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been sending boxes of books and magazines to isolated communities of miners, sailors, and lumbermen. Some noble women in Georgia have for several years operated a library service which reaches a large number of small villages on the Seaboard Air Line, in five Southern States. The colored graduates of Hampton Institute carry books to the schools for their own people at the base of the Cumberland mountains. Women's clubs of Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama send books to their mountain whites.

There is no need to dwell in detail on the instances where individual and family life has been quickened by the wholesome and entertaining books that find their way into sordid homes and isolated camps. But these books must be selected with care and discrimination. Libraries made up of books given by individuals are not always successful. Those who try to lay up treasures in heaven by giving old books to traveling libraries often injure a worthy cause. Books must, first of all, interest those whom they are intended to benefit. An habitual reader will read almost anything rather than be idle, but the range of books that will hold the attention of untrained readers is very limited. Different communities possess independent and widely varying identities as individuals do, and their peculiar interests and characteristics must be studied and their tastes suited. There seems to be a great field for the traveling librarian, who shall visit the communities, judge of their needs, and see that they get what they want. The State system of traveling libraries serves the noble purposes of encouraging the establishing of permanent free libraries in small towns, of strengthening weak libraries, and in developing the library spirit in all parts of the State.

Special collections are now sent out to study circles by the Virginia State Library. Indeed, it seems that more can scarcely be said or done to cause every man, woman and child in Virginia to realize that he has a proprietary interest in the State library than is now being said and done.

Mr. Francis B. Berkeley has charge of this department and furnishes the following description of the method of circulating the Traveling Libraries of Virginia.

The traveling Library Department is at present going through the process of reorganization. The last Legislature appropriated quite a large sum with which to re-establish this system and place it upon a sound basis with funds sufficient to extend its usefulness to all parts of the State. Until the meeting of the last Assembly the State has been handicapped by not having funds with which to maintain this department, and depended solely upon the benevolence of those interested sufficiently in education and library work to make donations of books for the traveling libraries. The Library Board realizing the immense importance of this feature of library work, and its value as an adjunct to the State educational system, has determined to make it one of the most important branches of the State Library system, it being the most feasible plan by which the people of the State living in sections remote from library centers can be brought in touch and be enabled to receive the benefits naturally derived from the privilege of using the State Library. These libraries to all intents and purposes will constitute branches of the State Library and become medium of circulation by which the entire State can receive the benefits of an established and well managed library. This should at once appeal to the people of Virginia, a State in which library work has been much neglected, and in which library facilities are so lacking.

These libraries will be sent to any part of the State, absolutely free of charge to the patrons, upon application made in the manner prescribed by the Board. This application is made upon forms furnished by the State Library. Each library is numbered and catalogued and contains fifty books of assorted literature, the greater portion being works of fiction by the best writers, the balance consisting of history, biography, the sciences, poetry, etc., and the libraries are selected so far as possible to meet the demands or needs of the particular community which they are to serve. These libraries can be kept as long as the needs of the community require or its usefulness continues, when upon its return to the State Library an entirely different collection will be sent to take its place, these changes continuing so long as the interest displayed in any particular community

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