

Librarian's Report.

To the Honorable Board of Ottawa University:

As Librarian I beg leave to submit the following report for the past year.

Without any special effort there have been additions amounting to 326 bound volumes and 252 pamphlets and magazines.

The students have had absolutely free access to the shelves during the whole day and all the week. Without the means to employ a Librarian, the voluntary registry has been found the most satisfactory system; as far as is known, nothing of value has been lost. The library has been used more and more efficiently than in any previous two years of my knowledge. The few books have done noble service, and how we could do without them I know not.

As you are aware, methods of teaching are now dependent on books as never before.

Especially is this true of studies in history, literature, economics, philosophy and kindred subjects. The Library is to these what the Laboratory is to the sciences. Work is being attempted in these branches, that was hardly thought of thus years ago. But we are sadly cramped for library facilities.

The Public Library to which access is practically free, has, for its purpose, a good assortment of books; but naturally most of them are of a popular nature. Our own library is small, and only a small proportion of its contents is of immediate utility; The books we especially need are mostly technical, and usually costly. Naturally few of these can come as gifts from private donors; they must be purchased.

During the past two years, the contributions from three or four friends and a small profit from the Lecture Course, ^{have} been all the money used in this direction.

My own judgment confirmed by
consultation with others has been that it
would be unwise to make any general,
organized effort to raise the money sufficient
to secure a working force of books, until
we shall have a place to put them; at least,
that such effort ought not to interfere with
projects already on foot. In the mean time
class room work has developed and broadened.
The process of broadening ought emphatically to go on;
but without more facilities it is almost
impossible. Even a few books, just the ones we
need, often temporarily give much relief. We have
a few dollars to spend; but the amount is pitifully
small. I do not wish to add to your
financial perplexities, and have hesitated
to make any request. But in view of
the pressing need, I earnestly ask that
if in your judgment it is practicable, you
appropriate for such use \$100 or more or less as
you may see fit.

J. S. Dietrich, Lib.