

WITH COMPLIMENTS OF
Curator of State Libraries

THE
BARODA LIBRARY
MOVEMENT

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE
ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF
THE CENTRAL LIBRARY
DEPARTMENT OF THE
BARODA STATE

BY

JANARDAN S. KUDALKAR, M.A., LL.B.
CURATOR OF STATE LIBRARIES, BARODA.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

BARODA CENTRAL LIBRARY
MCMXIX

FOREWORD

THE original idea was to write a detailed history of the public library movement in Baroda from its very early beginning to the present day dealing with every phase of the movement more comprehensively. But the World-War prevented any such undertaking owing to the phenomenal rise in prices of printing materials. Circumstances however have led to the early publication of this short monograph. The publisher is indebted to the "Library Miscellany" of Baroda for the loan of a large number of picture-blocks and also to the "Navayuga" of Bombay and to several State-aided libraries in Baroda for similar help.

J. S. K.



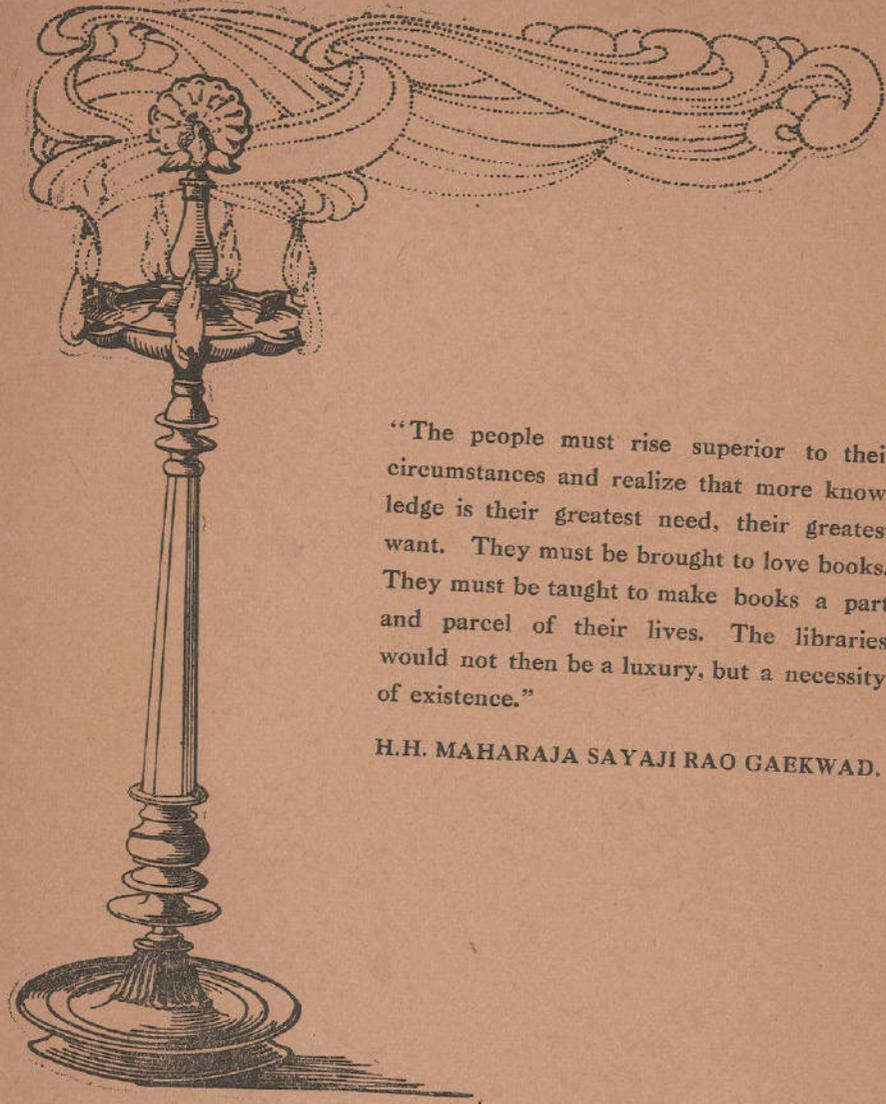
H. H. THE MAHARAJA SAYAJIRAO GAEKWAD, SENA KHAS KHEL SAMSHER
BAHADUR, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., ETC.

Printed by E. G. PEARSON, at the Times Press, Bombay, and published by
J. S. KUDALKAR, at the Central Library, Baroda.

Price, Rs. 2/8 ; Foreign, 3/6 shillings, or \$1.25 ; post free.

72
846
23B2
K8

12886



“The people must rise superior to their circumstances and realize that more knowledge is their greatest need, their greatest want. They must be brought to love books. They must be taught to make books a part and parcel of their lives. The libraries would not then be a luxury, but a necessity of existence.”

H.H. MAHARAJA SAYAJI RAO GAEKWAD.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
FOREWORD	vii
I—EARLY HISTORY	1
II—CENTRAL LIBRARY	5
III—CHILDREN’S AND LADIES’ BRANCHES	22
IV—SANSKRIT LIBRARY BRANCH	34
V—FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM	43
VI—TRAVELLING LIBRARIES	50
VII—VISUAL INSTRUCTION BRANCH	64
VIII—MISCELLANEOUS	68
APPENDICES	75

ILLUSTRATIONS

PLATE	FACING PAGE
1. H. H. the Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad, Sena Khas Khel Samsher Bahadur, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., etc. <i>Frontispiece</i>	
2. New York Library Association’s Address to the Maharaja Saheb	4
3. His Highness the Maharaja’s Library Room in the Laxmi Vilas Palace	5
4. Baroda Central Library Department Staff (1913)	8
5. Town Librarians’ Training Class (1913)	8
6. Children’s Room, Baroda Central Library (<i>Interior</i>)	8
7. Children’s Story-Hour and Cinema Show, Baroda Central Library	9
8. Central Library Extension Work at Padra Road Health Camp, Baroda (<i>Children’s Group</i>)	12
9. Central Library Extension Work at Padra Road Health Camp, Baroda (<i>Ladies’ Group</i>)	13
10. XIIIth Century Palm-leaf Manuscript of “Kavyamimansa,” the first work in the “Gaekwad’s Oriental Series” (<i>Facsimile of two leaves</i>)	16
11. Library Growth in Baroda District (1916). <i>Round dots show Village libraries and square dots Town Libraries</i>	17
12. Dabhoi Public Library	20
13. Vaso Public Library (<i>Exterior</i>) <i>Children’s Library extension on its left.</i>	20

14. Vaso Public Library (<i>Interior</i>)	20
15. Children's Library, Vaso (<i>Interior</i>)	21
16. Sinor Public Library	28
17. Nar Public Library	28
18. Pij Public Library	28
19. Gada (Village) Public Library	29
20. Bandhani (Village) Public Library	32
21. Waghodia Public Library	33
22. Navsari Public Library (<i>Central Library, Navsari District</i>)	36
23. Velachha (Village) Public Library	37
24. Palsana Public Library	40
25. Naradipur (Village) Public Library	40
26. Mehsana Public Library (<i>Central Library for Kadi District</i>)	40
27. Kadi Public Library	41
28. Dehgaum Public Library	44
29. Vijapur Public Library	45
30. Visnagar Public Library	52
31. Amreli Public Library (<i>Central Library, Amreli District</i>)	53
32. Dwarka Public Library	56
33. Ratanpur (Village) Public Library	56
34. Travelling Library Sets of Baroda Central Library Department.	56
35. Travelling Library Case presented to H. E. Lady Willingdon by Baroda Central Library	57
36. First Periodical Exhibition, Central Library, Baroda (<i>Two Views</i>)	60
37. Library Exhibition at Mehsana Public Library (<i>Two Views</i>)	61
38. Shakespeare Tercentenary Exhibition, Baroda Central Library	68
39. Baroda Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, Library Court (<i>Views of Architecture, Furniture, Book-Binding, Visual In- struction Apparatus etc.</i>)	68
40. Baroda Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, Library Court, Children's Corner	68
41. Diagrams showing population and area provided with Libraries and Reading Rooms, and stock and circulation of books (up to July 1917).	

THE BARODA LIBRARY MOVEMENT.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY HISTORY.

The Central Library Department of Baroda had its origin first in the Laxmi Vilas Palace Library of H. H. the Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad. This Palace Library first came to be formed for the personal use of the present Ruler of Baroda in the early-seventies and eighties, when His Highness himself was studiously undergoing an educational course devised for him by Mr. F. A. H. Elliot and Raja Sir T. Madhavrao. It was then a small collection of books, kept in one of the rooms in the Laxmi Vilas Palace; but though small in size, it was the most cherished reservoir of that divine stream of knowledge, wherein His Highness took deep plunges every day and probably many times a day and refreshed and purified his intellectual body. In many of the books of those times still in the Central Library are signs of this intense and constant association with books on the part of H. H. the Maharaja Saheb. Like a true son of Saraswati, His Highness devoted himself heart and soul to the worship of the Goddess of Learning and carried with him, like a true *Batu* (student) of old, wherever he went, that badge of learning, his favourite book, whether he was watching a cricket or a tennis match, or mounting the hill of Pavagadh, or boating in the Ajwa Lake. Many a book of those times proudly bears

such marks of affection or devotion from the Royal hands, as "finished or read at Motibag School ground on—date" followed sometimes by such a "certificate of character", when the book was fortunate enough to deserve it, as "interesting" or "instructive", etc. This was the first stage in the development of this Library.

While located in the Palace, this little Library was thrown open by His Highness the Maharaja for the use of his officers. Naturally it was the higher officers who visited the Palace, who first had the advantage of this choice collection of the Maharaja's books, and then gradually the others below them got their turn to partake of the pleasures of this store of knowledge so graciously set free by their Royal master. Soon the Palace Library had to be removed bodily to the old Sarkar-wada near Mandvi. This step, more than anything else done till then, went a great way to popularise the Library in the real sense. The foremost advantage of this step was that the Palace Library, which had by now launched itself on a higher and a wider career of becoming a "People's Library," came to be located in the very midst of the people—in the heart of the old city just in touch with the famous public square called the Mandvi, where focused the four highways that emerged from the four inner gates in the ramparts of what was old Baroda. Above all the Library secured a home in the same old "Sarkar-wada" (or Royal Mansion) from which the ancestors of the present Maharaja used to mix freely with the populace outside on occasions of State festivities or family functions. Thus the people's shyness began to diminish and their confidence came back gradually with the revival of old associations. In those days people may have witnessed distributed from this place from the Royal hands

either alms, or food or sweets or higher rewards, but now this very place became the divine source of knowledge dispensed as a free gift from the Ruler to his beloved people. That was a wonderful transformation and a change welcome on all hands. More and more in number came the people to take benefit of this Royal generosity and larger and larger in size grew the Library so as to be able to cope with the increased demand.

In the winter of 1910, an American, Mr. William Alanson Borden, a library expert, was sent to India by His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwad, who was then for the second time touring in the United States. To an educational enthusiast and an idealist like His Highness who had already introduced free and compulsory primary education in his State, the splendid sight of thousands of public libraries in the United States of America could not but appeal. He therefore immediately engaged Mr. Borden, who was then Librarian of the Young Men's Institute of New Haven, and sent him to Baroda with the commission of opening free public libraries in the Baroda State. Mr. Borden was well qualified to carry out this work, being himself connected with the public library movement in America almost from its very inception. He was even a lecturer in the first library training classes opened by Dr. Melville Dewey in the Columbia University. Mr. Borden, therefore, both by his long experience, and by his attainments, came to Baroda fully equipped to carry out the task entrusted to him.

The first task that Mr. Borden undertook was to get the Palace Library converted into the Central Library for the whole State, that is to say, to turn the splendid private library of H. H. the Maharaja Saheb

into the principal Public Library of the Baroda State. This was a very momentous step taken quite at the beginning of the great work, a step which mightily pushed forward the cause of the library movement in Baroda. This was only possible because of the great generosity and enthusiasm on the part of H. H. the Maharaja Saheb for the cause he had made his own. It gave in the first instance a splendid collection of nearly twenty thousand volumes to form the nucleus of a great Central Library of the State, and it enabled Mr. Borden to lay out his future plans on a large and comprehensive scale. Mr. Borden then got permission to form a Department of Libraries for the State, called the Central Library Department, and to form rules and regulations for opening free public libraries throughout the State. He accordingly planned to establish three smaller central libraries, one each for the other three Prants or Divisions of the State, the Central Library at Baroda serving also as a Central Library for the Baroda Prant. He further planned to open one library of a fair size in each of the other 38 towns in the State, besides smaller libraries in most of the larger villages. The smaller villages were also to be provided with reading rooms in the first instance and small libraries wherever possible, but with travelling libraries at least in almost all cases. All these libraries were to be interconnected with one another and to be centrally directed from above, thus forming a mighty whole. In this way the whole State was eventually to be covered over with a thickly woven net of free public libraries.

To His Highness the Maharajah of Baroda, India

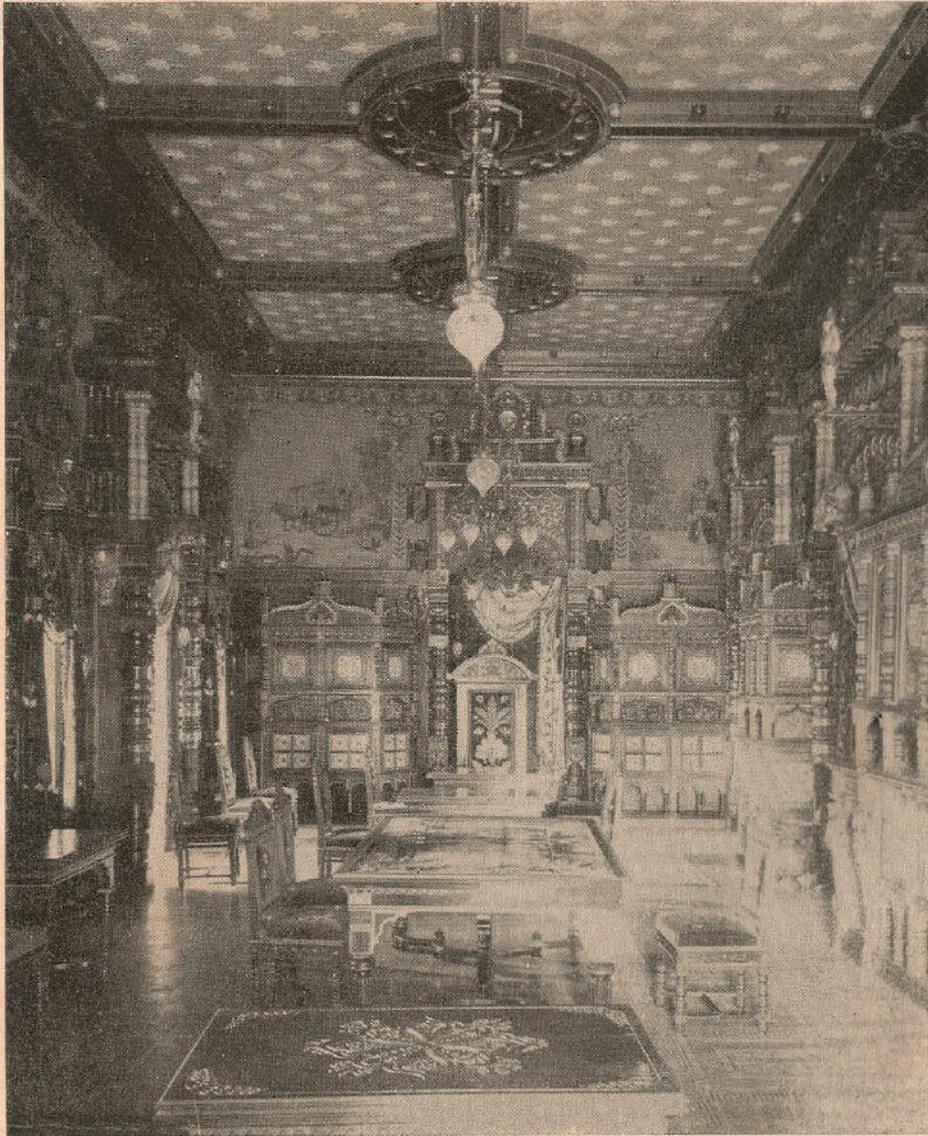
May it please Your Highness, I have the honor to inform Your Highness that the New York Library Association at its Twenty-third Annual Meeting held at Lake George during the week of September twenty-second to twenty-seventh, having listened with great interest to the account of library progress in the State of Baroda as presented by Mr. William A. Borden voted

To convey to His Highness the Maharajah of Baroda the high appreciation and cordial congratulations of this Association on his successful inauguration of the pioneer movement among the native states of India of a free public library system for the benefit of the Indian people.

At the same meeting we took the liberty of honoring ourselves by electing Your Highness an Honorary Member of the Association. These proceedings are respectfully transmitted to Your Highness on behalf of the Association by its then President

Theresa Hitchler

NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S ADDRESS TO HIS
HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA SAHEB



HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA'S LIBRARY ROOM IN THE LAXMI-VILAS PALACE

CHAPTER II.

THE CENTRAL LIBRARY.

Formation of the Department.

We have already mentioned that the old Palace Library became the Central Library of the State and that a Department of Libraries, as a branch of the Educational Department of the State, was organised under the name of the "Central Library Department." This Department was placed under Mr. Borden who had the designation of the "Director of State Libraries."

This Department naturally began its work by organising out of the old Palace Library the Central Library proper at Baroda. After a careful survey of the library situation, it proceeded to open free public libraries throughout the State. This latter work led a little later on to the organisation of a "Travelling Libraries Branch," and this in its turn brought about the formation of a "Visual Instruction Branch." We will therefore take up each of these library activities for our description in this order.

The Central Library Proper.

The Central Library, as we have seen above, was formed out of the Laxmi-Vilas Palace Library of H. H. the Maharaja Saheb, and at the time of its formation its stock of books numbered about twenty thousand. To this stock came to be added in the course of the first year three more collections; one of Gujarati and Marathi books numbering 3,300 from the Shri Sayaji Library of Shrimant

Sampatrao Gaekwad, another of 630 Sanskrit books from the same Library, and a third of over 3,000 Sanskrit printed books and Manuscripts which hitherto had formed the Vithal Mandir Library of the State. These two latter collections went to form the Sanskrit Branch of the Central Library. Shrimant Sampatrao Gaekwad, who had imbibed the enlightened spirit of his elder brother, H. H. the Maharaja, had founded a separate Library of his own, had named it after His Highness in compliment to the latter's noble work of popular education, and had thrown it open to the public of the Baroda city free of charge. When he was shown that some of his collections of books would have a wider public utility in the Central Library, where unrestricted facilities were given to the public, he readily transferred his Vernacular and Sanskrit collections to the newly founded Central Library. The Palace Library, being His Highness' private Library formed from time to time according to the special requirements of His Highness' study, consisted of a very limited number of vernacular books. Shrimant Sampatrao's loan of his vernacular books was therefore very welcome as it enabled the Central Library to start its Vernacular branch forthwith. Similarly his collection of Sanskrit books formed a valuable addition to the Sanskrit Branch.

At the commencement of this work of reconstruction, H. H. the Maharaja Saheb was also graciously pleased to increase the Library budget. The Palace Library had an annual book budget of Rs. 3,000. This was now increased to Rs. 13,000 per year in consideration of the various branches that were being formed and with a view to making the Central Library a model library for the State. The Palace Library had no Reading Room of newspapers and periodicals. A separate grant of

Rs. 1,500 per year was now given for setting up such a Reading Room. Thus the Central Library began its career with the following sections : (1) Newspaper Reading Room ; (2) Circulating or Lending branch consisting of English, Gujrati and Marathi sections ; (3) a Sanskrit branch of printed books and Manuscripts. To these were added in course of time (4) a Children's Section, (5) a Ladies' Section, and (6) a Reference Section.

The Library Training Class.

(a) *Its formation.*

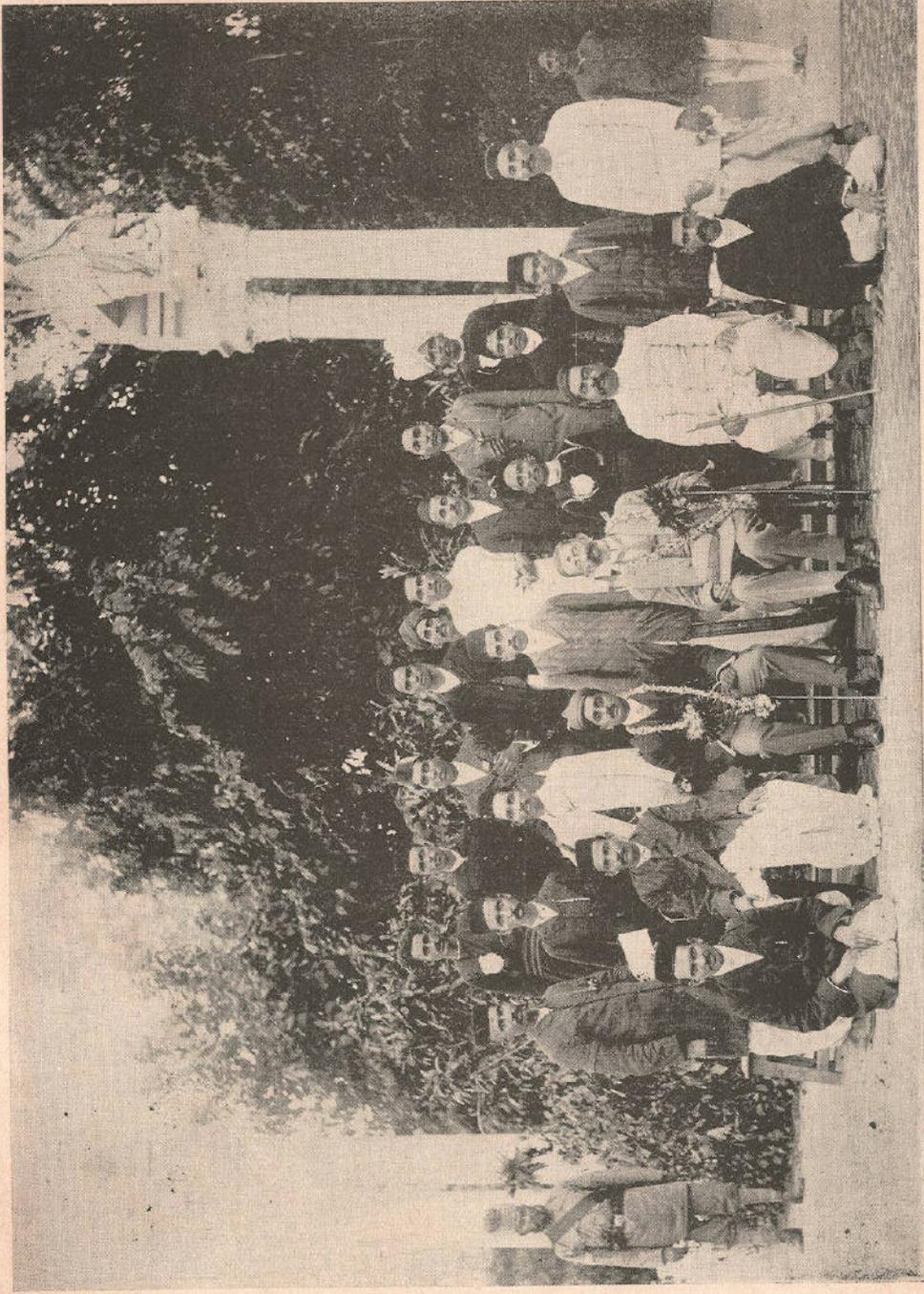
For all this work of reorganisation it was obvious that a large staff of librarians and assistants was necessary and that this staff should receive a scientific training in librarianship on the most modern lines. In March of 1911, therefore, Mr. Borden received sanction of His Highness' Government to open a class for training librarians, and to admit therein six graduates of the Bombay University or men with higher educational qualifications and six undergraduates, on a monthly scholarship of Rs. 25 for one year and with a promise to appoint, after one year's successful training, men with higher qualifications to the higher grade of librarians of Rs. 60 to 100 and men with lower qualifications to the lower grade of Rs. 30 to 50. Although this library class was in the first instance, intended to train up a staff of librarians required for the Central Library, yet word was sent round all over India that His Highness the Maharaja Saheb would be very glad to give the benefit of modern library training under the American Library expert to any persons coming from any part of India. But to His Highness' great disappointment this invi-

tation fell on deaf ears, for very few outsiders took advantage of this offer. This only showed how India as a whole had failed to realise the importance of libraries in the work of national education and had consequently failed to appreciate the value of modern library methods. It also shows by contrast the great foresight of the Ruler of Baroda in this matter of popular education as in other matters of national regeneration. His Highness therefore justly deserves the title of "the Pioneer of the Modern Library Movement in India." It was quite three years after Mr. Borden's arrival in India, that the Bombay University sent its librarian for scientific training in Europe, and it was four years after that the Punjab University brought another library expert from America to organise its library and train librarians in the Punjab. However it is likely that other parts of India will soon be following the example set by Baroda, Punjab and Bombay in this matter.

To this the first Library Training Class came to be admitted six candidates for the first grade and six for the second grade. Among the first batch of candidates was one Master of Arts of the Bombay University, who was moreover a special scholar of Sanskrit, three Bachelors of Arts (two of whom were already in the State service), and one applicant from outside; one who had failed in B. A. examination but had had special journalistic experience; and one member of the old Palace Library staff who had long been connected with this Library. Among the lower grade men were two undergraduates who had failed in B.A. examination and one librarian of the local so-called "State" Library, *i.e.*, the State-aided library of long standing in the city of Baroda. One very interesting feature in connection with this



BARODA CENTRAL LIBRARY DEPARTMENT STAFF (1913)



TOWN LIBRARIANS' TRAINING CLASS (1913)



CHILDREN'S ROOM, BARODA CENTRAL LIBRARY (INTERIOR)



CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR AND CINEMA SHOW, BARODA CENTRAL LIBRARY

admission to the Library service was the fact that three lady candidates presented themselves and were all duly admitted. One of these ladies, who had passed her Matric, had joined the class solely for the love of the work without taking the scholarship. Unfortunately, after about a year's training she left the Department to get married. The second lady had failed in the Matric and the third had studied up to English sixth standard. Both these latter had had previous experience of teaching in schools.

(b) *Its Courses of Training.*

The Library class being thus organised, regular courses were formed. A preliminary short course of teaching was given in library hand-writing, measuring book sizes, collating new books on their arrival, testing the quality of paper, repairing and binding of books, preparing bookcards, book-slips, book-plates, and book-pockets, marking accession—and class—numbers, charging and discharging books by cards, as well as the despatch of overdue notices, the collecting of fines, the reserving of books, and the compiling of daily register of issues. This done, the work of accessioning books was taken up. As the whole of the Palace Library had to be re-accessioned and re-classified according to a new method, this gave ample laboratory work to the new library staff and enabled it to be thoroughly grounded in these two branches of library work. New Accession sheets were prepared giving full information about a book, *i.e.*, its name, author, date, publisher, price, source, size, etc. As the Accession Register is the only reliable register of the most valuable property of a library, *viz.*, books, this register has to be filled up with great care. Side by

side with this accessioning work, the work of classifying books according to a modern scheme of classification was started. For this purpose, Mr. Borden prepared a new scheme of his own compiled with a view to suit the needs of Indian libraries. This scheme is a combination of two schemes of classification which are acknowledged to be the most perfect and authoritative of those in vogue in America, *viz.*, the Decimal Scheme of Dr. Melvil Dewey and the Expansive Scheme of Charles Cutter. The symbols for the first 26 main class divisions A to Z were based on Cutter's Alphabetical Scheme, while the signs of the sub-divisions of these classes were Arabic numbers and were adapted from Dewey's Decimal scheme, as these latter could be expanded to any extent by sub-dividing each into nine heads and each of these again into nine sub-heads and so on. Similarly Mr. Borden prepared his own "Author-Numerical Table." Thus Baroda got a classification scheme of its own which could be introduced into libraries of all sizes. Naturally the classification of all books in the entire Central Library took a long time, and the whole library staff was kept busy at this work for more than a year. In the meantime the Library was increasing in size by leaps and bounds, partly by the addition of large collections acquired as gifts, and partly by the accession of the large number of books that were purchased from the annual enlarged book-budget. This left little time for taking up in detail the work of cataloguing books thoroughly before Mr. Borden's period of service expired. He, however, gave the library class a practical idea of cataloguing books, so that the work could be carried on independently by the staff after his departure. To this library course it was originally intended to add one course of scientific preservation of State

records. But Mr. Borden's stay in Baroda being so short and the work to be undertaken being of a highly technical nature, this course could not be added to the curriculum. While the work of classification of books in the Central Library was going on, such books, as clearly belonged to a Reference collection, were being separated, and thus a Reference Library was gradually being formed and separated from the Circulating or Lending Library. The card catalogue also was slowly growing as the classification of books progressed.

In the course of time the Library Department took up new activities, such as forming a Children's Section, a Sanskrit Section, and a Travelling Libraries Branch as well as the opening of more rural libraries in the State, and members of the Library class were made acquainted with the working of these new activities. Thus the Library class were given such a training in all phases of library work that they could be fully qualified to go out and successfully organise in the State or outside other libraries on the most approved modern lines.

Working Methods in the Central Library.

As the Library class was being trained in several modern processes of library management, the members were given opportunities to work those out in practice in the Lending Library Section. The chief feature of a librarian's work is that of dealing successfully with the public and making the library increasingly popular. For this purpose the saving of the borrower's time by giving him every possible facility is the principal consideration. The old ledger-system of charging and discharging books, a system utterly unsuited for a modern library having a large number of daily borrowers, was discarded as it invol-

**Baroda
Library
Movement.**

ved a great waste of time and required a larger staff. Instead of it the new method of charging by means of cards was adopted.

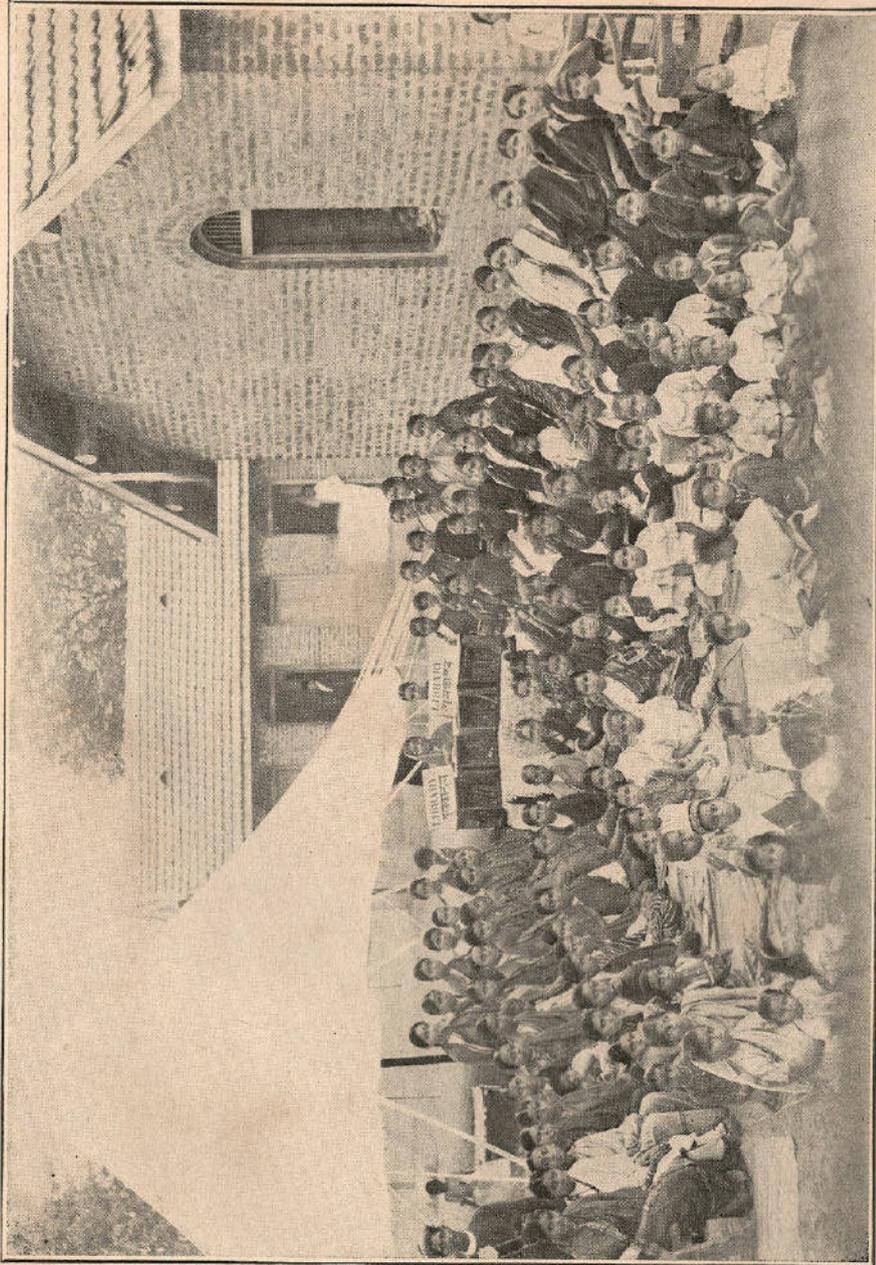
By this method for each Reader is prepared a "Reader's Card", on which is noted the Book Number of the work borrowed, with date of issue and return. These cards are alphabetically arranged in metal trays. Similarly with the cover of every book on the shelf will be found a pocket in which is tucked a "Book Card," which the borrower signs and leaves as his receipt for the book. The book cards of works borrowed on any one day are kept arranged under their classes in a metal tray for that day. As a fortnight is allowed for reading a book there are always fifteen such trays, each labelled with the date of issue.

It only takes a few seconds for the borrower to sign the book card and for the charging clerk to stamp date of issue in the flyleaf of the book. The other processes of stamping date on book card and noting "book number" of the work on the reader's card, is done by the charging clerk at his leisure. On the return of the book, the entry is cancelled on the reader's card, and the book card is recovered and replaced within its book.

This speedy dispatch and economy of time in issuing books was further assisted by allowing to readers "free access" to the book shelves. Instead of the library assistant finding out books for each and every reader, readers are given the privilege of going direct to the book-shelves and of examining and selecting the books they require. This naturally saves the enormous time that the library assistants would take to find out books for borrowers, and, what is more, brings directly before their eyes all the resources of the Library in every branch



CENTRAL LIBRARY EXTENSION WORK AT PADRA ROAD HEALTH CAMP (CHILDREN'S GROUP)



CENTRAL LIBRARY EXTENSION WORK AT PADRA ROAD HEALTH CAMP, BARODA (LADIES' GROUP)

and makes the books speak for themselves. The spell which a collection of books casts over a youth, who, like Charles and Mary Lamb, is "tumbled early, by accident or design, into a spacious closet of good old English reading," and allowed to "browse at will upon that fair and wholesome pasturage," engenders in the young mind a love of good literature which will stand him in good stead throughout his life. These modern methods of dealing with readers have, as a matter of fact, year by year increased the circulation of books in Baroda and has made the Library more and more popular.

The Central Library.

The Central Library is of course entirely free, as are all the other libraries in the State. In fact "free use" is the main principle of the whole Baroda Library System, and this is the most important means of popularising libraries among masses. In the Central Library the only security that a reader has to give is to bring the signature on his printed admission-form of any person willing to stand guarantee who is either an officer of the State drawing at least Rs. 50 per month, or who has landed property or who pays a certain income-tax; while all these latter can borrow books on their account without a guarantee. Readers' admission cards are renewed every year. Further facilities are given to readers by granting them the privilege of borrowing more books than one at a time on proper reasons being given. Teachers and students are given still other privileges.

The Lending Library is open twice a day, two and a half hours in the morning and two and a half hours in the afternoon; while the Reference collection can be consulted all the day except for an hour at mid-day. The Reference books can be read only in the Reference room and are not issued for home use, except in rare cases.

The Information Bureau.

Baroda
Library
Movement.

For a year or more since the Central Library was organised, one of the librarians, who had special journalistic experience, was entrusted with the work of keeping a record of important articles in newspapers and periodicals, particularly the Indian ones, and of preserving news-cuttings or short summaries of important articles. H. H. the Maharaja was rather keen on having such information kept ready for his personal use, but unfortunately this work had to be discontinued owing to the librarian in charge having left the Department. Some attempts were made to continue this work by subscribing to foreign news-cuttings agencies, but the cost of it having proved prohibitive the work seemed unfeasible and had to be partly given up. While the Press Reporter's office was attached to the Library, it used to take note of almost all important articles dealing with Baroda matters that appeared in the more important Indian papers. But since the removal of the Press Reporter's office from here, the work has not been done in the Library. Some news-cuttings however are still being preserved in His Highness' Private Secretary's Office and some are subscribed for by the Dewan Office. His Highness however desires the work to be taken up again by the Central Library and plans are afoot to commence it once more in a more systematic way. Though H. W. Wilson's "Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature" and the "Athenæum Index to Periodicals", are valuable aids in this direction, still these foreign publications reach India some time after date of publication of the magazines indexed and moreover do not index all important Indian subjects. Moreover, these indexes being meant

more for the general readers and being more of a literary character, they cannot be expected to meet the particular requirements of one State or Province.

The Central
Library.

The Newspaper Reading Room.

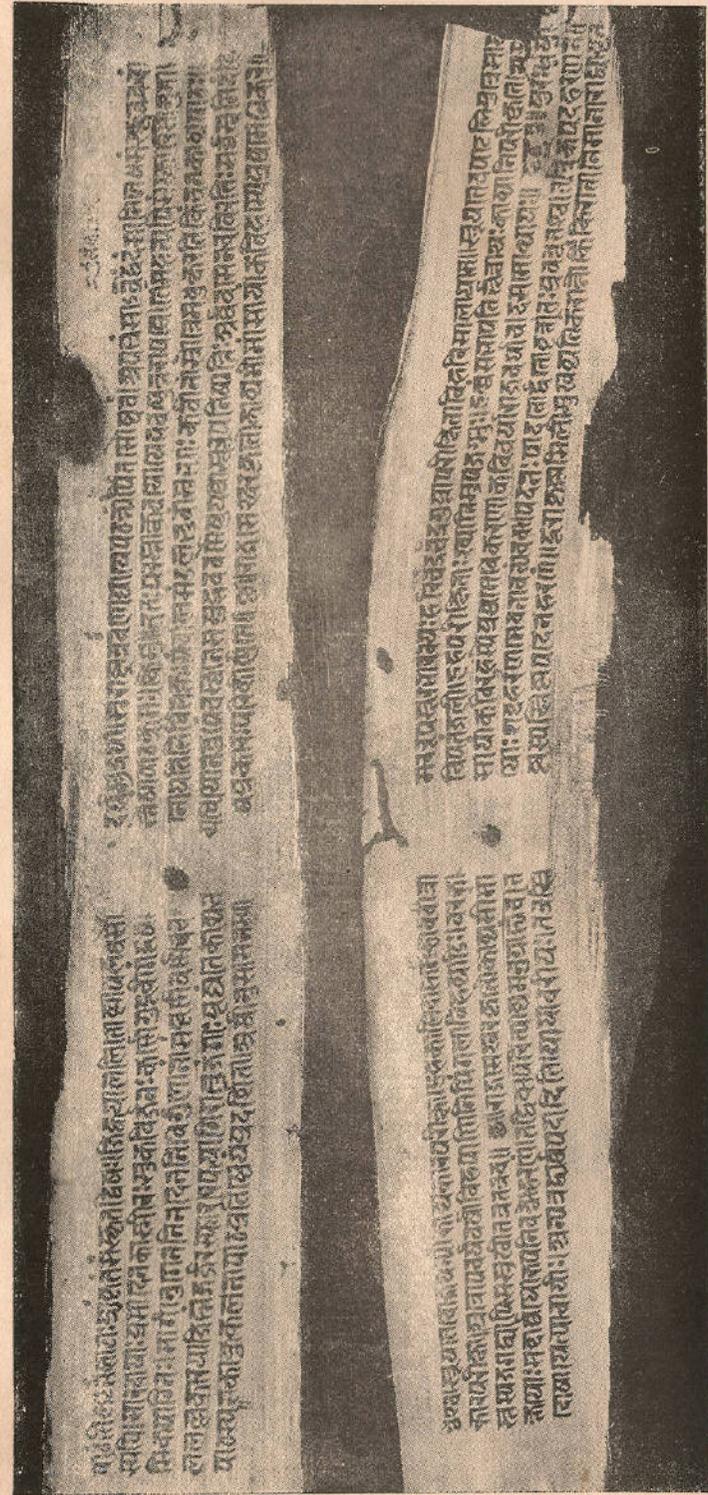
When the Central Library came into existence there was no Reading Room of newspapers and periodicals attached to it. Till then the Baroda public took what advantage they could of the free Reading Room of the Shri Sayaji Library and of the subscription Reading Room of the State Library. But owing to the limited means of these two institutions, the number of papers and periodicals subscribed by them was rather small. This hardship of the Baroda reading public was removed by His Highness the Maharaja's granting to the Central Library an annual budget of Rs. 1,500 for papers and periodicals alone. Thus the Central Library was able to open in its first year a large periodical Reading Room with more than 200 papers and periodicals. These papers represent all shades of opinions and quite a variety of subjects, and thus attract a very large number of readers every day. The Room is open from 7 in the morning till 9 in the evening and has become a veritable place of pilgrimage to all kinds of readers, young and old, high caste and low caste, teachers and taught, rich and poor. The daily attendance has risen from 200 in the beginning to about 500. Of the papers and periodicals taken in the Room last year (1917-18) 156 were published in India, 32 in England, 33 in America and 1 in Japan. All the periodicals are displayed on separate tables in groups, except duplicate copies of a few popular dailies and weeklies, which are kept on stands to avoid the rush of readers. Files of non-current papers, dailies and weeklies

Baroda Library Movement.

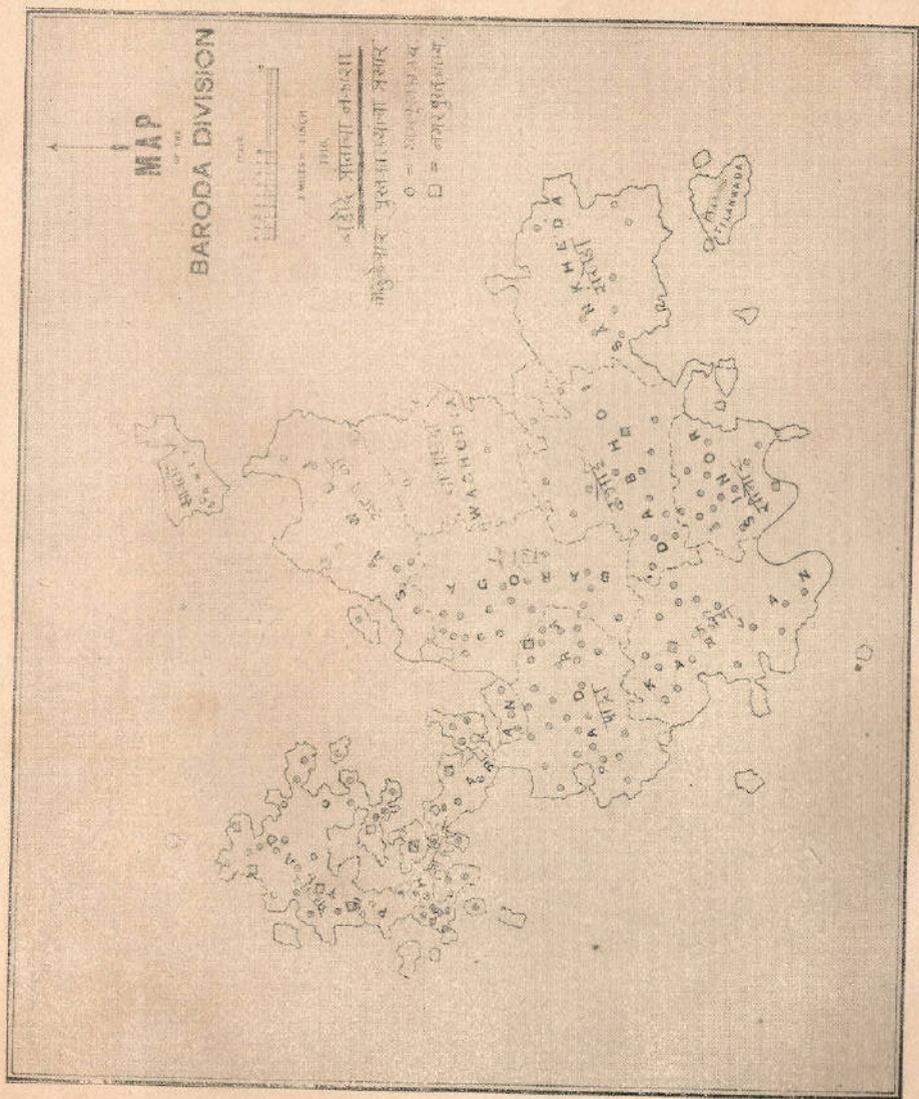
are kept on newspaper file-racks, and past issues of monthlies and quarterlies are kept bound in quarterly and six-monthly temporary bound volumes for reference. The experiment of lending single issues of periodicals for home use was tried for about two years, but the practice had to be discontinued as all such periodicals got mutilated and destroyed and no permanent files of them could be preserved. Now only a month's issues of weeklies and a quarter's issues of monthlies are got temporarily bound together and are circulated amongst a limited number of readers.

A card-index of all the periodicals is kept in the Reading Room to check their regular arrival, each card giving full particulars of its source, date, publisher, subscription, etc. There is also a board hung up at the entrance to show the daily arrivals and another giving a complete list of all papers and periodicals subscribed. The Reading Room walls are covered with maps of different countries and especially war maps of the different theatres of war, together with interesting and topical pictures. In the beginning attention of readers used to be drawn occasionally to some of the important articles in the current periodicals by putting up their lists with references to the periodicals and also short typed summaries of important articles used to be exhibited on bulletin boards. This work was done as a part of the Information Bureau, but owing to want of hands and increase of work in other directions, this feature of popularising the Reading Room had to be discontinued.

From the ever-growing popularity of the Reading Room there is every reason to believe that it has become a regular educational institution in the Baroda City and that it is proving a very powerful agent in counteract-



XIIIth CENTURY PALM-LEAF MANUSCRIPT OF "KAVYAMIMANSA," THE FIRST WORK IN THE "GAEKWAD'S ORIENTAL SERIES" (FACSIMILE OF TWO LEAVES).



LIBRARY GROWTH IN BARODA DISTRICT (1916). (ROUND DOTS SHOW VILLAGE LIBRARIES AND SQUARE DOTS TOWN LIBRARIES)

ing some of the baneful influences to which the youth of the city was tempted to fall a victim. The Central Library.

THE MAIN LIBRARY.

The main Library consists of two principal collections: (1) the Lending or Circulating collection, and (2) the Reference collection. Each of these has again two sections: the English and the Vernacular.

I.—Lending or Circulating Library.

The lending collection contains about 46,300 books, of which 33,250 are English and 13,050 are Vernacular. The Vernacular collection is comprised of 6,030 Gujarati, 6,100 Marathi and 920 Hindi and Urdu books. The Vernacular collections, being very largely used, are kept near the charging counter so as to be under the direct eye of the library staff inside the counter. Similarly the Juvenile English collection is kept separately just near the entrance of the Lending Room for the convenience of school students who use it largely. The other popular collections of books, such as English Fiction, History and Biography are kept just in continuation of the Vernacular Sections on either side of the counter in separate alcoves. The other classes mainly used by serious students, such as Religion and Philosophy, Physical and Natural Sciences, Anthropology and Ethnology, Social Sciences and Literature, Useful and Fine Arts and Medicine, are kept in the rear of the Room in separate alcoves, so that their readers may not be disturbed by the users of the more popular collections. This whole lending collection is arranged in alcoves and has an "open access", so that borrowers can freely go to the shelves and select books for themselves. Inside the count-

er there is always in attendance a trained and experienced librarian to give all kind of information regarding the Library. Besides there is the Card-Catalogue arranged according to Subjects, Authors, and Titles of books kept for the consultation of borrowers. New books are kept on view at one end of the counter and at the other end University calendars for the use of students. War books are also kept on view on the front two cases. Books on Technical and Fine Arts and on Medical Science have been kept in closed cases and not on open shelves, since some of the picture-plates and important articles were discovered to have been removed. These books can be obtained for home use only after securing a special written permission. This collection is largely used by the students of the Kala-Bhawan (Technical Institute) and the Central Library co-operates with that Institution in supplementing each other's stock of books in those subjects and thereby avoids unnecessary duplication. Similarly the Central Library co-operated with the Seminar of Comparative Religion and Philosophy of the Baroda College in the initial stage of the latter's formation by keeping separately for the Seminar students its collection of books on Religion and Philosophy.

In the Vernacular division the Hindi and Urdu collections are not very large because readers of Hindi are limited in number and the Urdu readers have another large Urdu Library free for consultation almost a few steps away from the Central Library building. Only the more popular books in the Urdu language are therefore kept in the Central Library.

More than one copy of the books much in demand are kept in the Lending Library for the convenience of

readers : in some cases such duplicate copies number from half a dozen to a dozen according to the popularity of the work and the demand of borrowers.

For the convenience of the general public the Lending Collection is kept on the entire ground floor of the building while the Reference Collection is located on the entire first floor above.

The Reference Library.

This Library contains about 14,000 books in all, of which the collection of Vernacular books is about 7,600, Gujarati books numbering 5,020 and Marathi books numbering about 2,580.

The English Reference collection contains mainly books generally required for reference work as also old and rare books and costly sets. Thus there are not only all kinds of dictionaries and cyclopædias, reports and journals of societies, calendars, year-books and directories, guides and gazetteers, but also special "libraries" and "histories", special editions *de luxe* of such authors as Dickens and Ruskin, costly picture-albums and art books, and bound volumes of certain periodicals. For instance, we have in this collection a complete valuable set of Hansard's Parliamentary Debates up to date, about a hundred volumes of the Parliamentary Reports of the East India Company from 1772, a complete set of Punch, Notes and Queries and long runs of such magazines as Quarterly Review, Edinburgh Review, Contemporary Review, XIXth Century, Fortnightly, etc., Cambridge "Histories", Historians' History of the world, Archaeological Reports and Linguistic Surveys of India, Asiatic Researches, Fauna of British India, cyclopædias like the American and the Jewish,

**Baroda
Library
Movement.**

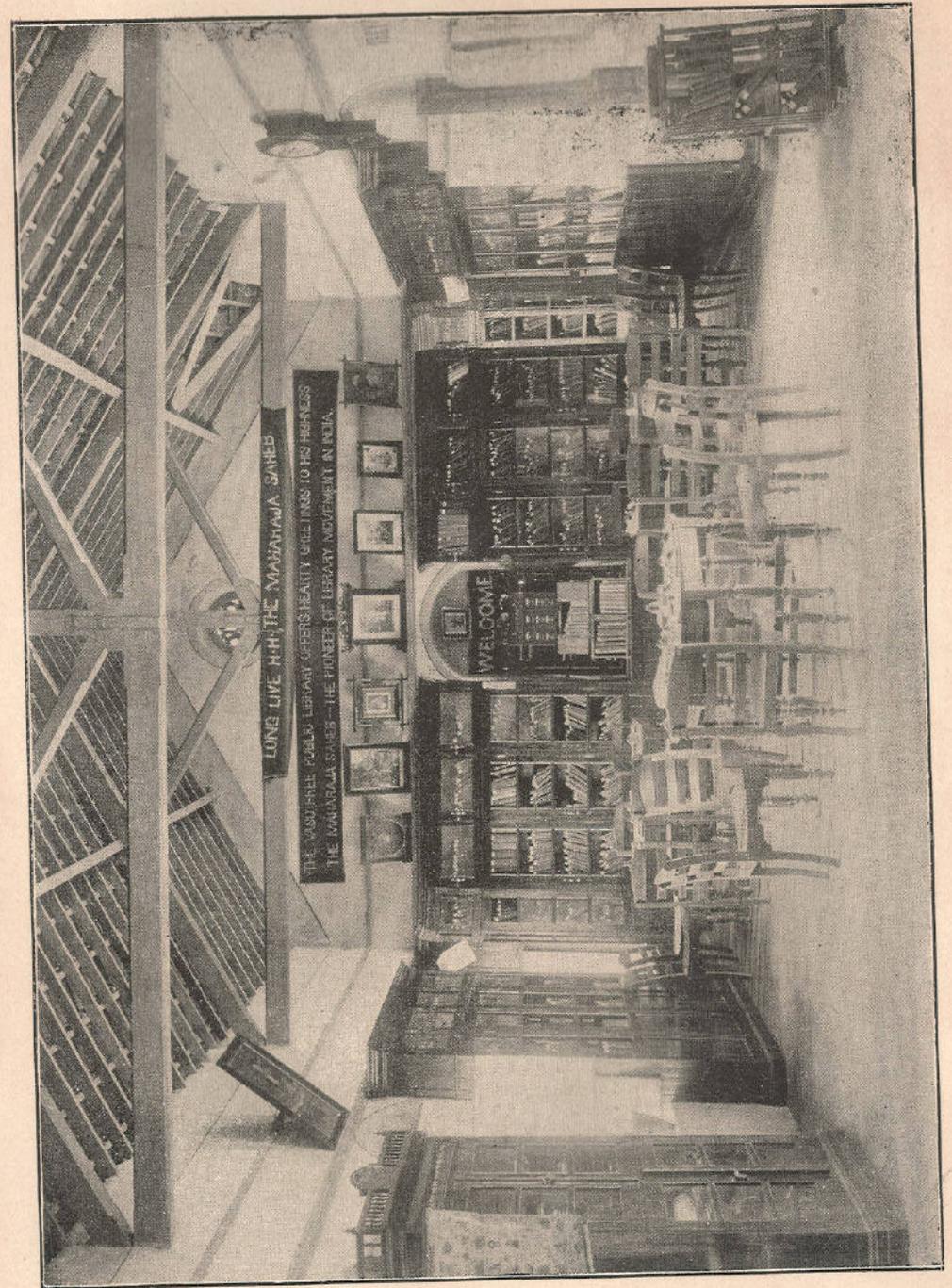
encyclopædias of Education, of Religion and Ethics, of Islam, of Agriculture, Carpentry, Electrical Practice, Railway working, and other useful arts. But the most valuable collection to librarians in this Library is that of works on Bibliography and Library Economy. This Section includes the English catalogue of books from 1801 to date, the American catalogue from 1876 to 1910, with the United States catalogue from 1911 to date, Indexes to Periodicals of the world from 1802 to 1916 (Poole's, the Reader's Guide and the Athenæum Index), besides bibliographies of various subjects. Above all we have got not only the "British Museum Subject-Index of Modern Works added to the Library from 1881 to 1915", in 6 vols. but have acquired recently the voluminous "Catalogue of Printed Books of the British Museum Library, in 108 folio vols. This collection is attempted to be made as complete as could possibly be made and is perhaps unique and unequalled among all Indian libraries. Though this library, being modern, cannot boast of possessing any European incunabula, still it has come to possess a few samples of old English books of the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, many of these through the kindness of Mr. M. H. Spielmann, F.S.A., the English art critic. Among these are examples of the Elzevir, Plantin, Estienne and Foulis's presses. The most interesting feature, however, is a leaf of the rare 1498 edition of Caxton's translation of the "Golden Legend", which was printed by Wynkyn de Worde, pupil and successor of the Father of English printing. The Library also possesses a few specimens of other curios, such as miniature editions of Shakespeare, the Gita, the Koran, the Zend-Avesta, and the famous astronomer Galilio's "Letter to Madama Christina de Lorena", Dowager Grand Duchess of



DABHOI PUBLIC LIBRARY



VASO PUBLIC LIBRARY (EXTERIOR) WITH THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY
EXTENSION ON ITS LEFT



VASO PUBLIC LIBRARY.— (Interior)



CHILDREN'S LIBRARY, VASO (INTERIOR)

Tuscany, written in 1615 and printed at Padua by Salviati in 1896. This last is supposed to be the smallest book in the world (size $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch \times $\frac{2}{5}$ of an inch). There are also some reproductions of historic Italian, French and English bindings.

The Central Library.

In the Vernacular Section of the Reference Collection there being a very small number of reference books in the vernacular languages, an attempt is made to stock almost all available old editions of books as well as duplicate copies of new books along with bound volumes of periodicals, so that any person desiring to study the languages from the historical standpoint may have ready material at hand. This collection is not complete, having been only recently started.

CHAPTER III.

CHILDREN'S AND LADIES' BRANCHES.

I.—Library work with Children.

The Children's section of the library came to be organised at the beginning of the year 1913 at the express desire of H. H. the Maharaja Saheb. Till then the Central Library provided ample reading material for adults only, reserving only a small separate corner for juvenile readers. In fact, there being a paucity of juvenile literature in the vernacular languages no proper juvenile library could be formed for quite young readers and the so-called juvenile section was and has ever been largely used by high-school grade boys and girls only. It was therefore thought desirable to make an actual beginning in the direction of forming a real children's Reading Room by drawing little boys and girls to the Library by means as attractive as, or rather more attractive than, picture-and toy-books, that existed in the English language, but not in the Vernacular languages. The play-instinct is the most prominent characteristic of the child mind. Every active child is eager to make and to do things, to act and construct; he is curious to know what makes machinery go, how flowers grow and how animals and birds live and what causes rain, dew and wind. The educational possibilities offered through the utilisation of this child instinct to unravel the mysteries of nature are immeasurable. Equally strong with children is the love of colours, those beautiful and gorgeous colours that nature manifests before a child's eye in all her phenomena, such as bright sunshine, lovely

flowers, variegated birds, foliage of every tint, etc., etc. In forming therefore the first Children's Room in the Central Library, these two child-instincts were appealed to by keeping in the Room a variety of table-games, puzzle-boxes, kinder-garten gifts and occupations and attractive but simple picture books and picture-posters. It is the games that first enthrall a child's attention in the room and it is a delight to see groups of children engaged in handling and adjusting parts of different mechanical models, or worrying their brains in gaining an advantage over their opponents in other games by the move of a dice or cube, or showing their skill in cutting paper flowers or shaping beautiful figures in plasticine or preparing little wicker baskets, or adjusting picture-puzzles, or pyramids or turning over the pages of picture books or peering through the stereoscopes over the stereographic views of world scenery. This library believes in this means of attracting children through games and appeal to imagination to useful books; for there is no end to the enjoyment or wholesome activity a child may derive from such occupations which exercise his inventive faculties. At the same time he gains a control of hand, a trueness of eye and an accuracy of execution that will stand him in good stead all his life. In course of time this room has come to be very popular with children of all ages and it has more than justified the object with which it was started.

Year after year improvements have been made in the get-up of the Room and its stock of materials so as to make the Room a centre of attraction to children and to hold them spell-bound while there. Thus among table-games there is quite a large variety to suit different ages and various tastes and incli-

nations of the little ones. For instance, there are simple puzzle boxes and card-games, games with dice, like ludo, where's-the-king, railway-race and others, and games without dice like domino, pop-in-tow, go-bang, etc., etc.; highly ingenious games like meccano and buildo and war games. So also there is quite a number of kindergarten gifts and occupations, such as plasticine and stick-laying, paper-cutting and flower-making, cane-weaving and bamboo-work, tools of a tailor and a sailor, a carpenter and a warrior and other occupations. In the book section the pictorial side is fully represented. It includes many rag-books and coloured picture-books, panorama series of fairy-tales and series of natural history pictures, midget-library of birds and animals and the picture A. B. C. sets, pictures and postcard albums of scenes from Indian and foreign history and wall charts illustrating different industrial processes. Besides there are a number of stereographic pictures of different countries, which can be seen vividly through the stereoscopes and give geographical and historical information. Then there is a small museum collection of curious and interesting objects, among which are war models and articles in miniatures, and curiosities from Japan and America. To add to the attractiveness of the room, the walls are decorated with beautiful pictures depicting scenes from children's life and examples of the flower and animal worlds, of heroes from Indian history and of members of the Baroda Royal family, miniature silk flags of the nations of the world and wise sayings from Indian literature printed in colours and bold letters. To complete the idea of the Children's Reading Room, a few hundred books in Gujarati and Marathi languages, some written specially for children but mainly selected from the

general collection as suitable for children, are kept on open shelves, with about a dozen children's magazines in the vernacular languages arranged on the reading tables. Children's
and Ladies'
Branches.

It must not be thought that the book side of the room is only a nominal tag-end of the main picturesque array of things; it is actually a largely used, though a modest, section of the room. Though unfortunately for our younger generation there is but a limited stock of juvenile books in the vernaculars and their writers are still fewer, yet because of the paucity of such literature, it is devoured greedily and chewed again and again. We hope that some of our writers will take the opportunity of visiting our children's room and catch the fire of enthusiasm from the juvenile visitors so as to be spurred on to write more and more to keep these youngsters always busy with their productions.

The Children's Room is open from 12 noon to 6 in the evening and any children can visit it at any time with nothing to pay or to deposit for the use of the room or its contents. For their convenience there are reading tables and chairs made specially to suit their heights and comforts and there is a lady librarian in attendance to help and guide them. Generally it is the children from the neighbouring schools who are its regular patrons. Yet those from other schools and localities do not lag behind in crowding the room on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons which are half holidays to them.

To increase further the popularity of this Room, two new features have been introduced in it since 1915, namely holding a Story Hour and giving a Cinema Show every Wednesday afternoon during the monsoon season. Story-telling is a special feature of American Children's

libraries and is found to be very helpful in attracting children to the library and to its useful books. Owing to the dearth of expert story-tellers American libraries hold such story hours once a month or even after a longer period. The situation in India is probably even worse owing to the novelty of this feature. Story-telling to children is not new but is an hoary institution in India and elsewhere, because for ages past in almost every family a child has been fortunate enough to have either a grand-mother, or a grand-father; or a mother or an aunt; an elder brother or a sister to tell stories before bed-time. Still story-telling, as an hand-maid to child education, is not cultivated as an art. From the infancy of the human race three requests have been on the lips of men; "Tell me a story," "show me a picture," "What is the news?" Listening to stories is of first importance and indeed the birth-right of a child. "The telling of stories" says Freebel, "refreshes the mind as a bath refreshes the body; it gives exercise to the intellect and its powers; it tests the judgment and the feelings." No wonder therefore that the Central Library should have revived this time-honoured institution on modern lines. Only a few possess the gift of story-telling and fewer still have had the special training therefor from the point of view of child psychology. Hence it is that these story hours are held in the four months of the monsoon, because it is then that one of our library inspectors, who is also a story-teller, is in the library, being free from inspection work and it is then also that some of the school teachers, who have the reputation of telling stories, and who kindly offer their services to us for this purpose, are to be found in the Baroda City. At these story-hours we invite from different vernacular schools

by turns, boys and girls, about 100 to 150 at a time and tell them a story or two at a time. Generally these stories are from our epics or history, or from English or American history. At the end of the story the name of the book is given and children are asked to read that book at home. Sometimes children are asked to write out for competition a story of a particular national hero or a national holiday and small prizes are given for their encouragement.

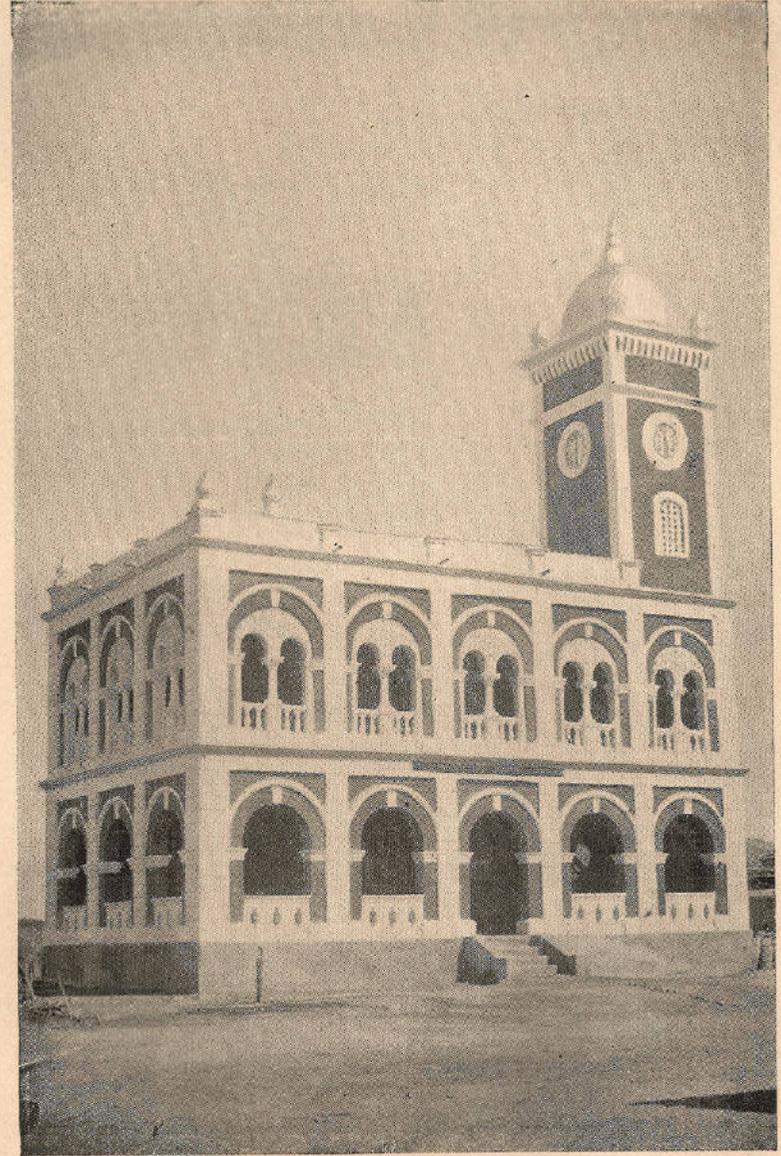
After the story-telling, there follows the other feature which keeps alive children's interest in the library, viz., the cinema show. It is this that helps to satisfy the second eternal craving of the human mind; "Show me a picture." As in the infancy of the world, so in the infancy of a human being, the visual appeal comes first of all. No written or spoken sentence can reach the mind as swiftly and concentratedly as the thing seen, the road from the eye to the brain being short, perhaps the very shortest; and when modern science sets the pictures moving their fascination becomes irresistible. Hence no form of entertainment combined as it is with instruction, has in these days achieved such a measure of success as the cinematograph. There are such educative potentialities in the cinematograph that it cannot be ignored as a powerful factor in modern education. The central Library therefore fully utilises this means of educating the child along with entertainment. Unfortunately here one is not so independent as in story-telling. There one can select any tale from the vast store of one's own national literature; but here one is not able to show films on any subjects one likes, for the choice is limited to the supply of subjects filmed in other countries and from other peoples' point of view. Hence one has to make the best use of what instructive films are available in the market. This

cinema show consists of a programme of three short films shown by the Pathe's KOK (parlour) cinema machine, which, by the movement of the handle, produces its own electric light. Before the film is thrown on the screen, a short talk is given explaining its subject-matter, and along with the unwinding of the reel successive parts of the story are also explained in the vernacular. Thus information on different useful subjects is not only made easily intelligible but is permanently visualised and stored in the young memory. These two forms of instruction and entertainment have become so very popular with children, that a large number of uninvited children crowd the library building on the off chance of stepping in. Thus in the Story-Hour and the Cinema Show the library has discovered a very effective means of imparting to young minds useful knowledge in an entertaining manner and thereby inducing them to read books from which they can draw for themselves first hand information.

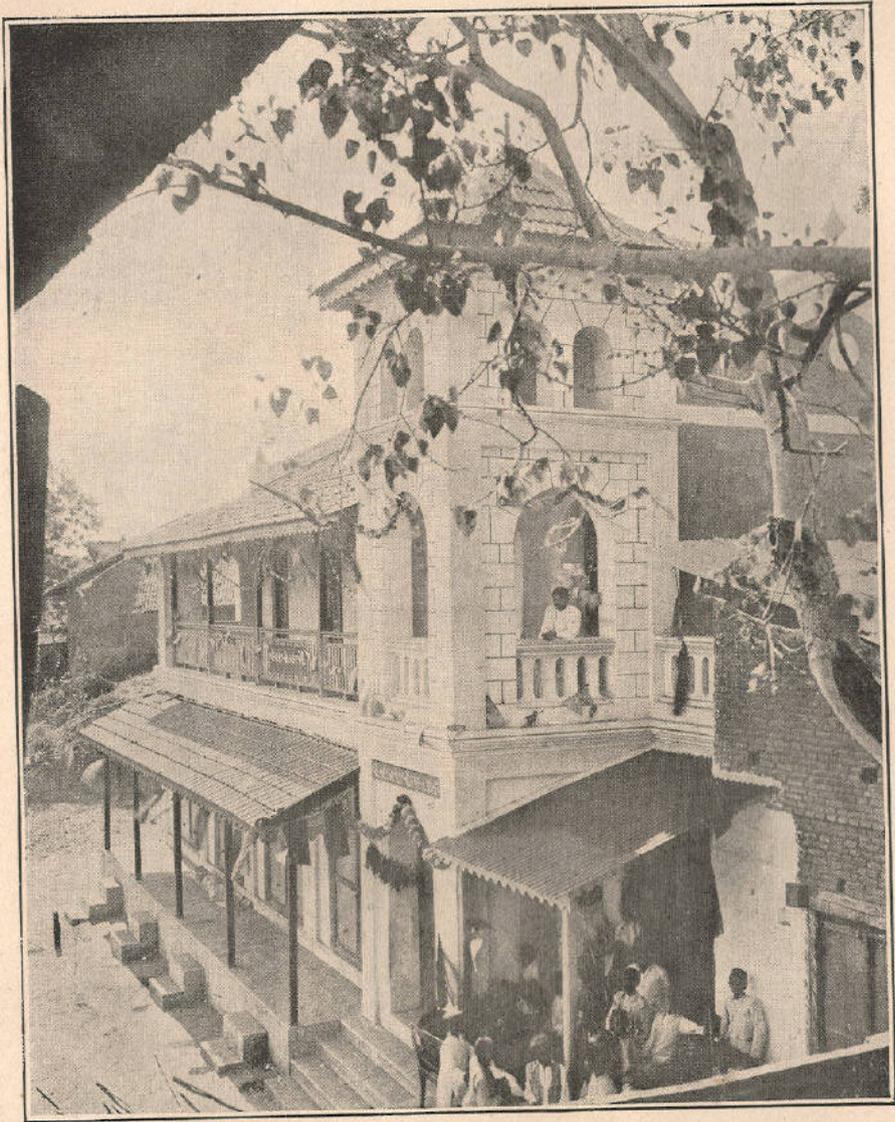
The annual attendance of children in this Room since its opening ranges from 19,000 to 20,000, and of these more than 2,000 get the benefit of the story hours and cinema shows during the short season that is devoted to these.

II.—Library work with Ladies.

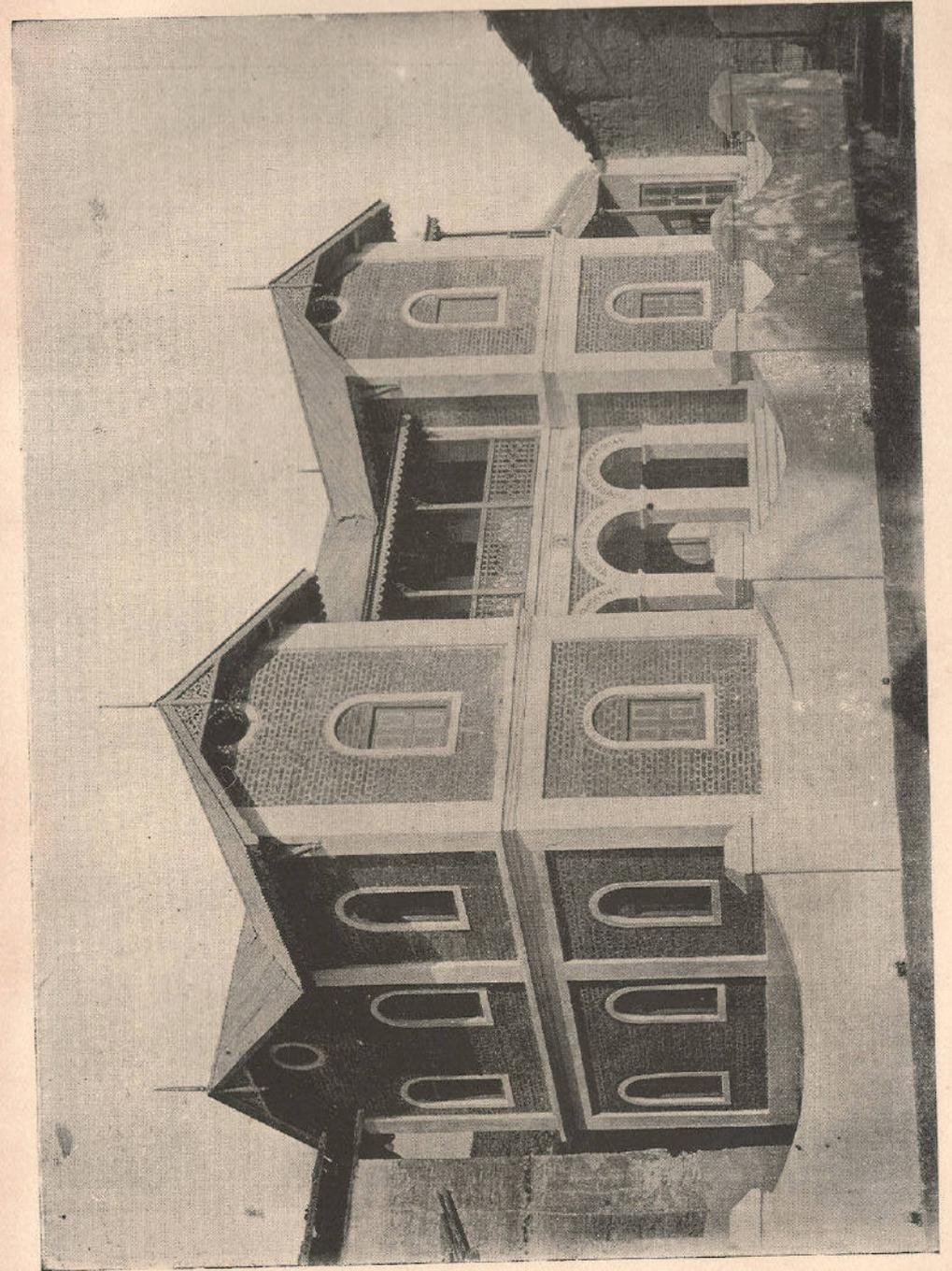
When the Central Library was first organised in 1911, the entire staff was, as pointed out in a previous chapter, very busy for a year or more in putting the Palace Library stock of books in order by accessioning and classifying the volumes. There was therefore neither the time nor facilities to organise a separate branch for ladies. In spite of this, a few lady readers used to visit the library because of the presence on the staff of three lady



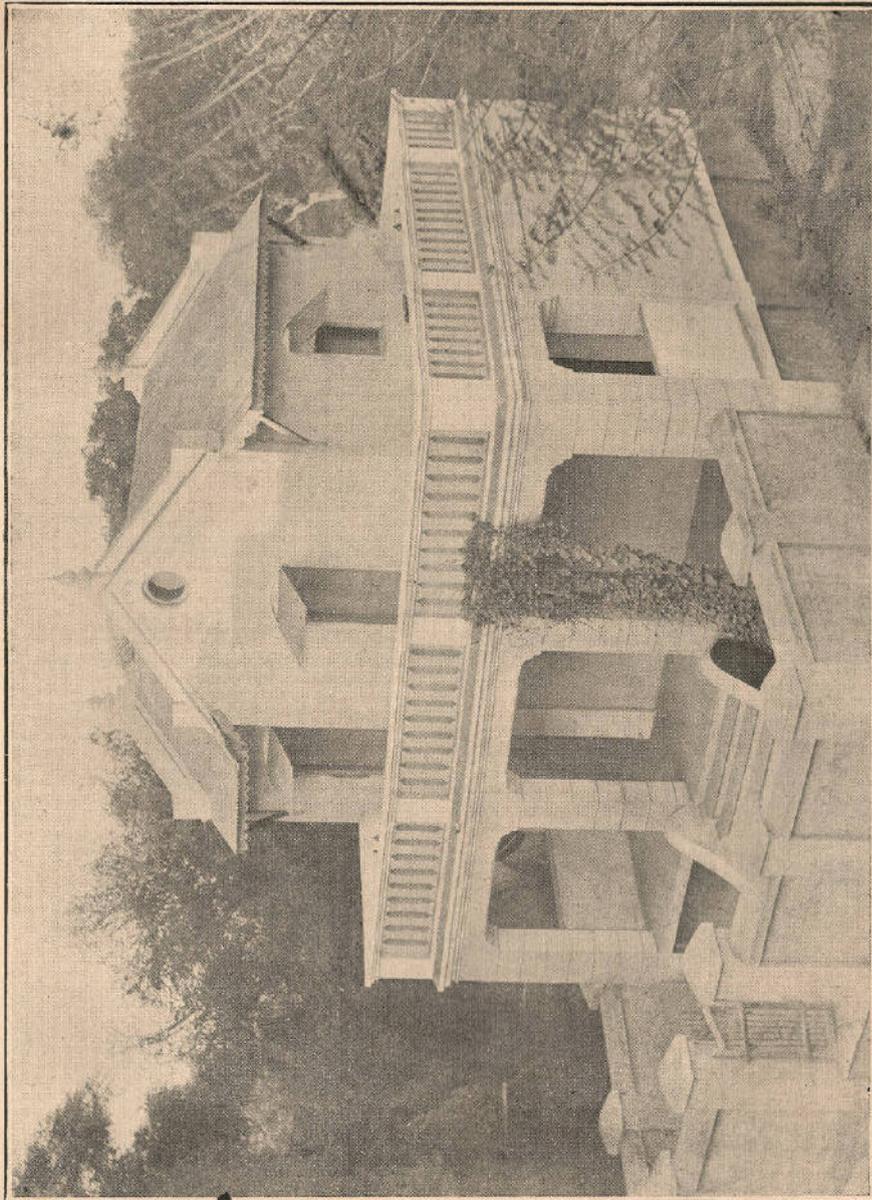
SINOR PUBLIC LIBRARY



NAR PUBLIC LIBRARY



PJ PUBLIC LIBRARY



GADA (VILLAGE) PUBLIC LIBRARY

librarians. Even with the advancement of female education in India, a large majority of women are rather reluctant freely to take advantage of educational or public institutions used by men. This is due to a great extent to the prevalence of the purdah system in India; and hence all public institutions had been obliged in the past to make separate arrangements for the womanfolk. The same has been the experience of the Central Library. From November 1907 there existed a "Mahila (or Ladies') Library" for purdah ladies in the midst of a locality where such ladies can make a large use of it, and had been managed satisfactorily by a Gujarati-knowing lady librarian. It was attached to the Education Department. Early in 1913 the proposal for giving it a permanent sanction came before the Government and the Central Library Department was consulted on the subject. At that very time in the Central Library building more rooms were made available for use by the transference of military offices elsewhere; and therefore the Central Library had already begun planning to open a ladies' branch by partitioning half of the entire first floor of the present building and providing a separate staircase from the rear. It was then decided to amalgamate the Mahila Library with the Central Library from August 1914, the next official year.

Children's
and Ladies'
Branches.

In order therefore to make the Purdah or Ladies' Library a success when it would come to exist in the Central Library some preliminary work was already begun by the Central Library from October 1912. As the mountain could not come to Mahomed, Mahomed had to go to the mountain in this case. The Library wanted to approach the ladies of the city in places where they gathered in groups for social purposes in clubs or other institutions. At this time there was only one ladies' club in the city

and its members used to meet, as they meet even now, once a week on Saturdays in the Public Park. There the Library began to send one of its lady librarians with books in a few travelling library boxes. This arrangement soon became popular. Later on the Librarian carried with her some parlour games and stereograph-pictures with stereoscopes. Then there began to come a demand for magazines, specially the pictorial ones. This justified the step taken by the library. During this first year, 87 members of the club took advantage of the books sent and the total circulation of books was 955 during 34 weekly visits. Next year the circulation went up to 1,380 books during 37 visits. Year after that, as previously arranged, the Mahila (Ladies') Library in the city became a branch of the Central Library in August 1914, but remained in its original premises for the sake of the better convenience it afforded to the purdah ladies in the city who felt diffident in visiting the Central Library.

From the year 1915 library-work with ladies began to grow rapidly. In January of that year a new Ladies' Club called "Shri Chimnabai Ladies' Club", came to be opened in the premises of the Training College for Women, and members met there on Sunday afternoons. This Club was meant for ladies of middle class families. They also brought with them their children of all ages. The Central Library thus got a new field to work in. It began to send its lady librarian there with vernacular books for adults, picture-books and rag-books for children, and table-games for both. Thus the circulation of books among ladies of both clubs for that year went to 2,028, over and above the 687 circulation at the Mahila Library Branch. In this way the work went on growing in popularity among the ladies of

the city, and along with it increased the spread of books also. During the next year the two clubs together issued 3,861 and the Mahila Library issued 955, thus making a total issue of 4,816 books among women only. **Children's and Ladies' Branches.**

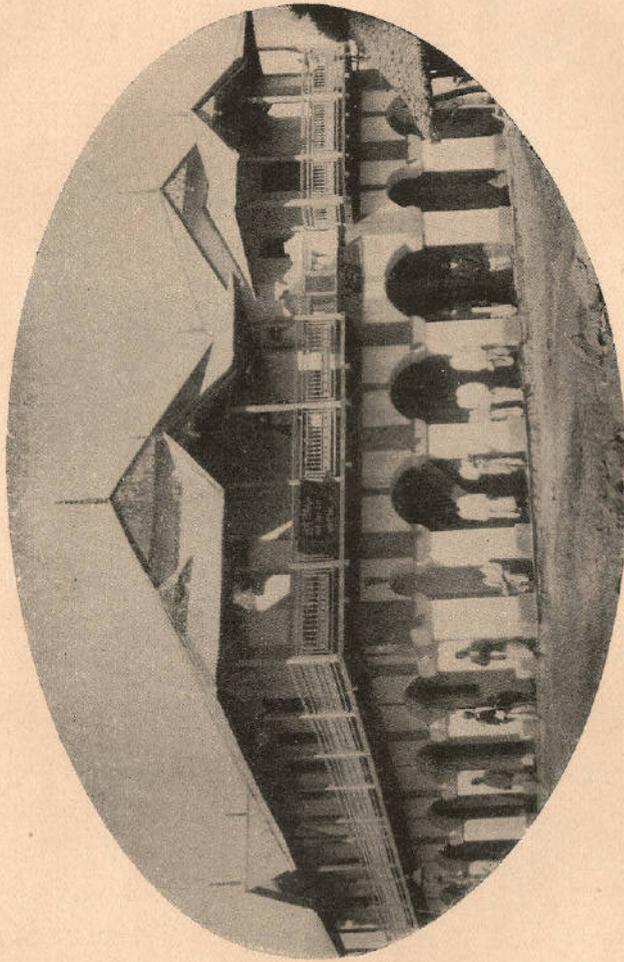
During all these years the number of lady borrowers in the Central Library itself was also slowly but perceptibly rising, as the presence of a lady librarian in charge of the Children's Room induced several of them to throw off their bashfulness and to take direct advantage of the library. As several new branches of work have come to be added to the Central Library Department since 1913 (when the idea of opening a separate Ladies' Branch in the Central Library was mooted) the available spare room in the building was in the meanwhile all taken up by these new branches and no separate accommodation could be provided for the lady borrowers of the Central Library. Ultimately as their number began to grow to an extent that caused mutual inconvenience to them and the children in the Children's Room, a new small Reading Room was opened for the ladies in a room adjoining the Children's Room, and the same was also placed in charge of the Children's Librarian. This room was opened on the 1st of June 1917 and was provided with books in the Gujarati and Marathi languages and with several periodicals. In that year (1916-1917) the total circulation of books in all these ladies' institutions, that is, the two clubs, the newly opened Ladies' Room in the Central Library and the Mahila Library Branch, rose to 6,703 (of which 1,906 books were circulated in the Mahila Library alone). Finally, during last year *i.e.*, from August 1917 to July 1918, the total circulation among the ladies of the city jumped to 9,303, of which 2,309 went to the credit of the Mahila Library.

**Baroda
Library
Movement.**

This year was remarkable for the introduction of a new feature in the library work. This was a year when plague raged in the city, owing to which about 200 families went to live outside the city in the military lines at the Padra Road. Owing to the virulence of the plague the circulation of the whole library had considerably fallen. The library therefore hit upon the idea of doing some extension work by sending books for women and children twice a week to the very doors of these 200 families. First, house to house visits were paid by the lady librarian in order to inform women of the special facilities that the library was going to provide for them. Once a week women were invited at a central place in these health camps to take the books that the librarian brought with her in travelling-library-boxes and on another day in the week the children in the camp, who were now free owing to the closing of the schools, were similarly collected and picture-books and games, etc., were distributed among them. This arrangement had a two-fold advantage in that (1) it afforded a wholesome occupation and a welcome distraction to a large number of women and children in those anxious days, and (2) that the library and its mission got a wider publicity in the community thereby ensuring a larger patronage. It is everywhere the case that a portion of a community is not even aware of the existence of the public library in its very midst, until the library adopts an aggressive policy and brings its wares directly before the eyes of its would-be patrons. This extension work therefore naturally brought the Central Library to the notice of the 200 or more families that happened to camp in one place, and paved the way for enlisting their permanent interest in the work of the library. This



BANDHANI (VILLAGE) PUBLIC LIBRARY



WAGHODIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

was the good that resulted to the library out of the evil of plague.

**Children's
and Ladies'
Branches.**

From the account given above it will be seen that the library-work among Baroda women-world, since the beginning, has grown ten-fold in six years, rising from 955 circulation figure in the first year to 9,303 at the end of the sixth year. Not only did the circulation of books increase but the field of work also widened four-fold, beginning from one ladies' club to two such clubs, one branch library, and a separate ladies' section in the Central Library. The total stock of books now in the Ladies' Room in the Central Library is 3,000 Gujarati and Marathi books, besides an annual loan of about 2,000 English and Vernacular books from the Central Library and the stock of 1,471 books in the Mahila Library Branch. Moreover, there are two newspaper and periodical reading-rooms for women, one in the Central Library and the other in the Mahila Branch, where 18 vernacular papers are subscribed annually and are used by about 2,000 readers. Besides these a few travelling libraries are kept at a few centres in the city for the use mainly of women. These are indeed hopeful signs and augur well for the future extension of this work on a larger scale. Most of the credit of this work among the ladies of the city is due to the two lady librarians, and particularly to Mrs. Prabhudesai who has shown a commendable zeal in her work from the very beginning.

CHAPTER IV.

SANSKRIT LIBRARY BRANCH.

Its formation and development.

The Sanskrit section of the Central Library came to be formed in the latter part of the year 1912. Till then there was practically no stock of Sanskrit books in the Central Library, except a very small collection of 160 books that had been collected in a stray manner in the Palace Library. This does not mean that there was no Sanskrit collection of books elsewhere in the city. There existed one excellent collection of Sanskrit printed books and manuscripts in the Vithal Mandir belonging to the State. It contained about 1,610 manuscripts and about 1,070 printed books. Formerly there was a Sanskrit Pathshala attached to the Vithal Mandir, in which a good many valuable manuscripts came to be preserved. Besides, the Shrâvan-mâsa-Dakshina examinations, that have been held here annually for some years past, encouraged the study of Sanskrit and led to the acquisition of good manuscripts. There was also a collection of about 630 printed books in the Shri Sayaji Library of Shrimant Sampatrao. When the Central Library staff had got somewhat free from the heavy work of accessioning and classifying the entire Palace Library (then converted into the Central Library), they found time to take up the formation of special collections. We had on our staff one librarian, who was an M.A. in Sanskrit and who was doing on his own account some research work in Sanskrit and especially in the Jain literature. Besides, there were two

other librarians who knew Sanskrit. So it was feasible to organise a separate Sanskrit section.

Sanskrit
Library
Branch.

At this very time, H. H. the Maharaja Saheb, in his Ootacamand trip came across one Sanskrit Shastry, by name R. Anant-krishna Shastry, and engaged him for giving him discourses on the Bhagavad-Gita. Mr. R. A. Shastry had before that been working for 10 years with the Adyar Library, Madras, and for 9 years with the Oriental Library, Mysore, as a shashtry for searching manuscripts from all over India and had therefore gained considerable experience in this line of work. His Highness, who was thinking of organising on a fair scale a Sanskrit Library in Baroda, induced Mr. Shashtry to come over to Baroda for about six months for forming such a Library. Thus, in November 1912, with the coming of Mr. Shashtry, a beginning was made of forming a separate Sanskrit section of the Central Library.

For this purpose the first step taken was to transfer the Vithal Mandir collection of Sanskrit manuscripts and printed books to the Central Library. Thereafter Shrimant Sampatrao Gaekwar, at the request of the Central Library, kindly transferred his collection of 630 Sanskrit books as a loan to the Central Library. At this time another small but valuable collection of 446 Sanskrit manuscripts and about 60 printed books, belonging to one Yadneshwar Shashtri of Baroda, was acquired through Dewan Bahadur V. M. Samarth. At the special recommendation of Mr. R. A. Shashtry, His Highness also sanctioned Rs. 3,500 for purchasing new Sanskrit books to round out the collection of printed books. As soon as this Sanskrit section was formed, the publishers of the different Sanskrit series in India were requested to present their publications to the library. Slowly gifts of books from different sources

**Baroda
Library
Movement.**

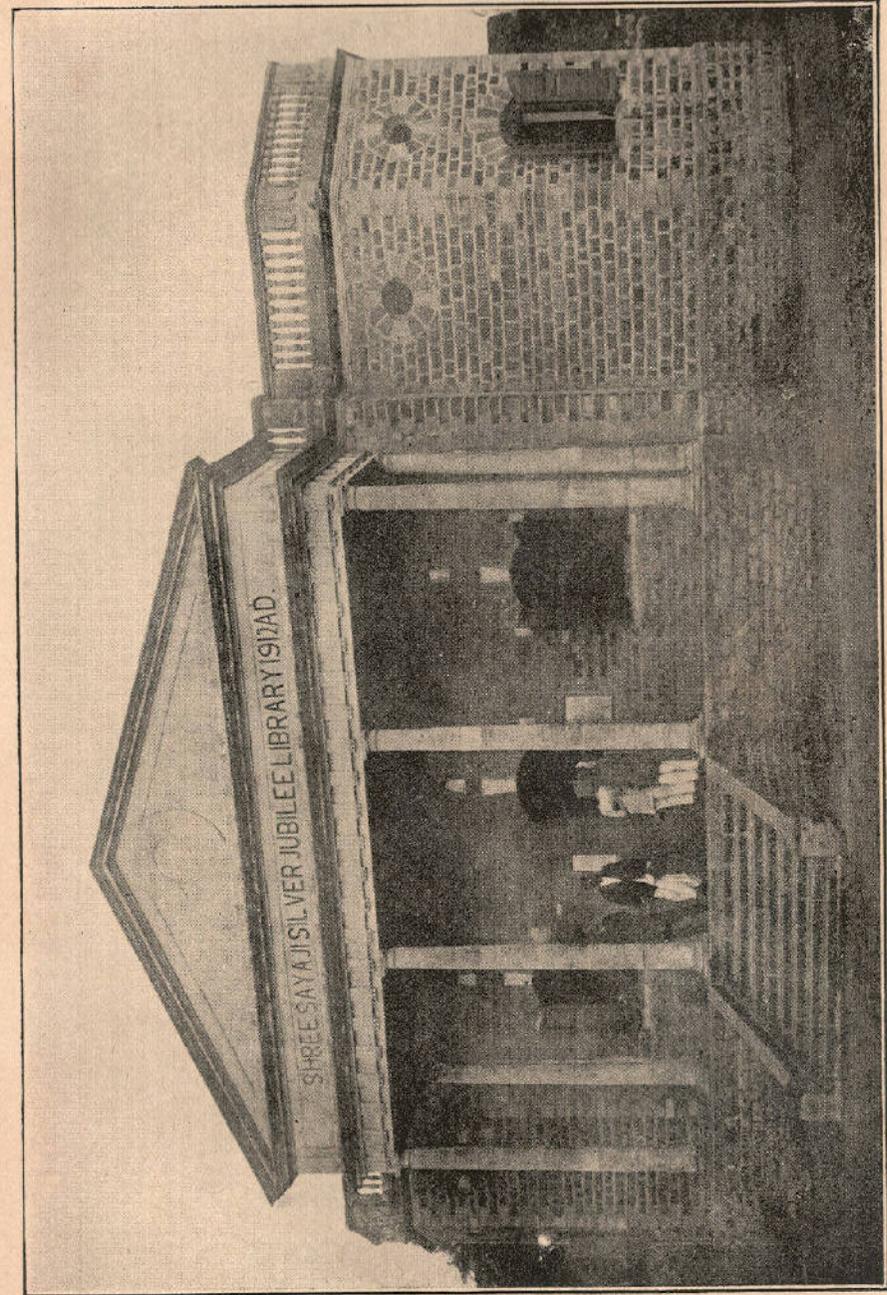
began to come in. In this way with a collection of over 2,000 manuscripts and of about 2,000 books, the Sanskrit Branch of the Central Library was given a good start on its future career.

To the manuscript collection already made came to be added a few interesting manuscript rolls written on paper in a minute hand and beautifully illuminated by artists of the Rajputana school of painting. These belonged to the Royal Deva-Ghar (or Chapel) and were kindly presented by Her Highness the Maharani Saheb. One of these rolls contains the whole of the Mahabharata and is 228 feet long, two are of the Bhagvat: one 84 feet long, dated Samvat 1871 (complete) and another 55 feet long, without the 12th skandha, one of Harivansa 44 feet long and another of the Gita 10½ feet long. Though the rolls are not more than a hundred years old and are not intended for reading with the naked eye, yet for their beauty of illustrations and the skill of the scribe's art they are a valuable acquisition.

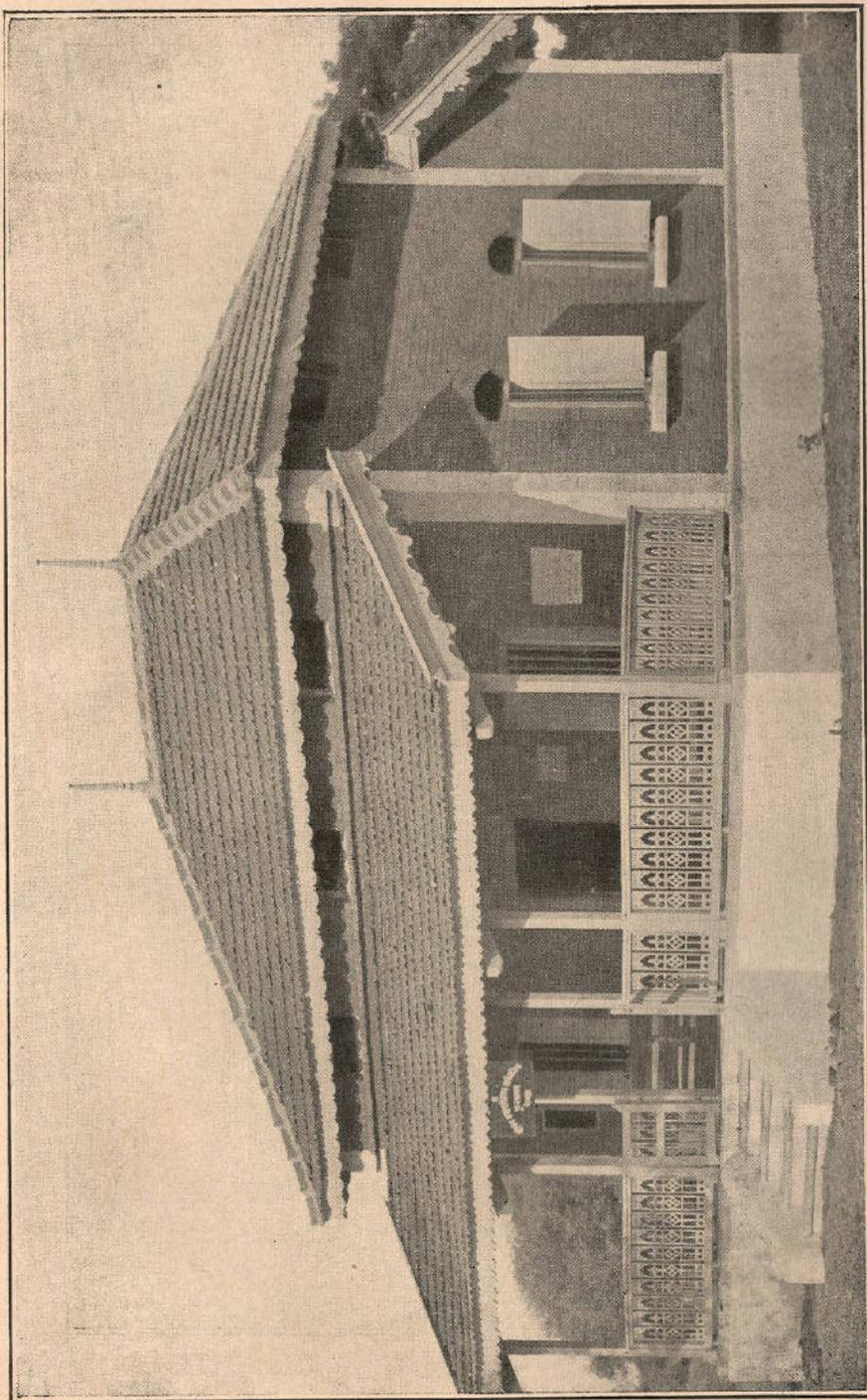
During the first year of the organisation of the Sanskrit Branch, 666 new books were added by purchase and 88 came by way of gift. During his few months' short term of service, Mr. R. A. Shashtry prepared a list of books and manuscripts and took up the work of preparing a classified catalogue of both. By the end of that year 300 manuscripts were catalogued. When Mr. Shashtry left in April 1913, Mr. C. D. Dalal, M.A., the Sanskrit scholar and trained librarian, was placed in charge of the Sanskrit library.

Special manuscript searches.

During the same year a post of a travelling Pandit for searching and reporting manuscripts was sanctioned. During the next year (1913-14), 173 printed books were added



NAVSARI PUBLIC LIBRARY (CENTRAL LIBRARY, NAVSARI DISTRICT)



VELLACHHA (VILLAGE) PUBLIC LIBRARY

to the collection and 314 manuscripts of which some belonged to the 15th and 16th centuries. This year a search of old Gujarati manuscripts was also undertaken and it yielded a hundred good works of Brahmanical and Jain literature dating from the 16th to the 19th century, some of them like "Ushaharana" and "Madhavanal" being of great philological importance. As the manuscript collection now began to grow, the Government began to take keen interest in it and became anxious to add more and valuable ones with the idea of making it a model collection for the whole of Gujarat and eventually publishing the most important of them. At the suggestion of the then Amatyā Saheb, Mr. Dalal made a report on the 30th July 1914 wherein he pointed out the great possibility of discovering important manuscripts at Pattan if a fresh thorough search of all the Jain Bhandars at Pattan were made by the State. The Government accordingly deputed Mr. C. D. Dalal, the Sanskrit Librarian, for 3 months to make a thorough search of manuscript Bhandars at Pattan, Chhani and Baroda.

The Jain Bhandars at Pattan have been famous ever since for their collection of old and rare manuscripts in Sanskrit and other languages; and this was not the first attempt that His Highness the Maharaja made to dive into their mysteries. About 25 years ago His Highness had deputed Mr. Manilal Nabhubhai Dvivedi to make a search of the Pattan Bhandars and had ordered the publication of the translations in Gujarati of the important ones therein. Accordingly 24 volumes of translation were brought out and thereafter the work came to be discontinued. Mr. Dvivedi listed the collection of ten Bhandars but he was not able to see the most important

of all the palm leaf collections, namely, that of the famous Hemachandra. Of this collection, Dr. Peterson says, "I know of no other town in India, and of few in the world, that can boast of so great a store of documents of such venerable antiquity. They would be the pride and jealously guarded treasure of any University library in Europe." Mr. Dvivedi's catalogue contains a list of 2,619 works. Before Mr. Dvivedi, scholars like Forbes, Dr. Bühler, Dr. Bhandarkar, and after him, Dr. Peterson, had made similar searches of Pattan Bhandars, but their efforts were only partially successful. Mr. Dvivedi's search however was perfunctory rather than thorough, being intended only for the purpose of vernacular translations and not for the elucidation of the texts. Besides, through the proverbial jealousy of the keepers of these Bhandars Mr. Dvivedi could get access only to a few works and not to all. This time however His Highness' Government was lucky in getting a Jain Sanskrit Scholar, Mr. Dalal, to tackle these Bhandars carefully. Mr. Dalal, who already knew more about these Bhandars through his Jain Muni friends, so won over the keepers of the Bhandars by his tact and unstinted labour that he was allowed free access to all the thirteen Bhandars in Pattan. These Jain Bhandars at Pattan contain not only Sanskrit works, Brahmanical and Jain, but possess also old and trustworthy manuscripts of old Gujarati language both in prose and poetry. These afford good materials for writing a history of the Gujarati language and philology, thereby filling up the gap between the Apabhramsa of Hemacharya's Prakrit Grammar (11th Century) and the old Gujarati of Mugdhavabodha (14th Century). In three months, Mr. Dalal examined fully the contents of all the Bhandars, which amount to about 13,000 paper and

658 palm-leaf manuscripts. He also prepared a descriptive catalogue of the 658 palm-leaf manuscripts. This search at Pattan brought to light not only some rare and important Brahmanical, Buddhistic and Jain works, but also a new literature in Apabhramsa language (about 25 in number) and works of the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries, in the Gujarati language alone. Mr. Dalal submitted a report of his search in April 1915 and a scheme for publishing the most important of these manuscripts in a series, on the lines of the other Sanskrit series published by the Bombay, Madras, Mysore, Travancore and Kashmir Governments. On the strength of this His Highness' Government sanctioned in December 1915 the publication of an Oriental Series, called the "GAEKWAD'S ORIENTAL SERIES."

The Gaekwad's Oriental Series.

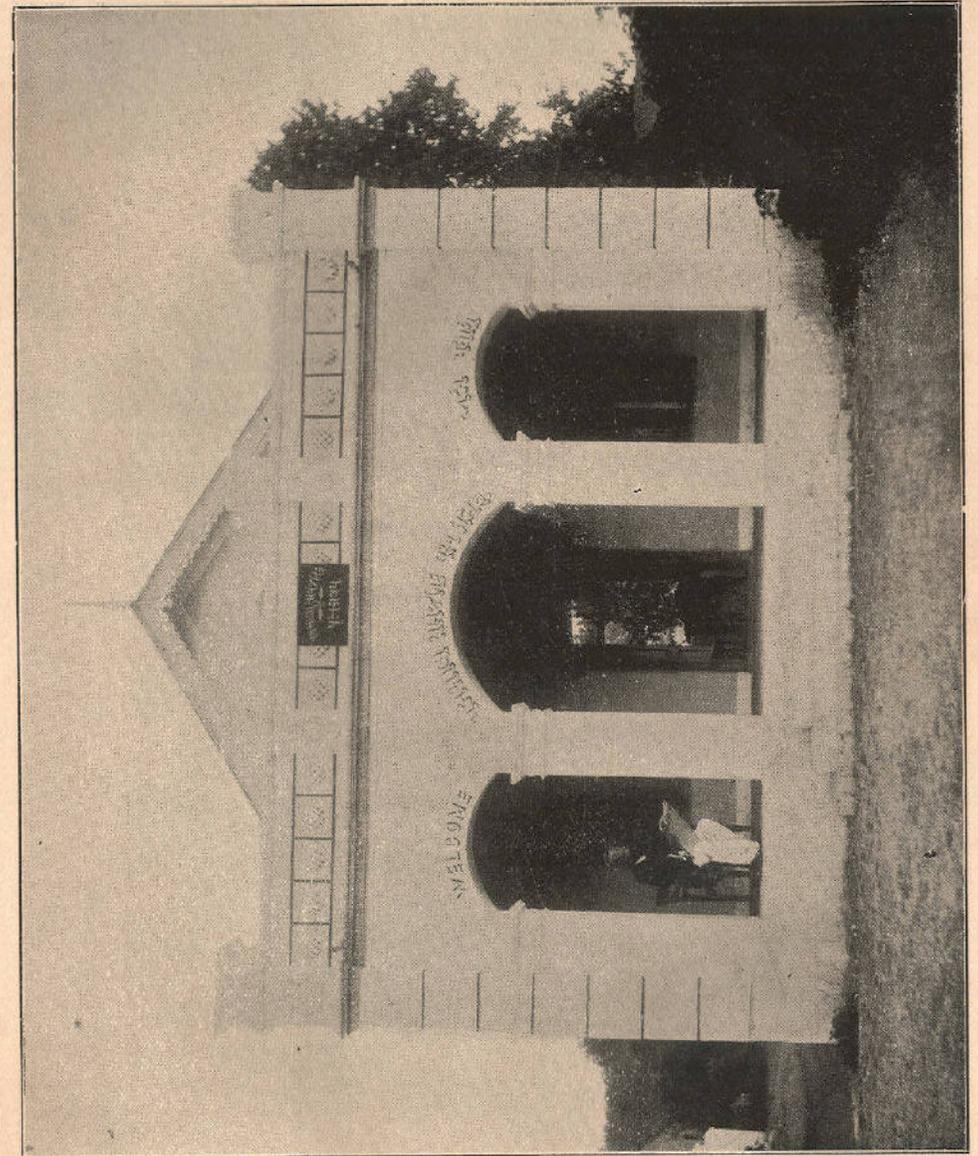
At first the Government sanctioned the publication of eleven works recommended by Mr. Dalal. Seven of these were in Sanskrit, two in Prakrit, one in Apabhramsa and one in Gujarati. The editing of each work was to include the text of the original work, with the text of commentaries if available, a preface mentioning the manuscript-material used and an introduction in English giving the substance of the work, life of its author, its position and importance in literature, its date, merits, etc. Each work was to be printed in royal octavo form. Mr. Dalal himself undertook to edit three of these and the others were proposed to be entrusted to other scholars from outside. But the Government ordered that as far as possible the majority of these works should be edited by Mr. Dalal and by Mr. R. A. Shastry, who had again joined the Department in August 1915. A sum of

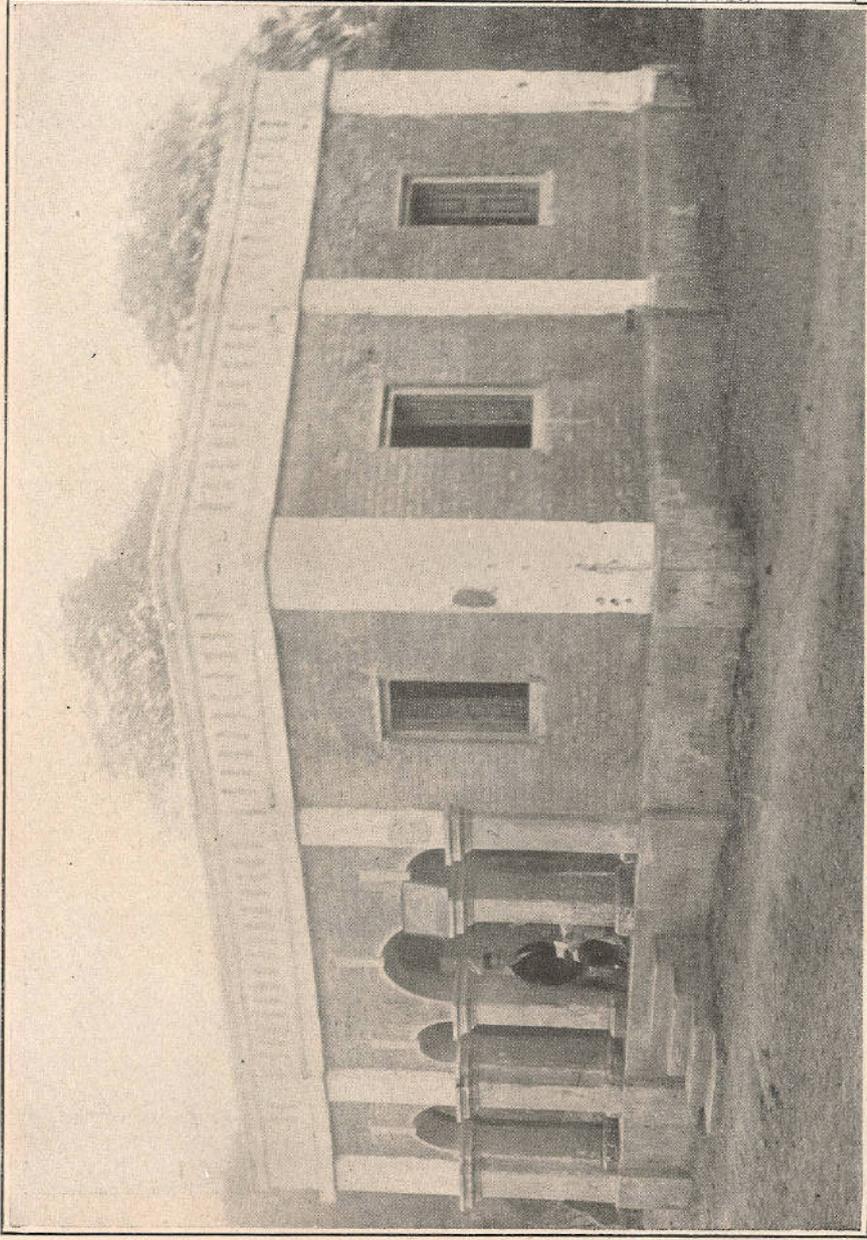
Rs. 6,000 was sanctioned as an initial expense of publishing the works, and the Series was to be published by the Central Library Department. Among the works sanctioned to be published one belonged to the 8th century, another to the 10th, a third to the 11th, two to the 12th, and so on.

The work of editing was begun in right earnest from January 1916 and the first two works—the *Kavyamimansa* (900 A. D.) and the *Naranarayananda* (between 1221 and 1231 A. D.), both works of poetry—were edited mainly by Mr. Dalal, with the assistance of Mr. R. A. Shastry, and brought out by the end of July 1916; and three more works: (3) *Hammirmada-mardana* by Jayasinha-Suri, (4) *Tarka-Sangraha* by Ananda-Jnana, and (5) *Prachina-Gurjar-Kavya-Sangraha*, Part I, were sent to the press. Thus the publication of this series went on apace.

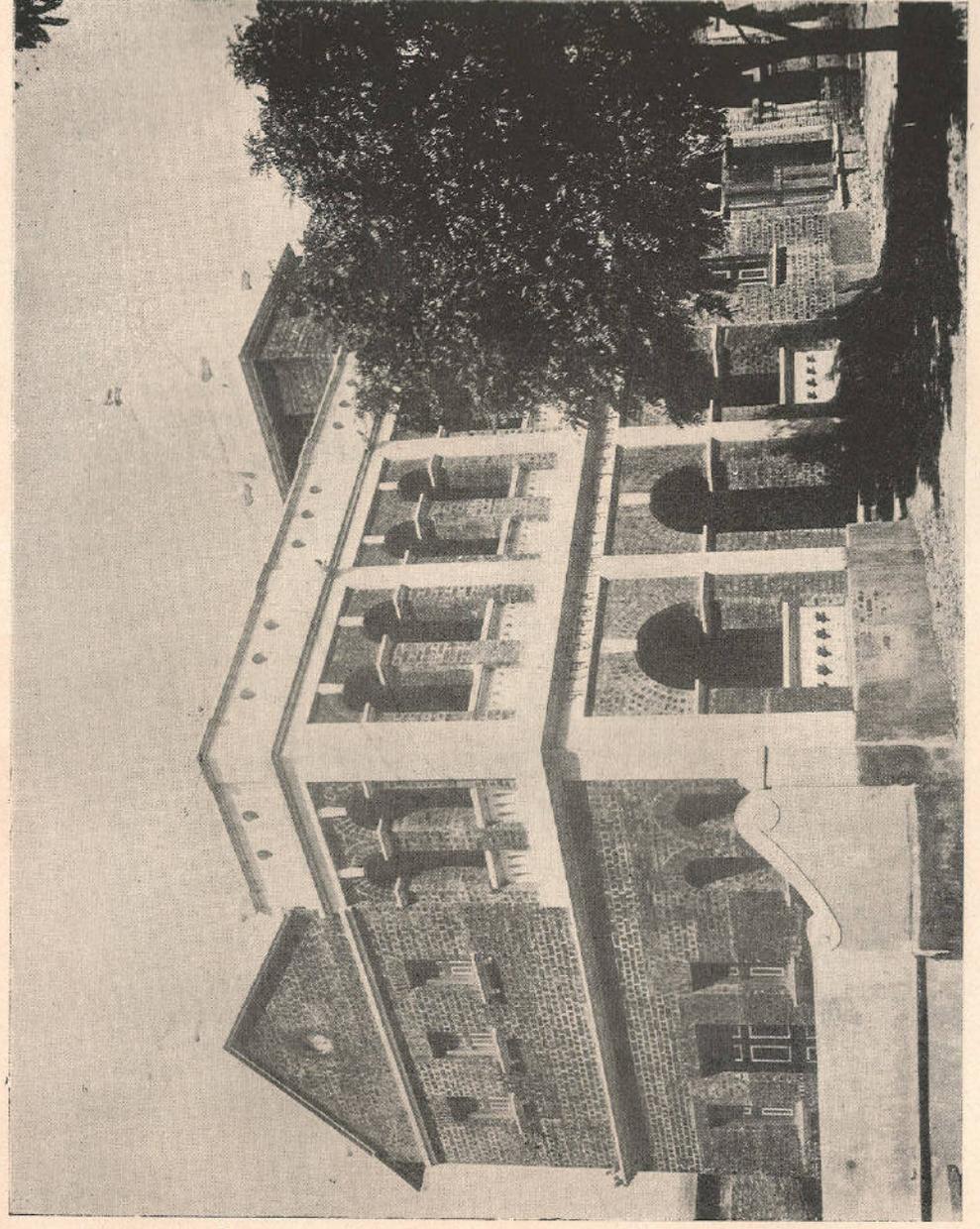
Remarkable Growth of the Library.

It was mentioned above that the services of Mr. R. A. Shastry were engaged again in August 1915. It was necessary to acquire a sufficiently large stock of good manuscript-material in order to keep the publication of the series going on continuously, as also to build up the manuscript library to a good size. Therefore, besides the work of editing works in the series, Mr. Shastry was also entrusted with the work of collecting new manuscripts. He made several tours for search of manuscripts during the year and was sometimes assisted by Mr. Dalal in this work. Thus, by July 1916, the Library was able to acquire 1,106 manuscripts from different places and to add to the printed stock of books 516 new books, mainly by purchase. Similarly, in the following year, 289 new books were added to the

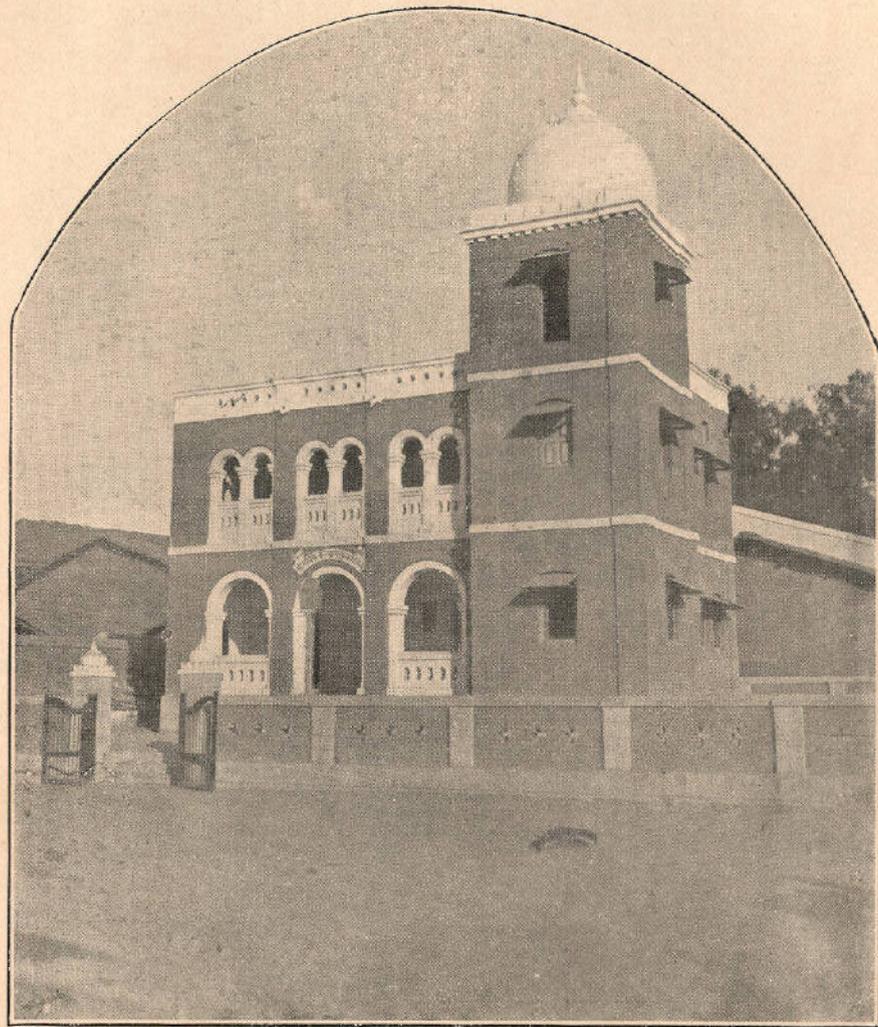




NARADIPUR (VILLAGE) PUBLIC LIBRARY



MEHSANA PUBLIC LIBRARY. (CENTRAL LIBRARY FOR KADI DISTRICT)



KADI PUBLIC LIBRARY

stock and 1,788 new manuscripts were also acquired either by purchase or gifts. The tours this year were made in parts of Gujarat, Cutch, Kathiawar, Rajputana, Central India, and Southern India, including Madras, Madura, Tinnevely, Trivandrum and other places. The most important of this year's tours was the one made by Mr. Dalal from August to December 1916 in Rajputana, including Jessalmer. He visited 15 places and inspected 15 thousand manuscripts of which 250 were found to be very important. As in Pattan, Mr. Dalal's search at Jessalmer was crowned with phenomenal success. The great Jain Bhandar at Jessalmer is well known to oriental scholars as being a very important one, containing as it does the oldest and rarest palm-leaf manuscripts in the whole of India, copies of which are not found elsewhere. Dr. Bühler was the first scholar to examine this Bhandar in 1872, but he was shown only 40 "pothis". After him went Prof. S. R. Bhandarkar but he too could not get access to the whole collection. But Mr. Dalal was here again fortunate, as at Pattan, in being able to examine carefully all the 3,000 paper manuscripts, and 344 palm-leaf ones, the total contents of the Bhandar. He also prepared a descriptive catalogue of all the palm-leaf manuscripts, the necessity of which was strongly urged before by both Dr. Bühler and Prof. Bhandarkar. These descriptive catalogues of the important manuscripts discovered both at Pattan and Jessalmer by Mr. Dalal are now to be published in the "Gaekwad's Oriental Series." For these valuable services of Mr. Dalal, His Highness the Maharaja Saheb presented him with a silver medal and a purse of Rs. 500. By the end of July 1917 three more works were published in the Gaekwad's Oriental Series and eight more were being

Sanskrit
Library
Branch.

printed. The work of collecting important manuscripts was pushed on with the same vigour as before, and in the last official year (August 1917-18) 1,271 new manuscripts were added to the collection. This year also saw two more works in the Gaekwad's Oriental Series brought out of the press.

A Unique Oriental Institute in Gujarat.

By the end of 1918, the Sanskrit Library possessed a stock of 4,579 printed books and 7,616 manuscripts. Considering that this is the work of only six years, quite a short period for forming such an excellent collection, it must be declared to be an unparalleled record in the history of any library. Baroda has now got a unique and in fact the largest Sanskrit Library in the whole of Gujarat, perhaps the second library in that respect in Western India. It will greatly encourage Sanskrit research work on this side and may very well lead to the formation of a Central Oriental Research Institute or of an Oriental University for the whole of Gujarat.

The "Gaekwad's Oriental Series" too, during the short period of only three years, has made a good progress, having to its credit ten works already published, about ten more in the press and about the same number under preparation. Mr. Dalal's share in the work of editing the Series is really praiseworthy, he alone having undertaken 14 works and having written Introduction and Notes to two others. The Series has been able to secure favourable opinions from several Oriental Scholars, including Dr. A. A. Macdonell, Sir G. A. Grierson, and Sir Vincent A. Smith, and high appreciation from the public press, like the "London Times", and others too numerous to be mentioned.

CHAPTER V.

THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM.

Early Beginnings.

In 1901, H. H. the Maharaja Saheb desired the Dewan to put into action without delay His Highness' idea of opening "a circulating library as an experimental measure in one of the Mahal Kasba Towns and circulating books among the people with a view to disseminate general knowledge and information." His Highness expressed his opinion that "the experiment need not be started with an advanced town like Petlad, but in order to watch its results, should commence with any other Kasba town with a group of 20 villages centrally connected to it; that it should be a *free* circulating library at the commencement, some fee being only gradually introduced when a large number of readers begins to avail itself of the advantages thus offered; that the books should be of popular and instructive character capable of developing the general intelligence of the masses and of affording them culture, and that the experiment, if proved satisfactory, should be extended to other Mahals." This was the germ of the idea of giving public libraries to the people of Baroda.

It took three years for this idea to germinate, and two years more for it to grow into a thriving plant.

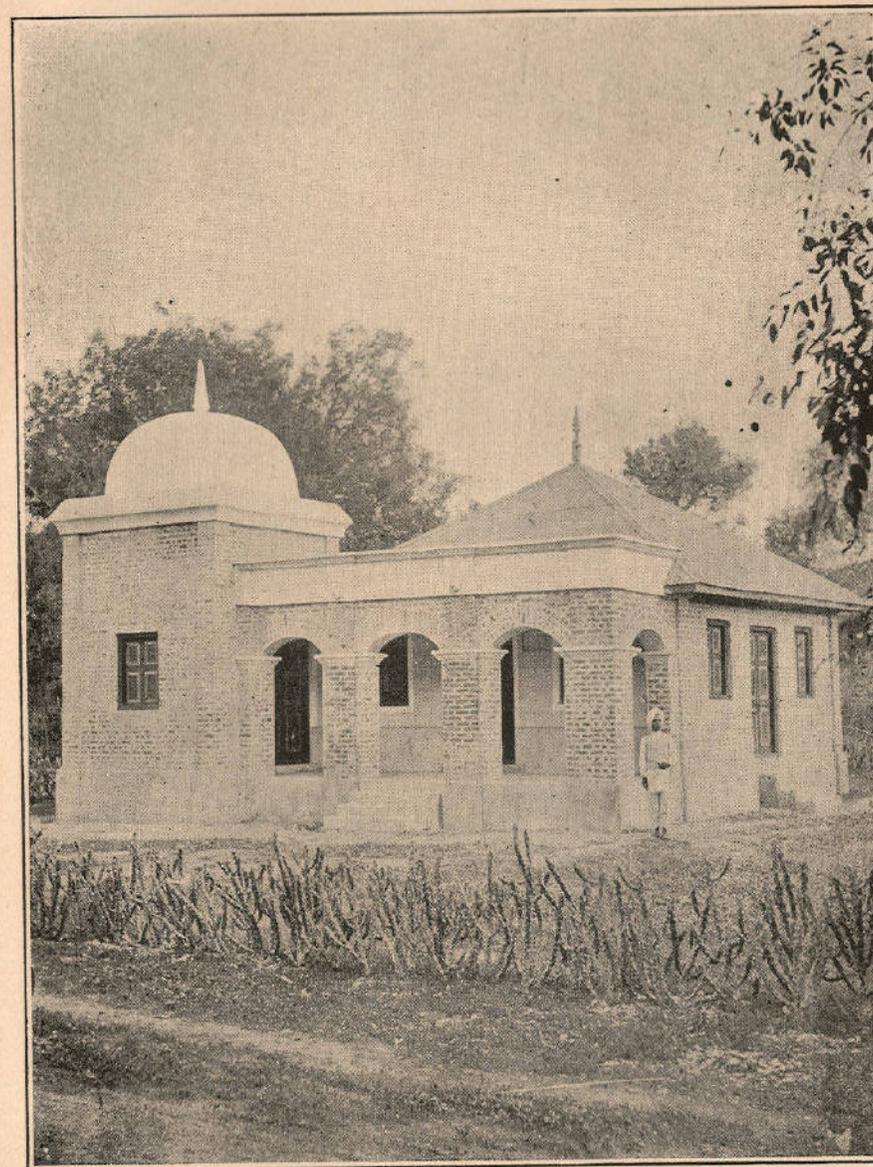
From America, His Highness in 1906, sent to the Minister of Education a cablegram, followed by a detailed order, in which he directed "that *circulating libraries should be established in every Taluka or Peta Mahal (of the State) so that people in villages also may have opportunities to read*

**Baroda
Library
Movement.**

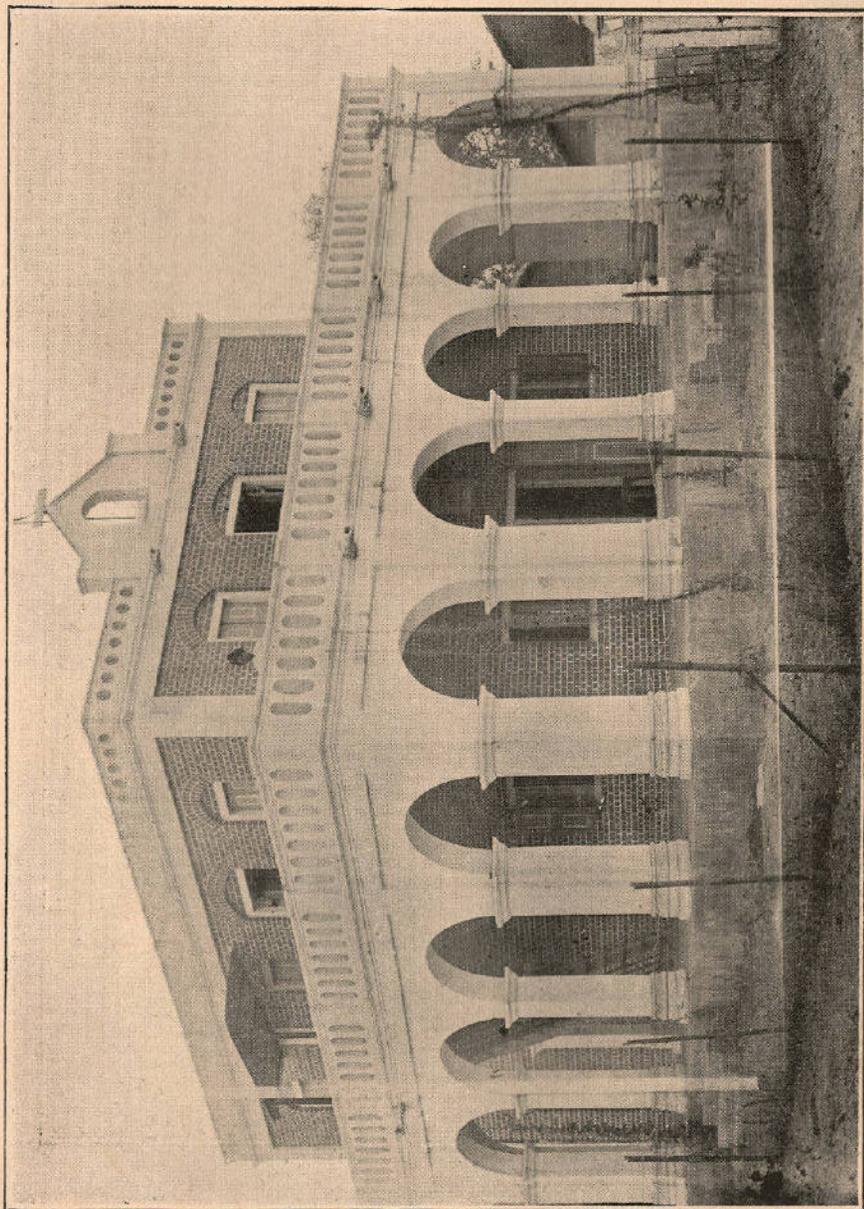
books, periodicals and newspapers." The Minister was asked to draw up a detailed scheme to carry out this object without delay, and in case any point of difficulty arose, His Highness promised "to give the necessary instructions from his own experience of such institutions in America and Europe." In order to ensure the success of this scheme a sum of Rs. 30,000 for the whole Raj was sanctioned, out of which amount the necessary books, furniture, etc., were to be purchased. His Highness desired that the scheme, in the first place, should be brought into force without delay in such Mahals of the Amreli Prant as had no libraries already. Standard plans for the library buildings were to be prepared, though at the commencement the libraries were to be started in hired buildings. These libraries were to be practically free, though a nominal fee could be charged for maintenance, loss of books, etc. To enlist the interest of the public in such institutions, the Local Boards and Municipalities were to be utilised, as far as possible, in carrying out this scheme. To add to the further success of the scheme, translations and other books published at Government expense were ordered to be supplied to these libraries, and arrangements were also made to send them newspapers and periodicals in boxes from Baroda. Public co-operation was also welcomed by inviting the existing libraries "to undertake the business of circulating books, etc." In this Huzur Order we see at once the detailed plans of a public library system, as also a foreshadowing of the travelling-library scheme.

Circulating Libraries.

The Minister of Education thereupon drew up a detailed scheme of opening circulating libraries in the State, and



DEHGAUM PUBLIC LIBRARY



VIJAPUR PUBLIC LIBRARY

his scheme was sanctioned in March 1907 with the following provisos: Every library opened with State-aid was to be called a "circulating" library, and was to be named after the place of its location. It was to be housed in a building hired, or given for free use, by the people who were also to provide the necessary furniture. The administration was entrusted to the school-master working under the instructions of the President of the Panchayat (Local Board). Neighbouring villages, willing to contribute to the library fund, were to be given the benefit of the library. The use of the library books and papers on the premises was entirely free, but for home use a nominal fee of half an anna per month was to be charged. The purchase of books, papers, etc., and other internal management, rested entirely with the people of the place, the Government only showing the way at the commencement. With these conditions, (1) the Government agreed to contribute every year a sum equal to that raised by the people, (but not more than Rs. 24) for the purchase of papers and periodicals only for one Reading Room; (2) if the people raised Rs. 25 for the purchase of books, the Government would, for this sum, supply a set of books worth Rs. 100 for every new Library; and (3) the Government would further present to every library a set of translations and other books published at Government expense.

It must be mentioned here that, while the idea of definitely laying the beginnings of the public library movement in the Baroda State was being matured departmentally, the ground was being prepared in other quarters for receiving the seed of the new idea. His Highness' earlier measure for introducing free and compulsory primary education in the State was striking firmer roots in the soil,

and some enthusiasts in the State educational service had already caught the fire of His Highness' zeal for the advance of education. They began to spread knowledge among the masses by starting local associations of teachers and other educated persons in sympathy with the cause of mass education. His Highness' first idea of starting free circulating libraries for groups of villages was brought into practice by these local associations by starting reading circles and reading rooms among rural communities in July 1906. These local associations came to be known by the name of "Mitra-Mandal" (friendly circles) and were started not only in the Baroda State but in the adjoining districts of British Gujarat. They were not connected with one another by any formal link, save that they owed their origin to the initiative of one person, Mr. Motibhai N. Amin, B.A., Head Master of the Anglo-Vernacular School at Petlad, now Assistant Curator of Libraries, Baroda. In the first year of their activity there were 30 Reading Rooms started by these associations in the Baroda State. Next year (April 1907) when the Government scheme of Circulating Libraries was brought into force, the Mitra Mandals approached the Government for help and were given Rs. 15 annually for each Reading Room and Rs. 100 worth of books for Rs. 25 to each Library. Assisted by these grants the Mitra Mandals pushed on their work with zeal and vigour, and brought into existence as many as 100 Reading Rooms and Libraries in the State of Baroda. It will thus be seen how the Government scheme helped to encourage other co-operating agencies to carry out its object on a wider scale, and to spread a network of rural libraries throughout the State within a very short period of time.

Under the Government scheme the Prant Panchayats, by way of taking greater interest in works of public utility, were expected to help this scheme of public education, and were therefore asked to contribute every year a total sum of Rs. 2,900 from all the four Prants : Baroda Prant contributing Rs. 900, Kadi Rs. 1,000, Navasari Rs. 700, and Amreli Rs. 300. The public "Choras" or rest-houses in villages were also to be utilised, wherever possible, for library purposes.

The scheme of Circulating Libraries was thus set working with highly satisfactory results. In the first year 100 Village Libraries were started, of which 75 were administered by the Mitra Mandals. Next year the number of libraries rose to 151 and in the following two years it went up to 166 and 223. Besides these libraries, there were started mere Reading Rooms for newspapers and periodicals. Their number fluctuated from 60 in the first year to 20 in the fourth year, because some of them, having succeeded in raising sums of Rs. 25 each for purchase of books, were eventually converted into Libraries.

Besides these Village Libraries, there existed in the State 24 Town Libraries owned by private bodies of subscribers, 19 of these having buildings of their own. The total Government expenditure for all these Libraries and Reading Rooms for four years (from 1907 to 1911) amounted to Rs. 74,091 (including commission on books purchased and prices of Government publications presented), the Panchayats' contribution to which was Rs. 9,649. Altogether the Government, the people and the Panchayats working together spent a sum of Rs. 97,890 during the first four years for the spread of public libraries in the State.

Free Public Libraries.

Baroda
Library
Movement.

In educational movements such as these greater benefit is derived from intensive rather than extensive development. Out of the 200 and more Circulating Libraries that were opened during the four years, a considerable number gradually fell into a moribund condition. Instead of remaining increasingly active year after year, they became practically dead from the point of view of public utility. The reasons for this were not far to seek. Under the Circulating Library scheme, books were given to them once for all. There was no provision made for adding fresh supplies of books to the old stock ; therefore, when the novelty of the first stock had worn off, the books became less and less used, and either remained rotting on the shelves or got scattered for lack of interest. A library is like a reservoir of drinking water ; it must continually be fed by a running stream if it is not to become stagnant and unusable. But a constant supply of new books meant more money for further purchases, which again called for fresh annual grants, and there was no provision in the scheme for such annual grants. It further implied a living interest in the library on the part of the persons in charge of them ; but the libraries had hardly any budget to maintain even menials drawing Rs. 3 or 4 per month, much less to pay for good librarians. Further, good librarians meant good knowledge of library work, and more intelligent direction from above. If the library was to strike deeper roots in the soil, it required a thorough reconstruction of the existing system, and such a reconstruction required to be planned by some one possessing an intimate knowledge of the intricate working of public library organisations in other countries. It was again the United States of America that was called in for help.

His Highness the Maharaja Saheb, during his second tour in America in 1910, took the opportunity to study more carefully the problem of the public library movement in that country. His Highness was on the lookout for one who knew that movement intimately from its very inception and who was willing to go to Baroda to undertake the work of reconstruction that was awaiting him there. Fortunately for Baroda, His Highness found such a man in Mr. W. A. Borden, who was, as we have said before, fully qualified for the task. Mr. Borden's investigations, after his arrival in Baroda, of the library situation in the State, convinced him that there need be no further hesitation about beginning his work in right earnest.

The Free
Public
Library
System.

In his investigations Mr. Borden found that in Baroda City alone there were more than half a dozen book collections of no mean proportions. The Palace Library, the Shri Sayaji Library, the Baroda College Library, with some of the Departmental Libraries, possessed among them an aggregate of 1,50,000 volumes. Distributed throughout the State Mr. Borden found other libraries aided by State, Municipal, or Panchayat grants. In Baroda Prant there were 14 libraries with 14,140 volumes ; in the Kadi Prant there were 11 libraries with 6,770 volumes ; in the Navsari Prant 9 libraries with 12,668 volumes ; and in the Amreli Prant 6 libraries with 6,018 volumes. Thus in the four districts of the State, there were 40 larger libraries with nearly 40,000 volumes in their possession. There were again about 200 or more very small Village and Town Libraries with an aggregate of 25,000 volumes supervised by the Educational Department of the State. Mr. Borden therefore conceived the idea of bringing all these libraries under a more centralised

organisation with an independent department of libraries, called the Central Library Department. The work of this department would consist of

- (1) The creation of a Central Library for Baroda.
- (2) The starting of a Library class for training students in the art of library administration.
- (3) The creation of an Information Bureau, for the collection of information from periodicals on all matters worthy of note and especially on the activities of different Indian communities.
- (4) The organising of libraries in the various talukas and especially creating a taste and desire in the people for having libraries of their own in their own villages, and putting the existing libraries on a better footing and opening new libraries wherever really necessary.

It was expected that in some ten years the whole scheme would be in good working order and would necessitate an investment of some 18 lakhs of rupees—a pretty large sum no doubt, but “from the national intelligence it would foster, it would be considered as good an investment of capital as one could make.”

With the first three functions we have already dealt. We are here concerned only with the last. This function involved the accomplishment of the following definite ends :—

- (1) Establishment of Free Libraries where none exists.
- (2) Encouragement and aid to small libraries already in existence.
- (3) Conversion of Subscription Libraries into Free Libraries.

- (4) Introduction of State “Travelling Libraries” in schools, libraries and clubs.
- (5) Co-operation with literary men in preparing reading lists on special subjects and general lists for special classes.

The Reports sent by the secretaries of different Circulating Libraries managed by the Minister of Education showed that out of the 200 Village Libraries only about 100 were in working order. This clearly proved that the efforts of the people to organise libraries and to put them on a sound basis had not met with complete success. It was necessary that the Government and the Panchayats should enter into complete co-operation with the people. The Library Department, therefore, keeping this principle of co-operation in view and having especially in mind the conditions and needs of the people for whom these libraries were intended, prepared a set of Rules for the formation of Free Public Libraries. These Rules passed into State legislation by a Council Order, dated 27th June 1911. A brief summary of this legislation is given below :—

“In the Rules which will be called ‘Free Public Library Rules’ it is provided that when the citizens of a village raise a sum not exceeding Rs. 50 annually for the maintenance of a free reading room, the Panchayat of the Prant and the Central Library Department shall each pay an equal amount to the same reading room. When the villagers raise a further sum of Rs. 25 and pay it to the Central Library the latter will present them with Vernacular books of the value of Rs. 100.

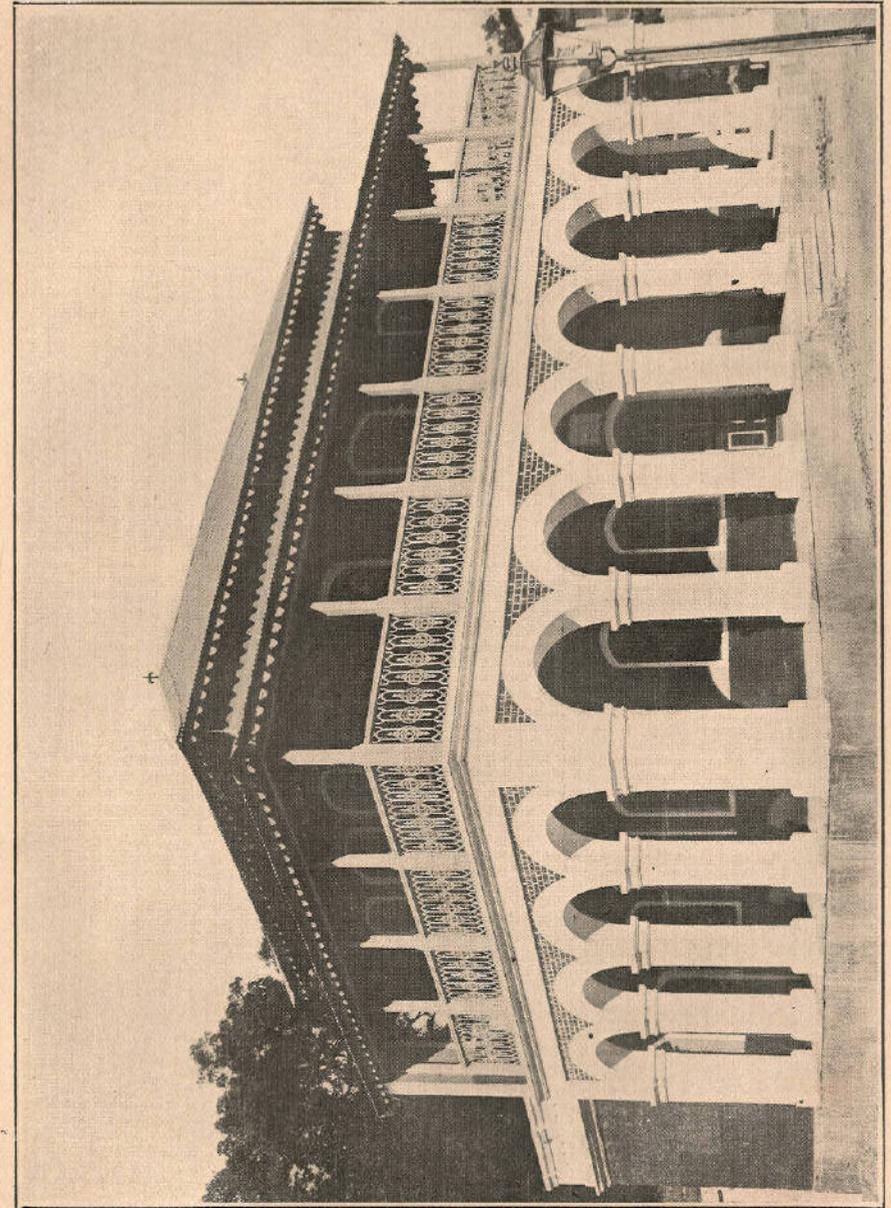
**Baroda
Library
Movement.**

When the inhabitants of a town having a population of more than 4,000 raise any sum not exceeding Rs. 300 annually for the maintenance of a free public library, the Municipality of the town or the Prant Panchayat and the Central Library Department will each donate a sum equal to the amount raised. Prant or District Libraries may claim a sum upto Rs. 700 from the Central Library and the Panchayat separately if a like amount is raised by the people of the Prant.

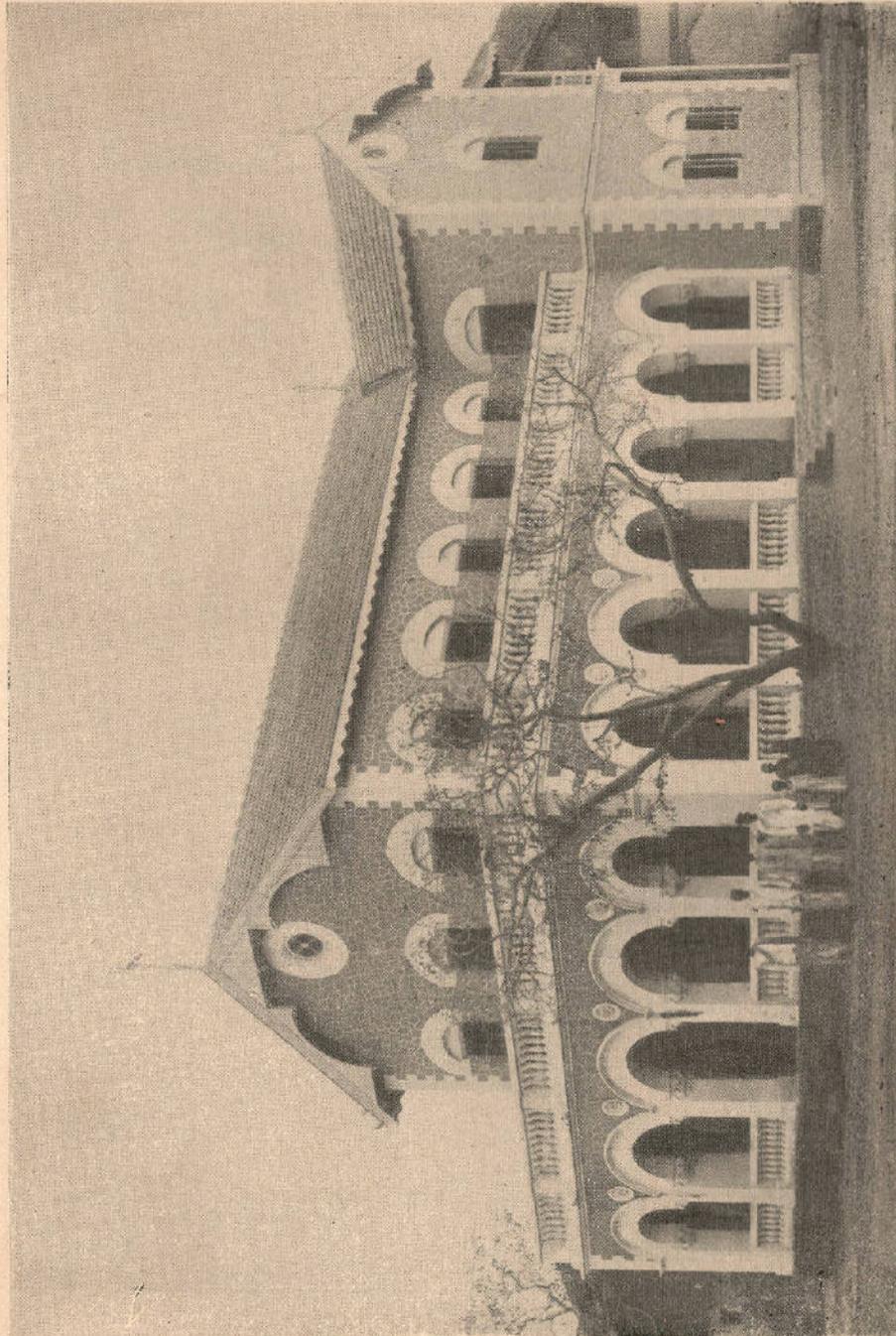
If one-third of the sum required for the erection of a library building in any village, town or Prant, is raised by their respective inhabitants, the other two-thirds will be defrayed by the Central Library Department and the Prant Panchayat. All Village and Town Libraries will be entitled to receive the travelling libraries regularly sent out by the Central Library Department. The management of all Village, Town and Prant Libraries will vest in a committee of from 3 to 9 persons who shall be elected annually by the whole body of subscribers to the annual fund of the said library.

All aided libraries established under these Rules or which receive Government aid in any shape shall be open and *free to the public without distinction of caste, race or creed.*

Finally it is stated in the Rules that the Government will be prepared to consider favourably any proposal that may be made by a Prant Panchayat or any other local body for raising funds for library purposes by means of special



VISNAGAR PUBLIC LIBRARY



AMRELI PUBLIC LIBRARY. (CENTRAL LIBRARY, AMRELI DISTRICT)

taxation, such as the imposition of a small library rate of, say, one or two annas, annually, per head of the literate adult male population." **The Free Public Library System.**

In this way the Free Public Library movement was inaugurated in Baroda by His Highness the Maharaja Saheb in 1911. Just as, years ago, far in advance of contemporary Indian statesmen, His Highness struck in boldly for free and compulsory education in his State, so once again His Highness asserted himself along this new line of activity in order to enlighten the appalling ignorance of his subjects which is the stumbling block to all progress. Less foresighted administrators would have been disposed to consider the enterprise a premature and a wasteful one. But was not the same thing said of free and compulsory education only a few years ago? Moreover, the experiment is not a new one. It has been tried in most of the European and American States and has borne fruits of inestimable value in stimulating the national intelligence. The free public library is but the result and the complement of universal education which is everywhere being advocated.

For the successful working of the new scheme an intimate knowledge of local conditions and of previous experiments in this line was necessary. Mr. Borden therefore obtained the services of Mr. Motibhai N. Amin, at whose initiation, as we have already seen, most of the Mitra Mandal libraries and reading rooms had come into existence.

The cost of opening and developing the Town and Village Libraries was partly met by the annual grant of Rs. 24,996, distributed as follows: Rs. 6,000 for opening new Village Libraries, Rs. 4,500 for opening Town Libraries, Rs. 1,500 for the three Prant Libraries, Rs. 12,000 for Library build-

ings and Rs. 996 for the salary of the staff of this branch. There was also transferred to this Department by the Educational Department a sum of Rs. 15,000, which remained with it as balance of the original grant of Rs. 30,000 for creating subscription libraries. Of this Rs. 6,000 were spent for creating 150 travelling libraries and the remainder for supplying books worth Rs. 100 to each new library on payment of Rs. 25.

At the end of the official year (1910-11) when the Educational Department transferred the work of opening public libraries to the Central Library Department there were 223 Village Libraries and 20 Reading Rooms. Besides these there were 24 Town Libraries owned by private bodies of subscribers, and of these 19 had buildings of their own. During its first year (1911-12) of work the Central Library Department converted 9 of the subscription Town Libraries into Free Public Libraries, opened 42 new Village Libraries and brought new life into the 223 former Village Libraries by giving fresh grants, and opened 60 Reading Rooms. Thus at the close of this first year, out of the 100 villages of the State having a population of from 4,000 and 2,000, 71 had Public Libraries; out of the 326 villages with a population of between 2,000 and 1,000, 119 had public libraries, and out of 2,630 small hamlets of less than 1,000, 75 had such libraries. In the following year (1912-13) the number of Town Libraries rose to 34, of Village Libraries to 310, and of reading rooms to 79. Besides the 19 Town Libraries that had their former buildings, 11 more Town Libraries and 3 Village Libraries were given building grants. The circulation of books in the 34 Town Libraries was 61,838, while the Village Libraries circulated 37,693 books, thus bringing the total circulation of books in all the rural libraries to 99,531. During the former year the Govern-

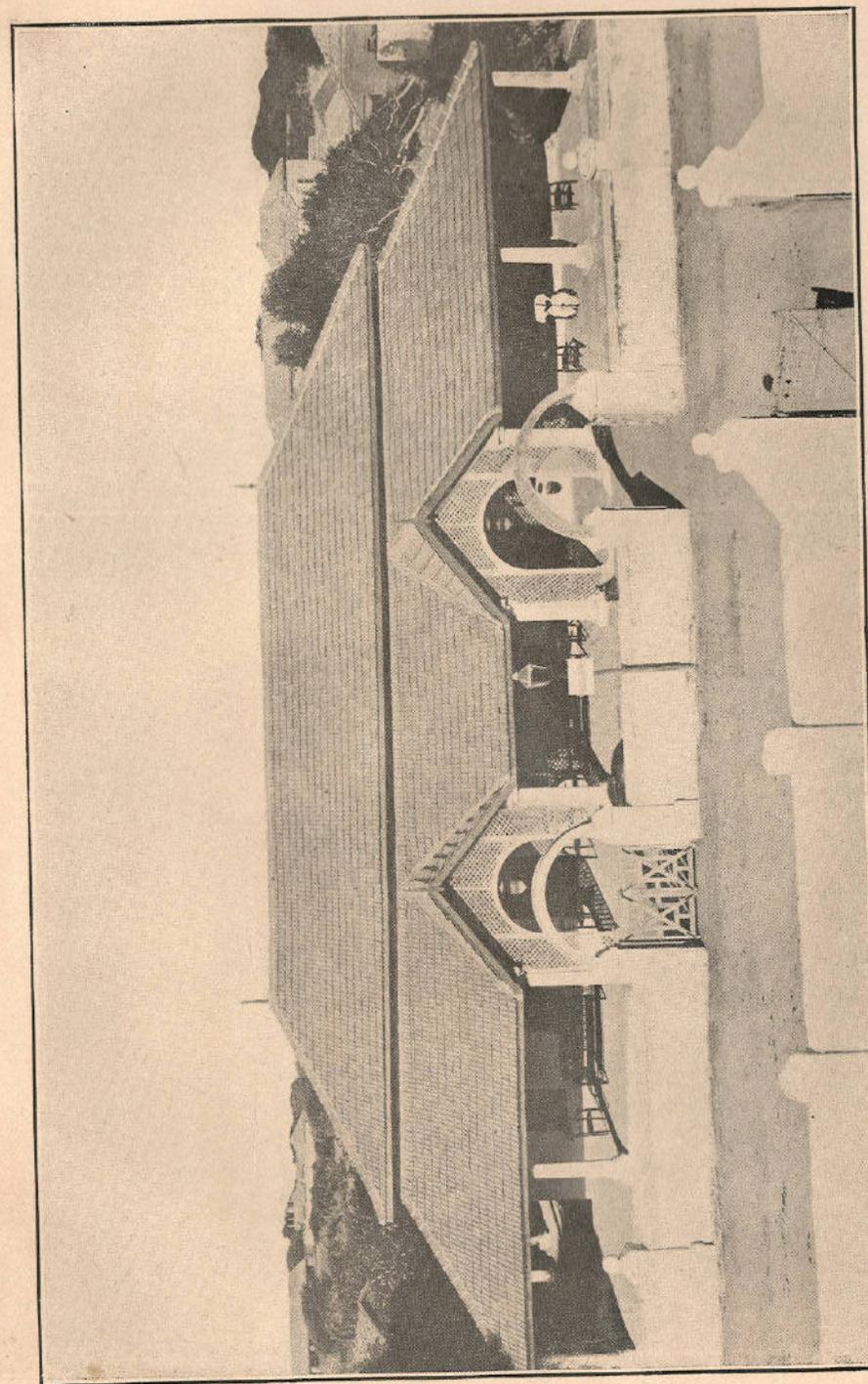
ment expenditure on libraries was only Rs. 11,651 which this year rose to Rs. 45,607.

This year is rather important in the history of Baroda libraries on account of the two important schemes of development of libraries submitted by Mr. Borden for the consideration of the Government. First of these schemes is dated 25th March 1912, and is based on a "Report on the Organisation of Libraries in Baroda State" submitted by Mr. Borden at the desire of H. H. the Maharaja Saheb on 21st July 1911, almost immediately after the first working scheme for these libraries was commenced. Mr. Borden asked the Government to sanction a sum of over Rs. 20 lakhs (or, to be exact, Rs. 20,60,869) to be distributed over ten years for completely organising the entire library system from the Central Library at Baroda to the very small Village Libraries. When these ten years had elapsed and all the libraries had been set on a solid working basis, a further grant of Rs. 1,20,300 for annual maintenance of the entire system was asked for. In this scheme the following proposals were made:—(1) to erect a decent building for the Central Library at Baroda at a cost of Rs. 6 lakhs (4 lakhs for the building and 2 lakhs for book-stacks and furniture); (2) to spend Rs. 36,000 for presenting collections of books to the twelve first class Town Libraries for rounding out their existing stock of books, to contribute Rs. 13,300 as building grant to these libraries and Rs. 2,000 annually for their maintenance; (3) to set apart a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 for founding the three Prant Libraries at Navsari, Amreli and Mehsana with decent buildings each large enough to house a collection of 20,000 volumes and to provide annually Rs. 2,000 for their maintenance. This part of the scheme was to be taken up after the building of the Central Library at Baroda was

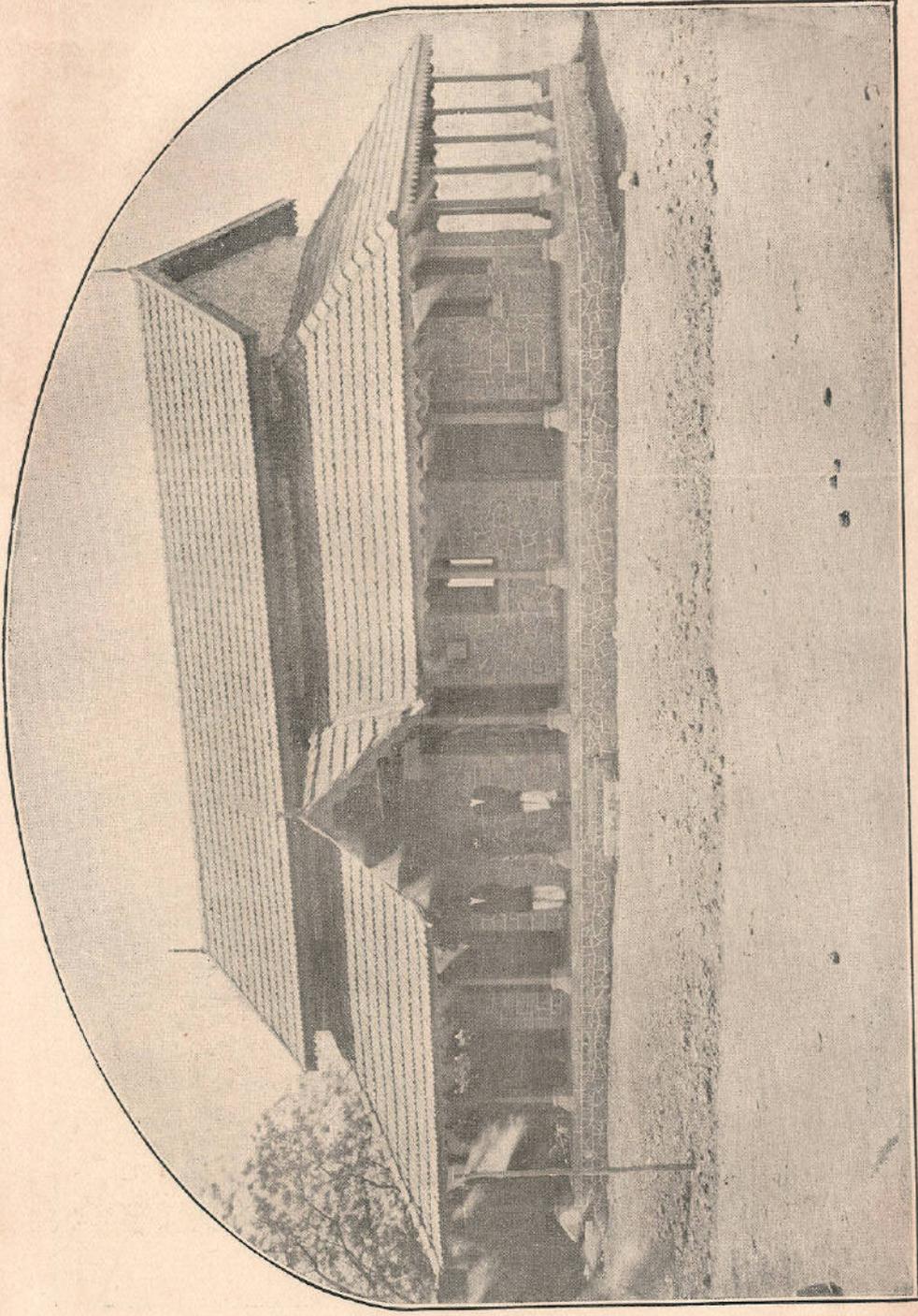
Bareda
Library
Movement.

finished in three years ; (4) to contribute for the 27 smaller Town Libraries Rs. 30,000 for books, Rs. 13,000 as one-third share of their building fund, and also Rs. 3,000 a year for their maintenance ; (5) lastly, for founding libraries in the 387 villages each with a population of over 1,000 and for supplying them with small buildings and collections of about 500 books to each, to contribute Rs. 1,80,000 for books, Rs. 70,000 to the building fund and an annual outlay of Rs. 13,000 for maintenance.

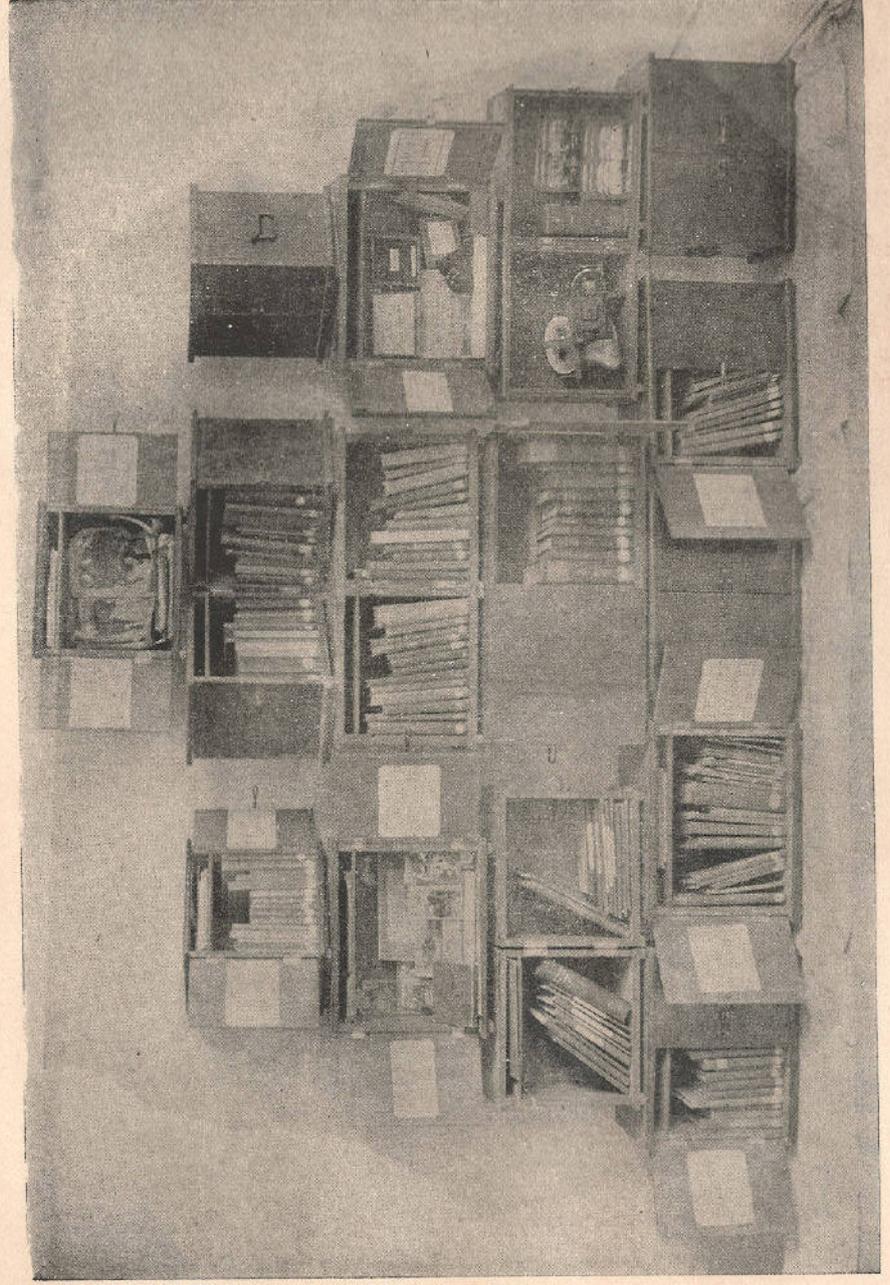
The year in which this scheme was submitted being one of financial depression, the scheme, though generally approved, had to be cut up into sections according to separate individual requirements. Therefore in August 1912 Mr. Borden submitted another less ambitious scheme taking up therein the question of the town libraries only. The special reason of submitting this scheme at once was this. If the organisation of Town Libraries were left to the natural working of the conditions established under the "Rules for the Foundation of Public Libraries" lately passed, they would in course of time all possess libraries and library buildings, but the time would be long ; in some instances very long. What was desired was to quicken up the natural action of these Rules and to put these libraries at once upon the footing they might ultimately attain and thus achieve for the present generation the good they would accomplish for the next. Besides if the citizens of most of the towns, as well as the Panchayats, contributed their quotas for the building purposes, their powers of contribution will be well nigh exhausted ; therefore the buying of the necessary books for them was advised to be taken up by the Government. Considering carefully the individual needs of the Town Libraries in each Prant, the total requirements for buildings and books



DWARKA PUBLIC LIBRARY



RATANPUR (VILLAGE) PUBLIC LIBRARY



TRAVELLING LIBRARY SETS OF BARODA CENTRAL LIBRARY DEPARTMENT



TRAVELLING LIBRARY CASE PRESENTED TO H. E. LADY WILLINGDON
BY BARODA CENTRAL LIBRARY

came to Rs. 1,39,346. Of this amount the Government share was fixed at the liberal figure of Rs. 77,870 for four years or Rs. 19,467 every year. The expenditure for books was borne wholly or partly by the Government, who set apart for books alone the sum of Rs. 49,666-10-8. Besides these the Government's share of annual maintenance charges came to Rs. 10,700. The Government therefore sanctioned for books and building grants Rs. 20,000 for the first year and approved of the provision of the same amount being made in the annual budget for the following years.

The Free
Public
Library
System.

The working out of the scheme proceeded at such a rate that during the year 1912-13, 25 new libraries had been founded bringing up the number to 34, and 11 of these came forward with demands for library buildings. At the close of the 5th year 1916-17, all the 42 Town and Prant libraries had provided themselves not only with respectable stock of books but also with their own buildings in which to house them. The Village Libraries also made satisfactory progress during the six years having increased from 325 to 494, and 35 of these were found with their own buildings as against only 3 in 1912-13.

The total stock of books in all the town and village libraries at the end of 1917-18 was 2,44,483 and their total circulation was 2,14,469. Besides these, 42 Town and 494 Village Libraries, there were in 1917-18, 66 newspaper reading rooms. Government expenditure on buildings alone came to Rs. 91,764, of which Rs. 68,172 were contributed to the Town Library buildings and Rs. 23,582 to the Village Library buildings. On special book grants to Village Libraries the Government has spent about Rs. 20,000.

Thus to summarise the library situation in the Baroda State, outside the city of Baroda, at the end of July 1918:—

- (1) All the 42 large and small towns of the State with a population of 4,07,958 had free public libraries with good buildings and adequate stock of books.
- (2) In the villages 560 small libraries and reading rooms have made provision of reading material for a population of 7,04,965 (or nearly 41 per cent.) out of the total village population of 17,24,175.
- (3) Out of the entire area of 8,182 square miles of the State, an area of 8,173 square miles (9 square miles of the city and cantonment of Baroda being excluded) had a provision of 602 Libraries and Reading Rooms, or in other words, for every $13\frac{1}{2}$ square miles there was a Library or a Reading Room in the State.

CHAPTER VI.

TRAVELLING LIBRARIES.

A proposal for sending Travelling Libraries to village and Town Libraries and to schools, social clubs, etc., was made at the very beginning when the " Rules for the Formation of Free Public Libraries " were sent up for Government sanction in May 1911. The object in commencing this library activity at once was that under the natural action of the Library Rules it would have taken several years for even large villages to have established their own free libraries and many more years for smaller villages to get such libraries. In the Baroda State there are 426 large villages having population between 4,000 and 1,000, and 2,628 small villages with population less than 1,000. It was therefore necessary to reach at once these smaller and isolated places and give them the benefits of the free library system. A Travelling Library is the quickest, easiest and cheapest method of supplying such libraries to remote places and is, besides, a powerful means of creating a taste for reading and subsequently a desire for possessing their own library among smaller communities.

In the first year sanction was taken for spending Rs. 6,000 for the preparation of 150 Travelling Libraries mainly of vernacular books and also of a few English books suitable for high school grades. Eighty-three wooden cases were prepared and the actual work of sending these out was begun in February 1912. During the five months of that official year these cases were sent out on 90 trips through 49 centres and they circulated 6,992 books among 2,574 readers. The stock of books during the first year

**Baroda
Library
Movement.**

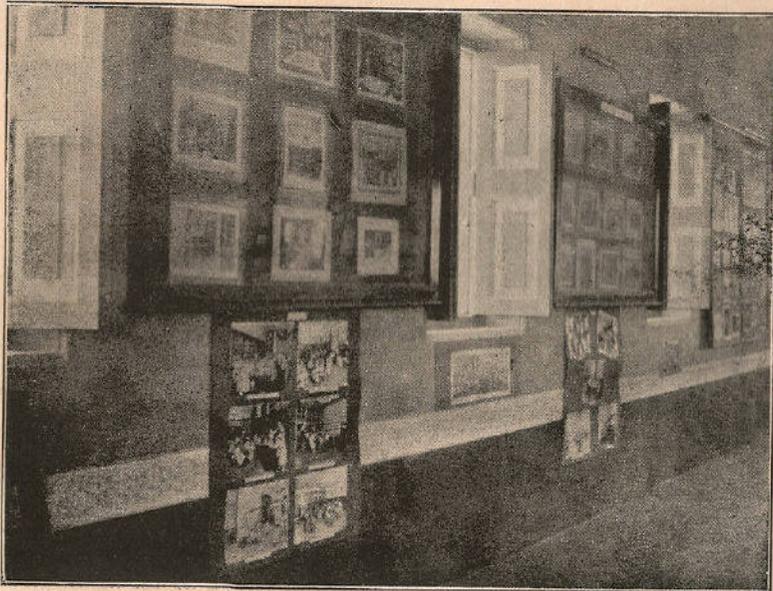
for supplying these cases was 2,400. This first year's experience was most encouraging and during subsequent years more cases were prepared and more books added to the stock.

Travelling Library boxes prepared by this Department are of two different sizes. The larger one is a double case measuring $18\frac{1}{4}$ " long, 14" wide, and $12\frac{1}{2}$ " high and consists of two compartments joined with hinges at the back, so that when the case is opened it forms a continuous book-shelf 28" long and $9\frac{1}{8}$ " wide, with two compartments. The smaller or the single case measures $13\frac{1}{4}$ " long, $9\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, and $12\frac{1}{2}$ " high, and is like a miniature cupboard closed with two panels in the front. Each of these cases has a shelf inside at the top to carry registers and other accessories. The larger case contains about 30 books and the smaller about 15.

A Travelling Library is sent to a village or town and kept in charge of the Head Master of a school or the Secretary of the local public library or any other respectable person for three months. The person in charge must issue books from this library for at least one hour every day or for two hours every alternate day. One book can be issued at a time and kept for 10 days, or if necessary longer, provided there is no other demand. The custodian of a Travelling Library has, after its receipt, to put up in public places a printed notice about the Library and also to distribute it among literate persons of the place. He has also to send short monthly reports to the Central Library. Inside a Travelling Library box the following seven enclosures are kept ready for the use of the custodian: (1) Issue Book, (2) Suggestion Book, (3) two monthly Report Cards, (4) five printed public notices, (5) printed instructions for the custodian, (6) Rules of Travelling Libraries, (7)



FIRST PERIODICALS' EXHIBITION, CENTRAL LIBRARY,
BARODA. (TWO VIEWS)



LIBRARY EXHIBITION AT MEHSANA PUBLIC LIBRARY. (TWO VIEWS)

memo. for returning the Library. Since the object of a Travelling Library is to increase the use of books, the conditions of lending books are necessarily simple, and liberal. Books are issued to any one who is known to the custodian, or is guaranteed by a respectable person or who deposits the price of the book. A Travelling Library case after the period of three months is returned directly to the Central Library for inspection of books, repairs, record of issues, etc., for all efforts to reduce transportation expense by transferring these cases directly from one centre to another without being sent back to the head quarters result in loss and damage of books, with no means of fixing the responsibility. These Travelling Libraries are sent entirely free, the Government bearing even the transport charges of cases both ways.

Travelling
Libraries.

These Travelling Libraries belong to two kinds of collections: one collection consists of "fixed" sets and the other is of a "general" nature. Books in a Travelling Library of a fixed set cannot be replaced by any others, while a Travelling Library belonging to a general collection is made up anew at every trip of different books suggested by borrowers. A Travelling Library, being a miniature public library, has to carry out the first function of the latter, *viz.*, to get books, and especially the best books, to the book-less, so that they may be induced to read, not as students, but as casual readers. Hence a Travelling Library has first to take care of the general, untrained reader, who in a large majority of cases, has no absolute choice in the matter of books. Therefore for putting good literature in places where reading is scarce, "fixed-set" libraries are largely used; while the fundamental idea of a "general collection" library being to supply the actual varying needs of different intelligent communities, such

libraries have naturally not a very large demand.

As the popularity of these libraries depends mainly on the books selected, and as persons, who have only a few books to select from, soon lose their interest if they find too much serious literature in these libraries, the selection of books is always made to suit the standard and taste of these readers. Hence in a Travelling Library there is always a large proportion of wholesome fiction along with judiciously selected books on other subjects. Among the "fixed-sets" there are special sets for women and children, students and teachers, farmers and artisans, as well as for Urdu, Hindi and Marathi readers. Each fixed-set is carefully made up with a view to the interests and attainments of a particular class of readers, both English and Vernacular. Thus in our "fixed-set" libraries there are 273 vernacular libraries of 118 different sets containing a total of 5,288 books. Similarly in the English fixed-sets there are 45 libraries of 45 sets containing 810 books. Thus there are collections specially formed for children of varying ages, for students in different grades of vernacular and English schools, for teachers studying child-education and pedagogy, for persons interested in religion and biography, and so on. There are at present 321 libraries of 166 fixed-sets aggregating 6,098 books. In the general collection there are 9,054 books. The total stock of travelling libraries consists of 15,152 books, *i.e.*, 12,072 Gujarati, 1,820 English, 903 Marathi, 176 Hindi, and 181 Urdu.

The progress of the Travelling Library activity during the last seven years since its inauguration has been very rapid. From 83 cases and 2,400 books in the first year this branch now possesses 441 cases and 15,152 books. The circulation of books too has been encouraging and the year 1914-1915 has been a record year so far. During the

first four years (1911-12 to 1914-15) the circulation rose from 6,992 to 15,303 per annum and the number of readers from 2,574 to 7,556. The last three years have been years of preparation of printed lists of the sets and of general re-organisation of the system; therefore the work of sending out libraries in large numbers could not be carried out continuously throughout the whole period. Most of the cases were withdrawn from circulation and 6,098 books were arranged in 166 fixed sets to form 321 libraries. Now that this re-organisation is completed, the circulation that had dropt during the last three years, will certainly increase by leaps and bounds, and the Travelling Libraries will keep busy a large number of the 2,628 small rural communities in the State.

In conclusion, it may be asserted that it is not possible to devise a scheme of extension to our system of popular education, which will circulate among the masses so much good reading, at so small a cost, as the institution of free travelling libraries.

CHAPTER VII.

VISUAL INSTRUCTION BRANCH.

The system of public libraries was designed to supplement the instruction to be obtained in schools and colleges. Yet, however extensive and intensive the work of the library system may be, there will always be a number of people who will be unable to receive any direct benefit therefrom because of their inability to read. And of such there is an overwhelming majority in India and in Baroda 90 out of 100 are illiterate. And yet, this 90 per cent. of the population of the State need instruction and in fact need it more than those who can instruct themselves by means of books. Naturally the only method of such instruction must be by lectures and by pictures, preferably by lectures illustrated by pictures, still or animated. "Pictures," said St. Augustine, "are the books of the ignorant." These pictures can be either ordinary pictures, maps, or charts, etc., that can be shown directly, or picture post-cards, stereographs, magic lantern slides or cinematograph films that can be projected in a magnified form on a screen. The last—the cinematograph—has now captured the whole world by its power of attraction and instruction, and has come to be recognised as a potent force not only as an entertainer, but as an educator of that part of the public which stand most in need of education.

Seeing therefore the possibilities of the cinematograph, His Highness, in 1910, asked Mr. Borden to purchase in London a large cinematograph and several films and lantern slides for the purpose of illustrating His Highness' trip round the world. Mr. Borden accordingly purchased

an Urban cinematograph machine to be worked with lime-light in district places, 19 standard films and about 450 lantern slides. These formed the nucleus of the Visual Instruction Branch, that was organised a little later on.

Visual
Instruction
Branch.

After a few experiments with these apparatus, Mr. Borden was later instructed to submit a proposal for organising a special branch for such visual instruction in order to carry systematic information to people whom the Educational Department could not directly reach, or to those with whom it had ceased to be in contact, and also, with its co-operation, to the children of the public schools. Such a Branch was accordingly sanctioned temporarily for one year in January 1913 with a grant of Rs. 10,000.

At the request of the organizers of a Teachers' Conference at Kheralu in Kadi Prant, the machine was first shown in that place, and shows were afterwards given in several places of that Prant. During that year 38 shows were given in 16 places to about 35,800 people. This was certainly a good beginning. Next year it being found that the large cinema machine was too cumbersome as well as too delicate to be moved to small places in the districts, it was arranged to purchase one Home Kinetoscope of Edison at a cost of Rs. 900. In the meantime, the new parlour cinema machine, called the "KOK," manufactured by Pathé Frères, was purchased for Rs. 275. This machine is easily portable, produces its own electric light, and can moreover be worked by any person of ordinary intelligence.

The same year six stereoscopes with four sets of pictures originally purchased for being sent through the travelling library cases to district places, were transferred to the Visual Instruction Branch. Additional 24 sets were

obtained from America at a cost of Rs. 1,619. By the end of this year Mr. Borden was about to retire; so he was commissioned to purchase new films, etc., in London of the value of Rs. 3,000. Mr. Borden sent 11 standard films of the cost of Rs. 2,787. Seven more "KOK" films were purchased, as also a second "KOK" cinema machine in the year 1914-15. About 90 shows were given in this year by both kinds of machine, besides the local shows given in the children's room by the smaller machines. Altogether 62,000 persons, including children, got the benefit. Also 120 sets of stereographs containing about 3,600 pictures were distributed in the city and in the districts. More than Rs. 4,000 were spent on materials only this year.

During the following year owing to a heavy rise in prices of the materials for producing lime-light, as also owing to the trouble caused by the heavy gas-holder, the larger machine was used less frequently and the main work was carried on by means of the two "KOK" machines. 17 shows were given by the large machine in the city only and 111 shows in the districts by means of the smaller machines. More than 56,000 persons were entertained. Also more than 200 stereograph sets were distributed. This year, 14 new "KOK" films were added to the stock and one new machine, called the "Radiopticon", was purchased for projecting picture post-cards on the screen. This machine is very useful and economical as ordinary picture post-cards can be shown by it in a magnified form without incurring the expense of converting them into lantern slides. About 1,000 picture post-cards were purchased in Europe, America and Japan for exhibiting by means of this Radiopticon.

Upto now this branch was worked by a trained librarian

and a clerk in the Central Library and two library inspectors. This arrangement was found unsatisfactory, so far as the larger machine was concerned. Besides at the beginning of the year 1915-16 to avoid all the trouble and expense caused by the larger machine, a new large cinema machine, called "Pathé's Self-contained Cinema Group" was purchased for Rs. 2,000. This machine has its own small dynamo for producing electric power, and the whole apparatus is easily portable in out-of-the-way places. To work this and the other larger machine a qualified mechanical engineer was appointed as an operator, and one of the library inspectors, who was specially taken on the staff for the purpose of giving lectures and discourses to the country folk, was appointed supervisor of the Branch. By this time the Branch had in its possession 2 large cinema machines, one worked with lime-light and the other with electric light, 3 "KOK" machines, 3 old type electric machines, which were out of order, 1 separate magic lantern worked with acetyline and another with electric light but out of order, 1 Radiopticon, 50 Stereoscopes with 5,400 Stereograph pictures, 52 Standard and 33 "KOK" films, and about 800 lantern slides. With these materials the Branch has now been doing its work regularly and giving shows throughout the State. More films of war topics and more lantern slides of the British Empire tour-sets have been recently added. During the year 1916-17, 94,000 persons and during the last year 152,000 persons got the benefit of the shows given by this Branch.

CHAPTER VIII.

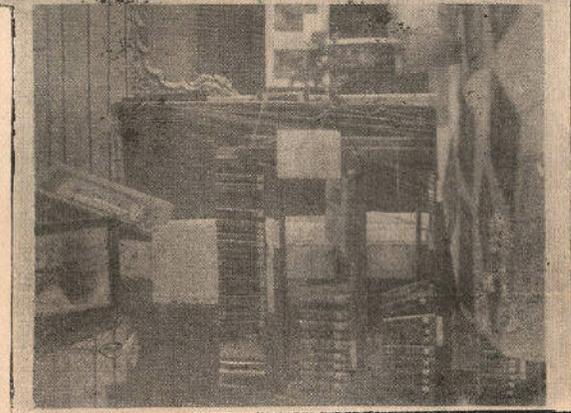
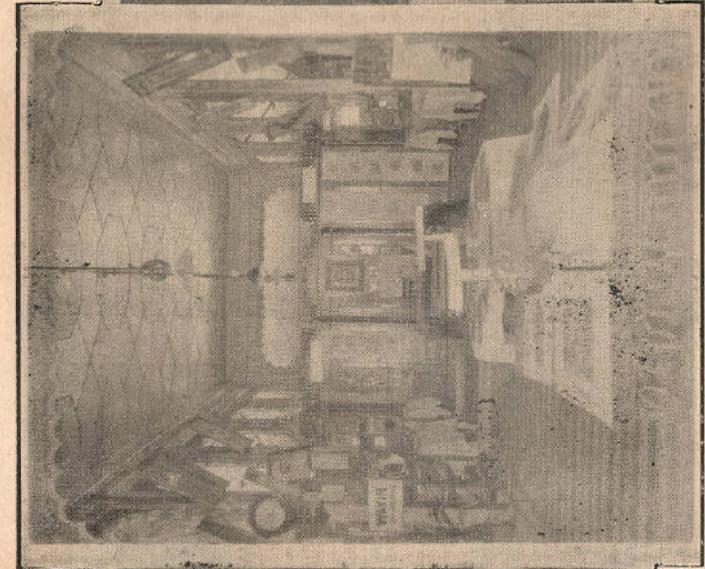
MISCELLANEOUS.

Catalogues and Publications.

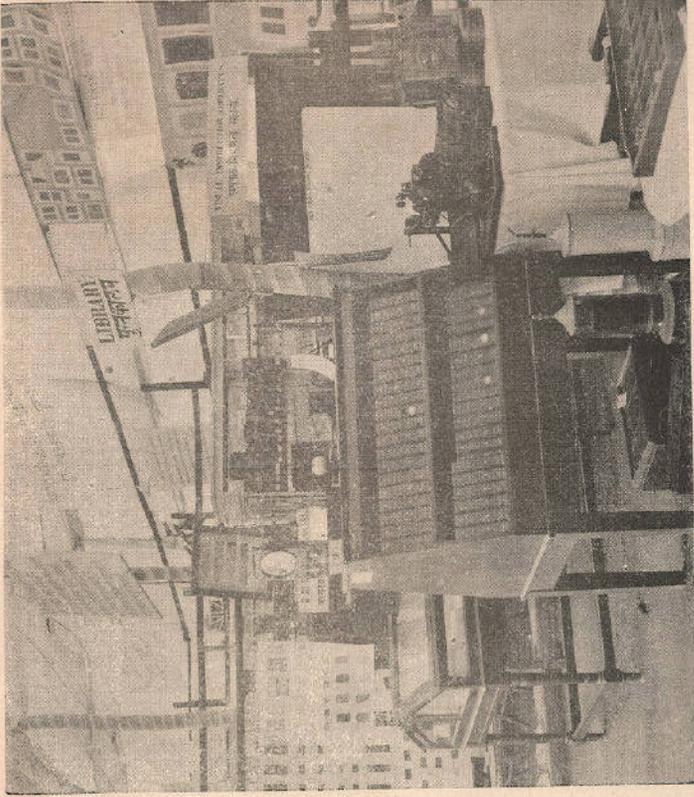
Three English catalogues of the Palace Library have appeared from time to time, *i.e.*, in 1886, 1897 and 1910 respectively, the last being an Author and Title Index. A year after the transfer of the Palace Library to the Central Library department, *i.e.*, in 1912, a Supplement to this catalogue was printed, and further supplements in the form of classified and annotated Bulletins of New Books have since appeared. The last Bulletin published in 1918 contained the accessions for 1916-1917. We have also brought out four bibliographies of special topical subjects; the first one dealing with the Great War, the second on works of Indian music exhibited in connection with the first All-India Conference of Musicians held in Baroda, the third on Shakespearian literature published on the occasion of the Shakespeare Tercentenary Exhibition, and the fourth on books on Bibliography, Library Economy and allied topics.

It will be seen that a complete printed catalogue of the English collection does not yet exist, but we have already commenced the compilation of such a catalogue, and our subject list of Sociology will be out in due course. In the meantime for the actual patrons of the Library there are complete Card Catalogues of Authors and Subjects, as well as a Title Catalogue which at present only records books received after 1913, but which we intend eventually to complete.

We have made some progress in cataloguing our vernacular collections, as printed classified catalogues of the



SHAKESPEARE TERCENTENARY EXHIBITION. BARODA CENTRAL LIBRARY



BARODA AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, LIBRARY COURT
 (VIEWS OF ARCHITECTURE, FURNITURE, BOOK-BINDING, VISUAL INSTRUCTION APPARATUS, ETC.)



BARODA AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION—LIBRARY COURT—CHILDREN'S CORNER

Marathi Reference Library, Marathi Lending Library and the Gujarati Lending Library, have appeared. Professional librarians are aware of the magnificent work done by the Library of Congress, Washington, in printing and selling catalogue-cards for every work published in the U. S. A. We in Baroda are attempting to do somewhat similar work for one vernacular, though of course on a very miniature scale and in a tentative way. To assist the work of aided Libraries of the State and to encourage uniformity of classification, we have printed and published in card form a select list of 800 standard Gujarati books and this card catalogue is being purchased by the larger libraries in the Raj. Miscellaneous

Among the other publications of the Central Library are the following :—(1) A Marathi Instruction Book for playing the games which are found in the Children's Room ; (2) a similar Instruction-book in Gujarati ; (3) two Gujarati Books giving summaries of the subject-matter of the Standard and KOK films ; (4) The Borden Scheme of English classification, with Author-Number-Table ; (5) a Comparative Study of the Baroda Expansive and Decimal Classifications ; (6) Scheme of Marathi classification ; (7) a Hand-book of Information Leaflets about the Central Library Department ; (8) List of Travelling Libraries of Fixed Sets ; (9) and other smaller pamphlets and leaflets. The chief publication of the Library has however been the "**Gaekwad's Oriental Series**" in which upto now ten books have been published and ten more are being printed.

Library Training.

After the first Library class was opened by Mr. Borden for training librarians for this Department, another class

was opened in 1913 for training librarians for the town libraries in the districts. Twenty-one persons were admitted on a monthly scholarship of Rs. 20 and after a training of five months they were sent back to their libraries to take up systematic work. Similar training has been given either to organised classes or to individual librarians from time to time. Among those who came for training may be mentioned librarians sent by the States of Mysore, Indore and Dewas and by the Elphinstone College, Bombay.

Noteworthy Events.

Some of the noteworthy events in the history of the library may be briefly mentioned before closing this short record of its work.

The library movement is essentially a co-operative movement and the years 1876 and 1877 stand as landmarks in library history, as witnessing the foundation of the American and the British Library Associations. Both Associations were prompt in starting journals to act as organs of their societies and as media of inter-communication between librarians. The most important developments in library work in England and the United States date from the foundations of these two organizations. It is therefore gratifying to know that an Indian Library Association has been established in 1918. When the Baroda Central Library Department was founded in 1911, the time was not ripe for an All-India Association. However the staff of the new Department were able to start a Library Club, which held meetings once a month or so, and which was favoured by the patronage of H. H. the Maharaja, of successive Dewans of the State and of other distinguished persons. Some members of the Club also

established the *Library Miscellany*, which is published in three languages—English, Marathi and Gujarati—and which is the first and the only journal of its kind in India devoted to the library movement. This quarterly is not an official publication, but is financed and managed by certain members of the Library staff; it has been running since 1912 and has enjoyed the sympathy and patronage of His Highness's Government. Similar attempts to create a spirit of mutual help among librarians of the State have been made from time to time. In 1915 a gathering of the Secretaries of the Town Libraries was held in the Central Library with the idea of starting Taluka Library Associations and eventually Prant Library Associations. A Prant Library Association for Baroda Prant has as a matter of fact been founded.

Since its foundation the Department has held various exhibitions with a view to encouraging the library movement and to engaging the interest of educationists, social workers and the general public in the cause. The first of such exhibitions was held in Mehsana in January 1915, the second was organised at the Baroda Health Exhibition in March 1915, and the third at the opening of the Dabhoi Public Library in January 1916 by His Highness the Maharaja. We had also a Music Exhibition in connection with the All-India Music Conference in March 1916, and a special exhibition to commemorate the Shakespeare Tercentenary Celebration in April 1916. On another occasion we arranged an exhibition illustrating the progress made by British, American and Foreign journalism by a collection of newspapers and magazines on various subjects of different countries. Another exhibition was on a more ambitious scale. It formed part of the Court of Education in the Baroda Agricultural and

**Baroda
Library
Movement.**

Industrial Exhibition held in Baroda in January 1917. It consisted of the following nine sections: Baroda Library Progress; Children's Corner; Library Architecture; Library Furniture; Library Appliances; Book Binding; Book Curiosities; Technical Literature and Visual Instruction Apparatus. On this occasion cinema shows were given on the grounds every night. A similar library exhibition but on a little smaller scale was organised in the Gwalior Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition at the special request of the Exhibition Committee. This was greatly appreciated by the Gwalior public and won two Gold Medals, one for the Library Exhibits and the other for the Visual Instruction Work. In January 1918 the Government of India having convened the First All-India Conference of Librarians at Lahore and having invited the Baroda Government to co-operate, the Central Library sent a delegate who took part in the proceedings, read a paper on the Baroda Library System and arranged a small Library Exhibition.

END

CENTRAL LIBRARY DEPARTMENT,
BARODA.

Educational Commissioner

A. B. Clarke, Esq., B.A. (Cantab.)

Book Selection Committee

The Educational Commissioner (*Chairman*).

The Curator of State Libraries.

The State Librarian.

Sanskrit and Vernacular Sub-Committee

For Sanskrit and Marathi.

B. R. Arte, Esq., M.A., Professor of Sanskrit, Baroda College.

For Gujarati.

D. L. Purohit, Esq., M.A., LL.B., Pleader, Varishta Court.

Motibhai N. Amin, Esq., B.A., Assistant Curator of State Libraries.

For Urdu.

Sayad Nawab Alli, M.A., Professor of Persian, Baroda College.

For Hindi.

Pandit Atmaram, Inspector, Antyaj School.

Staff of the Department

Curator of State Libraries.

J. S. Kudalkar, M.A., LL.B.

CENTRAL LIBRARY,

State Librarian and Reader to H. H. the Maharaja Gaekwad.

Newton M. Dutt.

Librarians (cataloguers).

B. M. Dadachanji, B.A.

B. H. Mehta.

G. R. Dandavate (*acting*).

LENDING AND REFERENCE BRANCH.

Reference Librarian.

R. K. Pradhan, B.A.

SANSKRIT AND MANUSCRIPTS BRANCH.

Manuscript Expert.

R. Anant-krishna Shastri.

Sanskrit Librarian.

G. R. Shrigondekar, M.A.

Assistant Librarians.

R. D. Khopkar, B.A.

K. Rangaswami.

CHILDREN'S PLAY-ROOM AND LADIES' LIBRARY.

Librarians.

Mrs. Anandibai P. Prabhudesai.

Mrs. Babubhai Jamdar (*in charge Mahila Library*).DISTRICT LIBRARIES, TRAVELLING LIBRARIES AND VISUAL
INSTRUCTION BRANCHES.*Assistant Curator of State Libraries.*

Motibhai N. Amin, B.A.

Inspector of Libraries and Superintendent of Visual Instruction.

J. M. Buch (Lalit).

Inspector of Libraries.

(One post vacant.)

*Superintendent of Travelling Libraries.*N. C. Divanji (*Acting*).*Mechanical Engineer, Visual Instruction Branch.*

S. G. Dabholkar, I.T.M.

OFFICE.

Head Clerk.

H. V. Mehta.

17 Clerks and 31 Menials.

APPENDIX I.

Statistics of the Central Library, Baroda.

Year.	Vols. in stock.	CIRCULATION.							
		English.	Verna- cular.	Sanskrit.	Ladies.	Maga- zines.	Total.	Working days.	Daily Average.
1911-12	28,654	26,752	30,544	..	..	..	57,296	325	176.3
1912-13	36,175	24,374	29,877	..	955	..	55,206	325	169.86
1913-14	46,916 +2,361*	19,489	32,365	1,601	1,380	1,667	55,116	296	186.2
1914-15	51,387 +2,403*	23,892	28,205	1,355	2,080	2,612	58,144	328	177.26
1915-16	54,300 +3,509*	29,808	26,736	1,847	3,861	1,506	61,758	324	190.6
1916-17	58,579 +5,585*	24,223	21,036	2,252	4,797	460	52,768	284	185.80
1917-18	61,128 +6,856*	19,213	25,715	2,142	6,994	558	54,624	325	168.07

N.B.—Figures marked * are those for Mss.

APPENDIX II.

Progress of Subscription Libraries before the Central Library Department was opened.

Year.	Libraries.		Buildings.		Books.	Readers.	Circulation.		Expenditure (in Rupees).			
	Town.	Village.	Town Library.	Village Library.			Town Libraries.	Village Libraries.	Government.		People.	Panchayats.
									Books.	Other.		
1905-07	24	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	5,991	2,325	1,511	..
1907-08	24	100 = (75+25) in. C.	15	..	..	..	..	..	10,991	2,895	1,180	2,838
1908-09	24	151	16	..	Figures not available.	..	..	..	8,645	13,100	4,780	2,000
1909-10	24	166	18	..	..	..	..	..	24,938	16,645	5,665	2,900
1910-11	24	223	19	..	..	..	..	..	29,617	..	..	..
<i>Progress of Free Public Libraries after the Central Library Department was opened.</i>												
1911-12	9	205	19	..	Figures	28,400	..	..	3,173	8,478	5,825	4,841
1912-13	34	310	19+11	3	not	61,888	37,693	99,531	8,500	37,107	35,359	24,500
1913-14	37	325	19+15	0	available.	88,083	41,500	129,023	4,171	31,978	28,882	34,406
1914-15	38	386	19+17	15	156,200	121,060	46,271	164,331	5,878	42,040	40,911	34,360
1915-16	42	445	17+21	20	194,470	141,162	68,526	209,688	47,927	44,942	42,903	42,489
1916-17	42	454	15+27	33	238,717	145,943	64,426	210,369	49,247	42,635	47,329	42,070
1917-18	42	496	11+31	35	244,481	145,071	69,398	214,469	47,926	21,816	22,816	20,955
									24,793			

APPENDIX III.

Work of the Travelling Library Branch.

Year.	No. of Travelling Library Boxes.	No. of Boxes circulated.	No. of Centres.	No. of Books in stock.	No. of Books circulated.	No. of Readers.	Expenditure (in Rupees.)		
							Books.	Boxes.	Maintenance.
1911-12	83	90	49	2,400	6,992	2,574	2,199	405	287
1912-13	158	199	107	4,422	13,529	5,920	1,698	219	299
1913-14	257	297	209	7,671	12,792	6,096	2,169	397	428
1914-15	327	354	302	8,922	15,303	7,556	1,199	340	929
1915-16	327	248	118	11,450	9,529	5,519	2,096	602	296
1916-17	441	275	159	13,950	7,226	3,381	2,050	499	450
1917-18	441	178	92	15,275	4,534	1,861	1,600	767	610

APPENDIX IV.

The Visual Instruction Branch work from 1912-13 to 1917-18.

Year.	Districts.	No. of Cinema Shows.	Attendance.	No. of Stereographs shown.
1912-13	.. Baroda, Navsari and Kadi ..	36	36,050	<i>Nil.</i>
1913-14	.. Four ..	79	61,000	120 sets or 10,250 stereographs.
1914-15	.. Baroda City and four districts ..	128	56,400	307 ,, ,, 15,820 ,,
1915-16	.. Baroda City and four districts ..	107	64,048	266 ,, ,, 22,800 ,,
1916-17	.. Baroda City and three districts ..	153	93,790	232 ,, ,, 14,391 ,,
1917-18	.. Baroda City, two districts and Gwalior Exhibition ..	167	1,52,318	318 ,, ,, 24,170 ,,

APPENDIX V.

Present Building Accommodation.

- I. The Central Library proper with all its divisions has occupied one entire three-floored building with the ground floor of another building opposite in the following manner:—
 1. The Newspaper and Periodical Room :
One hall of 72 feet 4 inches by 29½ feet, and a large verandah of 65 feet 4 inches by 10 feet 2 inches.
 2. The Lending or Circulating Section :
One hall of 85 feet by 50½ feet.
 3. The Reference Library :
One hall of 85 feet by 50½ feet.
 4. The Children's Room—50 feet by 19 feet.
 5. The Sanskrit Library :
 - (a) The Printed Books Section—45 feet by 14½ feet.
 - (b) The Manuscript Room—25½ feet by 26½ feet.
 6. Ladies' Room :
One small room (28 feet by 10 feet) with an open court 26 feet by 23 feet.
- II. Two entire upper floors of another adjoining building and the ground floor of the same accommodate all the administrative offices of the Central Library Department, *viz.*, the office of the Curator, the Mofussil Libraries Branch, the Travelling Libraries Branch, the Visual Instruction Branch, the book-binding and two clerical branches, with the store-room for periodicals and the visual instruction apparatus.
- III. Five different plans for the new Central Library building have been prepared and considered upto now. One of these was prepared by Mr. Borden, three by the State Architect, and one by Sir Edward Lutyens, the expert architect of the Government of India.

LIBRARIES

Diagram showing Population of the State served by Libraries & Reading-Rooms.

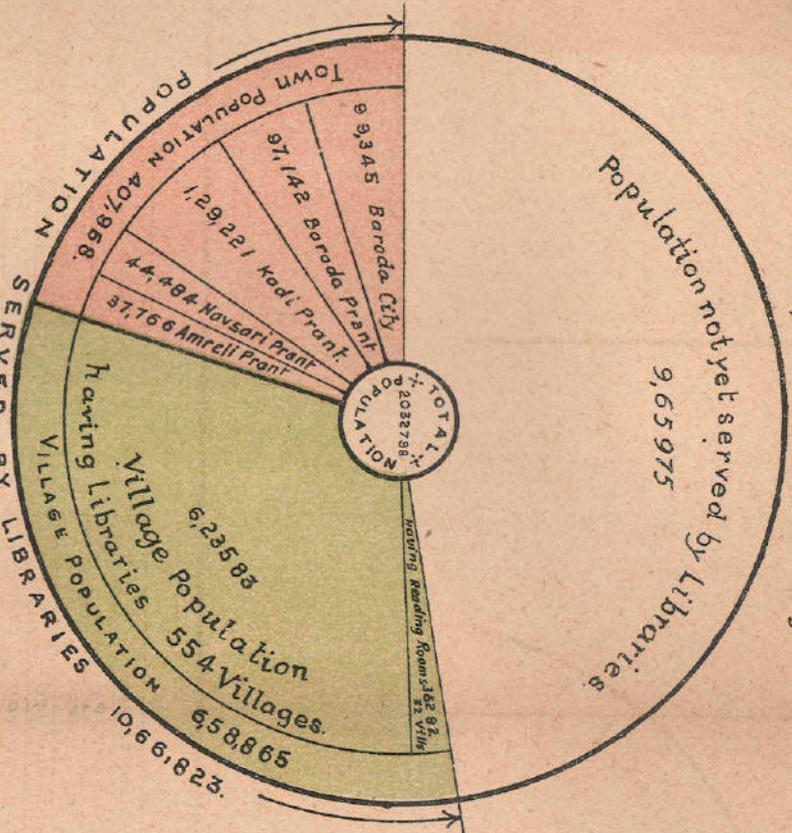


Diagram showing the Proportion of the Total Stock of Books in all the State Libraries & their Circulation to the entire Literate Population & to the number of Registered Readers.

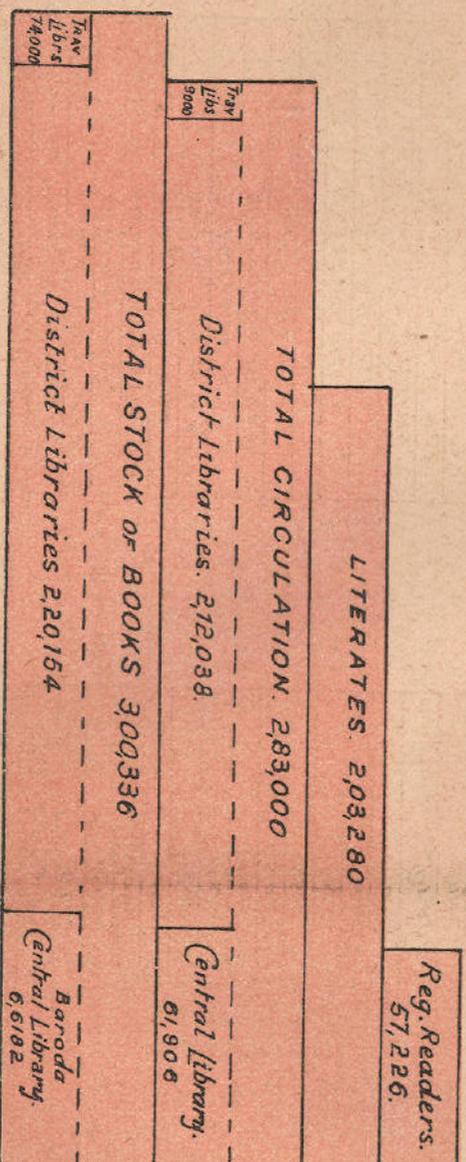


Diagram Showing the Area in red colour of each Taluka, & Number of Libraries & Reading Rooms therein

	0	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000
Baroda Prant 11 Talukas											
Petalad. Libs. 41. R.R. 6.											
Bhadran. Libs. 25.											
Baroda including City. R.R. 3.											
Padra. Libs. 35. R.R. 4.											
Korjan. Libs. 24. R.R. 1.											
Dabhoi. Libs. 18.											
Sinore. Libs. 21. R.R. 3.											
Savli. Libs. 14.											
Vaghodia. Libs. 2.											
Sankhoda. Libs. 9.											
Tilakhwada. Lib. 7.											
Navsari Prant 10 Talukas											
Navsari. Libs. 2. R.R. 7.											
Gandevi. Libs. 7.											
Palsana. Libs. 12. R.R. 2.											
Kamraj. Libs. 23. R.R. 2.											
Mahuva. Libs. 8.											
Vallachha. Libs. 7.											
Sanghad. Lib. 7.											
Ygara. Libs. 2.											
Yakal. Lib. 7.											
Kmarpada.											
Chad. Prant 12 Talukas											
Dehgam. Libs. 18.											
Atarsumba. Libs. 4. R.R. 3.											
Kadi. Libs. 14. R.R. 1.											
Kalal. Libs. 26.											
Vijapur. Libs. 23. R.R. 2.											
Yasnagar. Libs. 14. R.R. 2.											
Mehsana. Libs. 16. R.R. 4.											
Siddhpure. Libs. 11. R.R. 7.											
Kharalu. Libs. 8.											
Pokan. Libs. 8. R.R. 4.											
Chansama. Libs. 7. R.R. 1.											
Harj. Libs. 2.											
Amreli Prant 9 Talukas											
Amreli. Libs. 20. R.R. 6.											
Demnagar. Libs. 5.											
Dhari. Libs. 13.											
Kharba. Libs. 4. R.R. 1.											
Kodinar. Libs. 4. R.R. 3.											
Okhamandal. Libs. 3. R.R. 4.											
Bayl. Lib. 1.											
Ratanpur. Libs. 6. R.R. 1.											
Bhimkalia. Lib. 1.											

KALA-BHAVAN LIBRARY
BARODA



72
846
• 23B2
K8
Reg. No. 12886
A1 $\frac{KUD}{BAR}$