discussed and helpful talks given on the purpose and results of the work. The local workers are isolated, their work is unpaid, and they need encouragement and sympathy to inspire them to the unflagging zeal that will lead to the best results.

An appropriation for the work should be secured yearly for the purchase of new libraries and new books with which to freshen old collections. Interest will wane if books on live, current topics are not added from time to time.

VIII

THE BOOK WAGON.

The next step in the development of the county traveling library system should be the inauguration of the "book wagon"—house to house delivery of books and periodicals. That this method is practicable is shown by the success attending it in connection with the Washington County Library of Hagerstown, Maryland. Although there are 73 deposit stations in the county, the book wagon goes over 16 routes distributing books to the more isolated parts. Miss Mary L. Titcomb, the librarian of the system writes, "As yet no better way has been found of reaching rural communities than this form of house to house delivery. It far exceeds the traveling library or deposit station in its usefulness, in that the personal element enters into the work. The tastes of the individual can be consulted. If there are children attention can be called to the books which will please them. If the wagon does not contain what is desired, a memorandum can be taken then and there and the book mailed to the individual. The librarian has learned
that as far as lies within his resources, it is his business to see that the right book reaches the right person even if it involves convincing that person that he wants the book." Three thousand seven hundred books were distributed by the book wagon during 1908. The cost of the specially constructed wagon was one hundred and seventy-five dollars. It was designed to carry several of the traveling library cases in the interior with shelving having a capacity of about three hundred volumes on each side, the doors opening outward. In the course of the journey the cases are delivered, others brought in for exchange, and all of the out-of-the-way farm houses are visited where an invitation is given to the family to inspect and take the wares freely offered. Books are left for two months with the understanding that neighbors may exchange with each other. Thousands of books have been issued through this method during the past five years, the plan proving most successful and in every way worthy of imitation in other states.

IX

PARCELS POST AND TRAVELING LIBRARIES.

The usefulness of the state and county systems of traveling libraries would be greatly increased through the establishment of parcels post and the removal of the four pound weight limitation, especially on rural free delivery routes. In distributing libraries to rural stations the ridiculous sight is often presented of the rural mail carrier with ample facilities for carrying one or more boxes driving along the country road closely followed over exactly the same route by the traveling library de-