

volumes, to the Board of Education of District No. 1. It was then removed to the Central School building, and consolidated with the Public School Library.

A small library of less than one hundred volumes had been collected by the district at an early date, and was kept in the garret of the old stone school house. This library had received several additions, among others the property of an organization known as the City Library—and with this new acquisition numbered some 2,000 volumes. A room in the tower of the Central school house was occupied by the consolidated library. According to the terms of consolidation, members of the Library Association were entitled to the use of its volumes free of charge. Pupils of the several schools of the district were required to pay fifteen cents each term as a registration fee, for the maintenance of the library. Residents of the city not members of the school were given the privilege of the library during the school year upon the payment of a registration fee of thirty cents. Owing to the location of the library, however, the circulation of the books was not general among citizens.

The Ladies Take Hold.

With the organization of a ladies' club in 1869-70, begins the story of an important phase in the history of the Public Library. A Ladies' Reading Club (the forerunner of the Ladies' Literary Club) had been organized during that winter, under the inspiration of a series of historical lectures delivered by Mrs. L. H. Stone, of Kalamazoo, and this club felt the need of books. The school library was practically inaccessible, and the ladies resolved to have a library of their own. Mrs. L. D. Putnam, Mrs. S. L. Withey, Mrs. S. L. Fuller, Mrs. A. J. Daniels, Mrs. O. A. Ball, Mrs. H. J. Hollister, and many other prominent ladies, set about the work of raising funds and in a comparatively short time \$1,200 was obtained. With this sum a room was fitted up and Miss Frances E. Holcomb was placed in charge of the library of 1,000 volumes. The membership dues were an initiation fee of \$2, and an annual fee of \$1, none but members being allowed the use of the library. The first year this City Library Association, as it was called, had 300 members, and it continued to prosper until its library contained 1,200 volumes of history, biography,