VILLAGE LIBRARIES.

INFLUENCE THEY EXERT ON MUNICH PAL PROGRESS.

Unique Idea of an Ohio Town to Pay Mapeupes of Library-General Aim of Improvement Societies-Need of United Effort.

The advancement of the country village and the work of village improvement societies may rightly be classed among the timely topics of this decade, says W. F. McClure in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Those who have visited the more progressive hamlets will not dispute the statement that in some important respects the country borough may excel many cities of 8,000 to 10,000 inhabitants. In the case of public libraries it is a remarkable fact that scores of cities the existence of which dates back a half century are yet without even a suitable room for public library purposes, while in villages of 600 and 800 inhabitants an adequate public library is housed in a suitable building devoted to its uses exclusively. The work of many village improvement societies, too, should put to shame the accomplishments of city councils and chambers of commerce in hundreds of American cities of the third and fourth class.

As an example with reference to village libraries Kingsville, in northeastern Ohio, is a township five miles square, one side of the square overlooking Lake Erie. Its population in the vicinity of its two little trade centers does not much exceed 700. One of the trade centers is known as South Kingsville and the one next to the lake as North Kingsville. Each has its school, its churches and its postoffice, besides a few small stores. At South Kingsville, in a shaded spot, is the little public library. It is a frame structure, built at a cost of some \$300 or \$400. It is tastily arranged within and, best of all, is filled with sensible books. It is said that there are fully 4,000 volumes on the shelves, which number is twice the population of the township.

Although much of the progress of the country villages is due to village improvement societies, in this instance it is a separate object. Each year on the Fourth of July a celebration is held in front of the school building. The proceeds of all the lemonade, peanuts and meals on that day go to the library fund. Instead of spending their money with vendors in the larger cities not far distant the citizens pay it in this way into a fund for their social betterment. The receipts from one Fourth of July day often run into hundreds of dollars and go a long way toward paying the expenses of the year. A librarian is kept in attendance. The library is open both afternoon and evening. The current magazines are always kept on the table. The library is not a memorial. It is not a gift. It is by the people and for the people.

In some states the legislation of some forty years ago was the means of furnishing a nucleus for the village libraries of today. The state printed and furnished a circulating library to each township, the school directors having charge of the books. Today these volumes in the possession of the braries. In starting a library before plan is to have an entire block, with sufficient funds are raised to erect a full sized buildings, lampposts, street building the township school building signs, parkways, park seats, statuary, can be made the beadquarters. In streets and sewers, all of ideal consome instances the volumes af a de- struction. funct literary society form a nucleus. Mr. Ruckstuhl, the representative of The village public library in many the society, remarks: populace.

ple of the accomplishments of village to awaken to the tendency that operimprovement societies. Here first the ates in every continental city of Euinterest started in a public library and rope-municipal beautification." then launched into a wider field, with the library plan as a department. When | Most American cities have not even once the library building was complet- reached the point of keeping themed, it became the meeting place for the selves clean enough to stave off epicommittees not only of the society, but | demics. As to beauty, outside of their for all movements looking toward the park systems, the thing is not merely prosperity of a wide section of surrounding country. A debating club and range of their imagination. a chorus club were organized. The number of books in the library at this has been done in this direction in Parplace exceeded 2,000.

cover the planting of shade trees, the improvement of highways and build- tally impervious to that notion. ing of sidewalks and the like. In Katonah many years ago-for Katonah is one of the pioneers in the matter of its village improvement society—the early them possibilities of which they have morning hours would find the citizens engaged in laying sidewalks to the little churches. Royal oaks were planted many years ago, and today they are monuments to the industry and public spiritedness of the residents. Deer park, in the shape of a triangle, is much fair at Chicago transformed our monuadmired in Katonah today. It was one of the first accomplishments of the improvement society.

Trees were not only planted on the general municipal designing. village streets, but were set out beside the country roads leading into the village. The rapid and successful growth of life. of 200 trees set out by the village improvement society in 1879 furnish a anhstantial impetus to renewed effort along the same lines as they spread their shade farther and farther with

The most influential and substantial citizens are usually found in these societies men who are not afraid to work in their shirt sleeves and exercise their muscles at leisure moments. The good effect of such work cannot ing. but revert back on the citizens themives and their posterity, even though be a public spirited move. It ences the value of property; it cultia a taste for beauty.

CLEAN STREETS.

What Women Can Do In This Line When They Make Up Their Minds. Last spring a woman who resides in Hyde Park, Chicago, actually talked an improvement society into existence. She is Mrs. Joseph Twyman, a prominent member of the Chicago Woman's club, and nobody can deny that she used her linguistic talents to good ad-

Mrs. Twyman has learned the value of well directed speech as a preliminary to equally well directed action. So Mrs. Twyman energetically and consistently "talked up" the "South Park Improvement association" until she talked it into actual being-not to say energetic and purposeful action. Men, women and children, university professors and local business men, residents and visitors, householders and dwellers have been drawn into the work of furthering the objects and interests of the association. A membership list of over fifty rewarded the first two weeks of enthusiastic effort; a large number of other admirers and adherents have been added since that

The streets, alleys and vacant lots of South Park, as of much of the Hyde Park region, had been for many months in a condition best described as indescribable. Dust, papers, garbage, debris of all kinds, have rendered them perpetually dingy and disgusting.

The election of a man as permanent president of the association was one of the first particulars decided upon by the half dozen or so of energetic dirt disgusted South Park women who "put their heads together" in the beginning.

The establishment of permanent committees to see that the different departments of the work are properly carried on was also seen to be necessary at a very early stage of the proceedings. The crowning point of usefulness and businesslike wisdom was felt to be attained with the simultaneous decision to engage a professional solicitor to gather in the fees and dues of the rapidly increasing members and to appoint a feminine inspector for every block taken under consideration and care.

"It needs a woman to look after this part of the work," these wise students of street, alley and vacant lot conditions unanimously decided; "only a woman can be depended upon to take pains to inspect and report to the proper authorities regularly and per-

In other words, the housekeeping and housecleaning instinct of the South Park women was called into public service for the sake of South Park cleanliness and improvement.

The result has been a vast improvement in the condition of the streets, and what the ladies of South Park bave done is a hint to women folk in other localities where their services in a sim-Har cause are sorely needed.

THE IDEAL CITY.

Where Americans Fall Short of the European Standard.

The Municipal Art Society of New York proposes to show at the St. Louis exposition what a model city ought to schools can be placed in the village li- be, says the New York Journal. Its

places is beginning to show a decided | "American cities seem to be satisfied effect for the better upon the rural if they keep sufficiently clean to stave | Four College courses, all leading to the off epidemics; to beauty they give little Katonah, N. Y., offers a good exam- attention. New York is the first city

Mr. Ruckstuhl is unduly flattering. neglected, it is completely outside the

People who go abroad and see what is, Berlin and other European towns But the work of village improvement | come back with the idea that the besocieties consists in other than the ed- nighted foreigners do some things betucational pursuits. Its departments ter than we do. But as most Americans never go abroad they remain to-

The model city at the St. Louis exposition would practically give our people a foreign tour. It would show never dreamed, and, as they are naturally quick of apprehension, this lesson would soon bear fruit. As the Centennial exhibition at Philadelphia marked the end of the era of rep and horsehair furniture and the World's mental architecture, so the St. Louis exposition, with its model city, may be expected to bring on a new epoch in

We certainly need it. No single thing would add more to the comfort

Advertising Notes.

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EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.

Estate of Percie A. Lyman, deceased. The undersigned having been appointed executors of the last will and testament of Percie A. Lyman, late of the county of DuPage and state of Illinois, deceased, hereby gives notice that they will appear before the county court of DuPage county, at the court house in Wheaton at the September term, on the first Monday in September next, at which time all persons having claims against said estate are notified and requested to attend for the purpose of having the same adjusted. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned. Dated this 17th day of June, A. D. 1902.

CHARLES W. LEFFLER, JENNIE C. LYMAN,

Executors.

NOTICE OF FILING FINAL SETTLEMENT

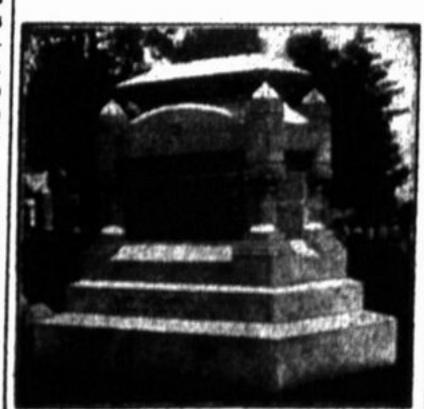
County of DuPage (Estate of Harlan P. Kellog, deceased. To Willbur F. Kellog. Lester Howard Kellog, Jessie Joanna Kellog Julia Relieft Kellog, Frank W. Kellog, Anna Dickinson Hunt and Joanna Henrietta Kellog, beirs and distributees of said estate You are hereby notified that on Monday, the 7th day of July, 1902, the executrix of the

said estate will present to the county court of DuPage county, at the court house in Wheaton, Illinois, her final report of her acts and doings as such executrix and ask the court to be discharged from any and all further duties and responsibilities connected with said estate and her administration thereof, at which time and place you may be present and resist such application, if you choose so to do. J. HENRIETTA KELLOGG, EXECUTRIX.

EXECUTORS' NOTICE.

Estate of James B. Mackie, deceased. The undersigned, having been appointed executors of the last will and testament of James B. Mackie, late of the County of DuPage and State of Illinois, deceased, hereby gives notice that they will appear before the County Court of DuPage county, at the court house in Wheaton at the August term, on the first Monday in August next, at which time all persons having claims against said estate are notified and requested to attend for the purpose of having the same adjusted. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned.

Dated this 2d day of June, A. D. 1902. W. H. EDWARDS, ISABELLA A. DUNN.



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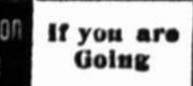
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