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This substantial, serviceable and modern institution stands as the successor of an old library association, which, through frequent changes of methods and attempted reorganizations, led a precarious existence, up to the year 1901. When it was at its lowest ebb financially, the association made an appeal to the City Council for an annual appropriation of \$1,500, promising to extend the free use of the loan library to all teachers and pupils of the city, and the free use of the reading rooms to all citizens. This appeal was successful, and these conditions prevailed until Mr. Carnegie was asked to give \$50,000 for a library, which he agreed to do, provided the city would give a suitable annual appropriation of \$5,000 a year for the support of the library. Just how this was handled before taking effect is not known to the Librarian.

In 1904, the handsome new library building was opened to the public.

The lot on which it stands is estimated to be worth \$10,000, and it was given by the heirs of the late Dr. William Selden, represented by Mr. C. W. Grandy. The building, including steel stacks for books, and other fixed furniture, cost \$50,405.00. The movable furniture and fixtures, including lights, &c., made the Library complete cost almost \$52,000.

The Librarian says that, by using the strictest economy, the appropriation of \$5,000 annually from the city has covered all the expenses of maintenance. Last year there was paid out in salaries to the library force, \$2,783, or about \$237 per month, this going to the Librarian, two whole-time assistants, two relief-assistants, two stack boys, and the janitor. Some of the year's expenses are as follows: Yearly average for new books, \$1,300; binding old books, \$286.00; printing library forms, \$110.00; stationery, \$48.00; periodicals for the year \$183; catalogue, \$137.00.

The library is open from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m., except on Sunday and National holidays. All told there are in the Norfolk Library, 20,000 volumes.

This library is still the Norfolk Public Library, under the control of the old association and its identical officers, but it is now a free library, and every resident of the city over 14 years old may enjoy the privilege of drawing books, while the reading room is free to all whites who are well behaved, and respectable. Not only have adults and children over 14 years these rights and privileges, but a children's room for those under 14 years is now being conducted in a most satisfactory manner.

Mr. Sargent says: "My theory is that public libraries should serve three great purposes, information, research, and recreation, and that each and all of these are forms of education, and that it is our duty, as servants of the public, to contribute to the best of our ability to all three ends. He is a foolish man who does not sometimes seek for information, and the wisest of us may increase our wisdom if we sometimes bend to the lighter amusements of life."

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