and most easily accessible place that can be found. It may be placed in a store, post-office, creamery, or private residence. The library should not be located in the schoolhouse if any other place can be secured, for the reason that the schoolhouse is closed evenings and during long vacation periods and adults do not usually patronize libraries when so located.

Further information will be furnished by addressing the Traveling Library Department, Wisconsin Free Library Commission, Madison, Wisconsin.

II

THE CUSTODIAN OF THE TRAVELING LIBRARY.

The success or failure of the traveling library in any community depends almost wholly upon the one in charge. The librarian in the small hamlet has the advantage over the librarian in the larger town in knowing the community and in thus being able to fit the right book to the right person. The Commission finds great differences in the number of times books are circulated in communities of similar size. A library will be returned with a circulation in one community, for example, of ninety-one issues. This library will be sent to a community of similar size and conditions and will be returned with a circulation of four hundred and seventy-five issues. Investigation will prove that in the first instance the library has not been advertised in the community, many persons not knowing of its existence; whereas in the second case, the librarian has used every means to make the library known and to have it used by citizens. As someone has said, “Many a good woman has kept a traveling library
in her home, loaning the books only to her more intelligent neighbors and congratulating herself on the good she was doing, when the children of families about her were reading nothing or reading trash. Such a woman needs to be taught to reach out for neglected children by every means that a kindly tact and enthusiasm may suggest and to hold them by a loving sympathy until the book hunger grows."

III

HISTORY OF TRAVELING LIBRARIES IN WISCONSIN.

In February, 1893, the library of the State of New York began to send out from Albany a number of small libraries of 100 volumes each to such of the smaller cities and villages as were not provided with free public libraries. Each of these small libraries remained in a community for six months and was then exchanged for another. The system of traveling libraries thus established proved so flexible, useful and popular as to attract wide notice and sympathy. In 1895 the legislature of Michigan appropriated $2500 to buy books for a similar system and in 1896 the state of Iowa set aside $5000 for a like purpose.

In Wisconsin, the system was founded on somewhat different lines by private philanthropy. In January, 1896, shortly after the organization of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, Hon. James H. Stout, a State Senator from Menomonie, Wisconsin, asked the aid of the Commission in making plans for a traveling library system for his home county, for which he proposed to bear all expenses. Mr. Stout was a trustee of the Mabel