

...speaker...
 in an audience. The...
 appointed as follows:
 "Resolved, That for...
 vassing for the approach...
 tures the following div...
 made: Poppleton and Y...
 nam street and to the alley...
 and Allen to canvass Douglas...
 the alley each way; Shelton and Gannett to...
 canvass railroad, express and telegraph em...
 ployes; Brown and Swartzlander to canvass...
 Dodge street and lawyers, physicians and...
 officials; Henry and Reed to canvass Harney...
 street and south with the military officers."

A long list of talent was brought to Omaha by these efforts and the library happily launched in a room in the Simpson block, on Fourteenth street, between Douglas and Dodge. The public was invited to apply for cards on April 15, 1872, and the 2,285 volumes on the shelves were at once in active demand. The library occupied the Simpson building for two years, when it was removed to better quarters in the Marshall block on Dodge street, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth. Since that time the books have occupied a number of more or less suitable repositories and are finally lodged in the three-story buff brick structure which will be their permanent quarters. The building is substantially and artistically designed, proof against both fire and burglars.

To provide against the latter evil an elaborate automatic alarm system, connected with police headquarters, is designed particularly to protect the Byron Reed room, where the most valuable articles are stored. Several attempts of burglars have been foiled through the operation of the contrivance. On one occasion the thief had sawed a panel from the door in the hope of evading the alarm and had only thrown the adjustment out of balance when he molested articles on the shelves. At another time a burglar was obliged to make a hurried departure from the second story window by a rope when detected by vigilant watchmen.

MISS TOBITT, LIBRARIAN OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY.

be popular when it is once generally understood.
 "Another plan I hope we can adopt before long is the establishment of a book bindery in the basement. Enough work of that sort is being done by the library to make it worth while. We have magazines and newspapers constantly at the bindery and it ought to be an economical measure to do the work ourselves."

Periodical List Popular.
 There are now 111 periodicals and sixteen newspapers on the library's subscription list, with others constantly being added, so that the binding of the more important ones amounts to a considerable item. The periodicals which will be taken for the first time in 1900 are the American Journal of Science, the American Naturalist, the Catholic World, the Dublin Review, the Journal



THE ENTRANCE IS IMPOSING—Photo by Heyn.

...especially...
 which...
 and has...
 ture room...
 "Since the children...
 to themselves," she...
 has grown amazingly...
 corner as a sort of...
 it out along with the...
 wagon to their visit...
 attractions of the city.
 books were first separated...
 shelves in 1895," con...
 Tobitt, "when they were given...
 a well-lighted quadrangle fenced...
 the exclusive use of children. The...
 younger readers were given the run of the...
 premises. They were allowed to delve into...
 anything on the shelves. In this way they...
 were often lured into reading books of a...
 literary or educational value which they...
 would never have given a second glance in...
 the catalogue. The walls were covered with...
 sketches and reproductions of meritorious...
 paintings and the place made homelike and...
 attractive.

"The growth of the circulating department, however, this year made absolutely necessary more space and the children's quadrangle was appropriated. The juvenile books were moved into the little room to the left of the entrance, where the light is poor and the quarters narrow. The children looked upon the seizure with surprise and displeasure. 'Wouldn't this make a laugh?' exclaimed one small patron in disgust as he viewed the new arrangement. 'They've moved us into a closet.'

"The children soon demonstrated that they could not be tucked into any book with impunity. Two hundred of them swarmed about daily like bees and on Saturday a holiday crowd of 400 thronged the apartment and overflowed into the corridors. It was evident something had to be done. After consideration the library board decided to give the children the large lecture room on the second floor. The lecture courses will be transferred to the third floor."

Rule of Clean Hands.
 Miss Tobitt is greatly pleased with the experiment of giving the children free access to the shelves. The department is in charge of Miss Dora Heimrod, who enforces strictly the rule of clean hands. The books are rarely soiled or damaged, the attendant says, and during the last three years only twenty have disappeared under suspicious circumstances. This is considered a remarkable record, as in many libraries several hundred volumes are missing every year. When the shelves are not open to the public, Miss Heimrod says her small wards are orderly and enthusiastic and it

are...
 there are...
 The first is the Boer in the big cities, the man who has got the better of his natural inclinations; and he's just like anybody else. The second is the Boer farmer, who lives not far from the towns, and he, too, has been improved by association with civilized people. The other variety is the one I spoke of first—the 'farm' Boer. New Year's day finds him at the end of his sixty or seventy-mile journey to the 'nachtmaal'—night meal—held four times a year. To this he has traveled gypsy fashion, and once there he mixes religion with seeing a bit of his 'brother Boer' and getting ready for another three months' hibernation.

"You see them there, in their camp around the great square, each family in its tent—formed by stretching a canvas 'side' from the roof of the wagon to the ground. They don't use horses or mules in traveling, but bullocks instead, and these are wandering about cropping the grass. The scene is quaint and the odor overpowering. This is the time when the Boer does all his marketing, lays in all his provisions and things for use on the farm, and it's the time, too, when his children are christened or his son or daughter married.

"He goes primarily to partake of the Lord's supper. It is a general season of prayer and fasting, but usually closes with a great shooting contest. That is your Boer's greatest delight. Sociability he has little use for, nor for feasting or much merrymaking, but his holiday takes the shape of a shooting match or a great 'fish' contest.

...That is the Boer...
 customs go. As for his New Year of 1900 and the changes that it is likely to bring of course it's hard to prophesy, but these are a few of the existing conditions which the new government will have to wipe out.
 Apart from his visits to the 'nachtmaal' the Boer has two days only that can be called



CORNER IN THE READING ROOM—Photo by Heyn.

'holidays.' Those are 'Dingann's day,' December 16, the anniversary of a Boer victory over Dingann, the Zulu chief, which is always a time for gathering of Boer veterans; and the great day of all—Independence, or 'Majuba day'—on February 17. At this time all the veterans who can get there assemble around the monument at Paardekraal, just outside the town of Kruger'sdorp, and listen to speeches by the president and some of the other leaders. As for merrymaking, or the celebration of the day as we should observe it, there is none. Not even in the meeting at the monument particularly lively. The Boers are poor speechmakers, and worse auditors. They are slow and long-winded on the platform and would be surprised if they aroused any enthusiasm.

"You know the Boer devours the old testament with avidity and bellows himself the anti-type of the children of Israel, and thinks that he has a special dispensation to wipe out the Philistines—and they, to him, are the blacks and the Britons. He is proud of his ancestry, too, and it is an uncommonly humble Boer who can't trace his family in a direct line for several centuries at least."