

time classes and foremanship conferences in the industries. In home economics, while there has been marked improvement in the efficiency of instruction, funds have not permitted the development of the program in additional communities.

All of the progress enumerated in the above paragraphs has been brought about at no additional cost to the State and localities. The total amount, including balances, expended during the year was \$25,602,134—this being slightly less than the amount expended during the previous year.

DABNEY S. LANCASTER

LIBRARIES IN VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

State Aid and Discounts Stimulate Growth

THE State Board of Education of Virginia has recognized for a long time the need for library books to supplement the content of textbooks and to challenge the resourcefulness and interest of teachers and pupils in the public schools of this state. Twenty years ago, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. J. D. Eggleston, secured the passage of a state aid law which carried a state appropriation of \$5,000 for the biennium to supplement private donations and local school funds for the purchase of books for public school libraries. These libraries now contain three-quarters of a million books. The last general assembly appropriated \$30,000 for public school libraries for the biennium. The State Board of Education will buy \$120,000 worth of books at wholesale during this two-year period. At least \$40,000 will be saved in discounts on this amount of business. Books are purchased in \$40.00 library units. If \$15.00 is raised in a community from private sources, the county or city school board will add \$15.00 and the state will contribute \$10.00. Printed order lists are distributed by the division superintendent of schools in each county and city.

Progress This Year

The most encouraging developments this year have been the adoption of standards for libraries in accredited high schools by the State Board of Education, an increase of fifty per cent in the annual state appropriation, and the publication of a school library bulletin. The accredited high schools are divided into four groups according to the number of pupils enrolled. Each group is required to meet different standards as to the number and kind of books, the kind of equipment, the duties of the librarian, and the amount of the local appropriation. Twelve lessons in the use of the library are required to be given to the pupils in the first-year class of the high school. The new school library bulletin contains complete instructions covering the proper use and care of books and suggested rules and regulations regarding the management of the public school libraries in addition to an approved book list of more than six thousand titles. The books are listed alphabetically by authors for each grade and for the high school. The wholesale price is quoted, and a brief annotation is printed under each title.

Co-operation With Public Libraries

The Henrico county school board has agreed to appropriate \$3,000 to cover library extension service from the Richmond city library for a period of three years, provided a satisfactory arrangement may be made with the Richmond city library board. It is proposed to use school buses to deliver packages of books at four schools in different parts of this county twice a month. A trained librarian from the Richmond city library will visit these schools when new books are delivered.

If such an arrangement proves successful in Henrico county, it is likely that other libraries in the cities of this state may undertake extension service through school li-

braries in the counties surrounding these cities.

Virginia Leads in Southeastern States

Virginia is the only one of the nine states enrolled in the Southeastern Library Association which employs a full time supervisor of public school libraries with an office in the State Department of Education. It is the only one in which books for public school libraries are purchased at wholesale and shipped direct to the schools by the publishers. It is also the only state in this southeastern group which has incorporated library standards in the school building code. Four of these states have adopted high school library standards in line with the standards adopted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. It is most gratifying to know that Virginia has adopted such standards and is taking a leading part in the development of school libraries in this section of the country.

What Next in Virginia?

Numbers of the high school teachers should take courses in library science at the summer schools at the University of Virginia and at William and Mary College. These teachers may reasonably expect recognition of this special training by the certification department of the State Board of Education and regular employment by the local school boards. School library work should be a part of the teacher load, and the teacher-librarian should be employed on the same salary schedule as that used for the employment of the other teachers in the faculty.

State aid has greatly stimulated the development of libraries in the public schools in Virginia. It now appears necessary for the state to appropriate money to stimulate the development of county libraries. Under the county library system the schools would become distributing stations. The local school boards would employ trained librarians to take charge of these school stations.

The students would then benefit from the increased circulation of good books and the help and guidance given by a trained librarian.

We have depended too long on pie suppers, box parties, school entertainments and private donations to provide funds for the support of public school libraries. The local school boards must accept this responsibility and appropriate money for the support of the school library in exactly the same way that money is provided for laboratory equipment, supplies for the Home Economics department, or any other department in the school. State Superintendent Harris Hart, in recognition of the need of local support for school libraries, makes the following statement in the Foreword of the Public School Library Bulletin: "It is urged that county school boards set up in their annual budget definite sums for school libraries, to the end that within a limited number of years library books may be a part of the equipment in every public school."

C. W. DICKINSON

SCHOOLROOM HUMOR

Scene—A butcher's shop in Dumfries.
Mrs. A and B talking.

Mrs. A: "And what's the ither laddie daein?"

Mrs. B: "Oh, he's at the schule."

Mrs. A: "At the schule?"

Mrs. B: "Ay; he's seventeen, but he hisna gotten work. Ah'l keep hum at the schule tull he gets work, and if he disna, ah'l jist put him through for a teacher."

Scottish Education Journal.

Football is a game in which two dozen students develop their muscles and 20,000 others develop their lungs.

—*Toronto Telegram.*

"Your boy got poor marks on this essay."

"Yes, and I was surprised. I wrote it."

—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*