

WORKINGTON.—Mr. J. W. C. Purves, an assistant in the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Libraries, has been appointed librarian. Some indignation appears to have been caused in the district because the appointment was not given to a local man—one paper going so far as to say that “anybody is fit to be a librarian, and that *therefore* the post might have been given to a Workington candidate.” This is unkind to the Workington candidates.

Obituary.

MR. WILLIAM HUTTON.

ALTHOUGH only a few weeks have elapsed since the Cardiff meeting, it is already our melancholy duty to record the death of one of the members of the L.A.U.K. who attended that meeting.

After a fortnight's illness, Mr. William Hutton, librarian of Stirling's and Glasgow Public Library, Glasgow, passed away on October 29th, in the forty-seventh year of his age. Mr. Hutton began library work about thirty years ago in the Glasgow Public Library, and on the amalgamation of that library with Stirling's Public Library in 1871, he was appointed sub-librarian of the joint institution. In that capacity he served for twenty years under two librarians—the late Mr. David Blair and Mr. Thomas Mason. On the removal of the latter to St. Martin-in-the-Fields in 1888, Mr. Hutton was unanimously appointed by the directors to the librarianship.

Mr. Hutton was well known to every frequenter of Stirling's and he was universally liked.

Many a student of the seventies and the eighties, now comfortably established in manse or medical practice, will find it difficult to imagine Walter Stirling's old library without the cheery figure of Mr. Hutton.

He was ever ready to help and knew the old library well. He attended the Birmingham and all subsequent Annual Meetings of the Library Association, and took a keen interest in the meetings, although being of a quiet, unobtrusive disposition, he took no active part in the proceedings. Like his former chief he was an ardent member of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, and in the magazine of the Order, Mr. Mason speaks of him as zealous and hardworking, “a cheerful companion and a staunch friend.”

Notings.

THERE is a curious thing this month in Mr. Ogle's admirably conducted “Assistants' Corner.” He has had a letter from a librarian plaintively enquiring whether he and his fellows may be allowed to seek counsel from the “Corner.” From the beginning, librarians have been cordially invited to use the pages of THE LIBRARY for this purpose, and that they have not done so has led me to the conclusion that the education of librarians was “finished,” and that they never have difficulties.

May I once more say that I shall only be too pleased to receive a deluge of letters and queries on every subject that lies within the *fact* of these pages; and although I freely admit that there may be one or two things I don't know, still I am sure I do know where to seek help, and my “enquiring friends” may always be sure of the best possible counsel.