

VANPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Report for January 1944

The upswing in our circulation this month along with a noticeable decrease in overdue books may be due to a settling down of our patrons after the Christmas holidays as well as an abatement of the flu epidemic. Nevertheless, we feel as though we are at last getting into our stride with a more or less established reading public. During January we distributed all but a few hundred of our 5000 folders advertising Vanport library service and we have been gratified by the response. The Vanport column in the January 28th Shipbuilder mentioned the folder, and several people who read it have come in since to ask for copies. The Wilson Library Bulletin published in New York will feature the folder also in its publicity issue in March accompanied by a short descriptive article.

The publication of our August report in the January 15th Library Journal has elicited many kind words from fellow librarians. We are now working on an article on reading trends at Vanport for a forthcoming issue of the PNLA Quarterly.

As soon as the ban on visitors was lifted, we resumed our weekly trip across the street to the Hospital. We do not circulate many books each time, but those patients who do take books are so grateful that we feel it is a worthwhile undertaking.

Our different types of patrons interest us enormously. We had a fascinating (if somewhat difficult) talk with a Spanish refugee one night during the month. He was in search of an easy English grammar to improve his knowledge of our language (he surely needed it). During the course of the conversation, we discovered that he was amazingly well versed in contemporary literature. He said that he had known Andre Gide in 1938, "a good writer, but a bad man". When we asked where he had met him, he said that he couldn't remember, whether it was in Cairo or Italy. This story has a sequel.