directly or indirectly affecting Libraries, Museums, Art Galleries, &c., in England, Ireland and Scotland, by H. W. Fovargue, Town Clerk of Eastbourne, and J. J. Ogle, Librarian of the Public Library, Bootle, 2s. 6d.; *reduced to* 1s. 3d.

No. 3.—PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFFS, by P. Cowell, 6d.; *reduced to* 3d.

No. 4.—GUIDE TO THE FORMATION OF A MUSIC LIBRARY, by James D. Brown, 6d.; *reduced to* 3d.

No. 5.—CATALOGUING RULES, 6d.; *reduced to* 3d.

*The Library Association Year Book* for 1893 (containing complete List of the Public Libraries in the United Kingdom, Rules for Cataloguing, Syllabuses of Examinations and Specimens of Questions, and full Particulars of the L.A.U.K. and its work), *revised to 30th September*, 1s.; *reduced to* 6d.

## Correspondence.

### INDICATORS *versus* CARD CHARGING.

#### *To the Editor of "THE LIBRARY."*

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Cotgreave in his article on the above, attempts to ridicule the value of the remarks I made in a previous letter to THE LIBRARY respecting the merits of the Liverpool Card System. Mr. Cotgreave mistakes my first point, although he states the question fair enough: 1st, "Should a book be replaced without being marked off, the error is found out by the absence of the card from the pocket," but his answer that the Cotgreave Indicator does better than this, "as each borrower receives his ticket back upon returning a book," does not fit the case at all. On the card system, when a borrower does not require another book, he not only receives his ticket back, but the date on which he handed in his book is marked against his name and ticket number in a "Check Book," and it is impossible for him to obtain another book until that check is removed. My point is that, if by some oversight a popular book is placed on the shelf without being marked off as returned, the error on the card system is rectified as soon as the book is applied for