LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN CHINA

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INTRODUCTION

Since the Revolution of 1911, China has undergone a movement of change in intellectual problems as well as in politics. The people have not only tried hard to shake off the yoke of despotism, but also fully determined to free themselves from the oppression of intellectual bondage. Today at the bookstalls the translated works of Karl Marx, Kroptokin, Russell, Einstein and others are demanded like hot cakes, the critical essays on Chinese classics are even welcomed by the scholars of the old type. The intellectual class has seen the failures of numerous reforms and come to the conclusion that the Chinese process of thought must be revolutionized.

Our present day means of diffusing the new knowledge to the general masses are to introduce the use of a Chinese phonetic alphabet, and to publish books and periodicals in Hua or colloquial language. In order to supply the Chinese intellect with fresh, vital energy, famous philosophers like Dewey, Russell and Driesch have been and are still touring China, giving lectures in most educational centers. Among institutions whose existence depends upon their ability to meet the public demand, the library is now face to face with rapidly changing conditions.

ATTITUDE OF GOVERNMENT

China even today is full of places for storing books. Although scholars continue to be interested in the editions of bygone dynasties, like the Sung, or the Yuan or the Ming, and many libraries only know how to collect the valuable incunabula, yet the tendency is daily growing stronger

[p. 2]
in favor of converting the book vault, jealously guarded by thick doors and heavy locks, into a living and attractive library. And during the last decade the new library movement has taken great strides.

On April 11, 1915, the Ministry of Education issued an order embodying eleven regulations which emphasize promotion, organization and administration of libraries throughout the different provinces of the country. They are translated as follows:

1. Every province and special district shall establish public libraries for the use of the people. When the inhabitants of a city call for a library, let it be established without unnecessary delay.
2. Any school, public or private, or any society or individual person may establish a library by following the library regulations promulgated by the Ministry of Education.
3. Libraries maintained by cities and special districts shall be called public libraries. Libraries maintained by schools and societies shall be called respectively school libraries and society libraries, while libraries maintained by individuals shall be called private libraries,
4. (a) The public library shall at the time of establishment submit to the Ministry of Education through the district officer or the educational commissioner the following data:
   1. Name.
2. Location.
3. Expenditure.
4. Number of volumes.
5. Plan of the building.
6. Regulations.
7. The date of opening.

(b) Private libraries shall register at the district officer with the same seven data as in (a).

(p. 3)
(c) School and society libraries shall report those data through the authorities of the school or the society to the district officer or the educational commissioner.

Discontinuation of the operation of any library, or any change of name, etc., shall be reported to the district officer or educational commissioner.

5. Every library is required to have a librarian and also assistants. The qualifications of the librarian and the assistants shall at the time of their assumption of duties be reported to the Ministry of Education through the district officer.

6. The salaries and privileges of the librarian and assistants of any public library shall follow the regulations for the educational officers of that district.

7. Every public library is required to submit to the district officer an annual report which shall be published in the general annual educational report of that province.
8. The budget of a public library shall at the beginning of the fiscal year be submitted for approval to the Ministry of Education through the district officer or the educational commissioner. The budget of a school library must be incorporated in the school budget.
9. Libraries may collect a nominal assessment from the readers.
10. When an individual person establishes or donates a library, the district officer shall report the matter to the Ministry of Education, so that the donor shall be duly rewarded according to the regulations governing "Establishment and Donation of Schools."
11. The above regulations shall take effect at the date of publication.

In order to add weight to the proclamation, the government turned the Imperial Library of the late Manchu dynasty at Peking into the Peking Metropolitan Public Library. Some of the provinces and special districts have carried out the order, but others owing to lack of funds are still in the period of preparation.

CLASSES OF LIBRARIES

At present the Chinese libraries, excluding private ones, can be roughly divided into four main classes, namely public libraries, school libraries, society libraries, and special libraries.
In old days many provincial capitals kept large collections of books printed from wooden blocks.* They were stored in some public hall for the use of scholars. Since 1913 these places have been turned into public libraries. Some of them are maintained by endowments, but the majority by the educational funds of the districts and are thus under the control of the Commissioner of Education of that province.

As to the administration, nearly all of the public libraries not only have adopted the closed shelf-system in reading rooms, but also allow no circulation. Some of them require a small fee for admission, with the purpose of keeping away vagabonds and ruffians. Assenting charges for use of books in reading rooms are also practiced in many a public library.

For instance, the Peking Public Library sells tickets to those who wish to go in to read. There are six kinds of such tickets --- namely, (1) two-copper ticket for ordinary books, (2) one-copper ticket for periodicals and newspapers, (3) one-copper student ticket for ordinary books, (4) free student ticket for periodicals and newspapers, (5) ten-copper ticket for incunabula, (6) five-copper ticket for the manuscript copy of the famous "Imperial Descriptive Catalogue of the Manchu dynasty."


The Peking Public Library has many reading rooms, such as a special reading room for special ticket holders, a ladies, reading room, a periodical and newspaper reading room, etc. These rooms are bare and the seats are not comfortable. As yet there have not been sufficient funds for lighting and heating facilities. There is much red tape in drawing out books.

Besides the six ordinary tickets there are two special tickets, first and second. Those who hold special tickets of the first class can enjoy the privilege of inspecting and using ordinary books, periodicals, newspapers, incunabula, etc., without charge and also that of having access to the stacks. Those who hold special tickets of the second class can enjoy only the free use of ordinary books, periodicals and newspapers.

Generally the public libraries have no recent publications, and there is much red-tape before admitting readers to the stack rooms.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

During the last decade the medieval idea of a library for a learned few has broken down and the intellectual kingdom has opened its gates for the plebeians, who are daily getting bolder and wiser. The public library, they feel, should neither collect admission fee nor asset charge for use of books. This public feeling has been duly recognized, hence the system of free public libraries are
introduced. Now many public libraries in the provincial capitals and cities gradually either discard the policy to charge fees for admission and use of books or establish free public libraries.

The policy of a free public library in China is to allow the readers to use its collections without any charge, but not to permit them to draw out books for home use. In connection with these libraries there are children’s reading rooms and playgrounds. In spite of the financial difficulties the free public libraries are better administered than public libraries. In addition to old Chinese books they have newly published books on various subjects. Children’s rooms are supplied with pictorial tales and juvenile books and the playgrounds are always well patronized.

The libraries open on Sundays just as on week days. Some of them close on Mondays to give a holiday to the members of the staff. There are about 51 public libraries and 219 free public libraries. Quite a number, the writer has visited and investigated. They are all well patronized, as to improvement there is yet plenty of room. For instance the budget for the annual acquisition of books should be greatly increased, so that circulation departments can be established for promoting the use of books at home. Secondly the rooms are too bare and unattractive, and the furniture is not suitable especially in children’s reading rooms. Fortunately in many prosperous localities at present there is a growing tendency toward establishing attractive and comfortable libraries.

**TRAVELING LIBRARIES**

Under the administration of some public libraries, also traveling libraries have been organized. At present about thirty traveling libraries are scattered over five provinces, namely Fengtien, Kiangsu, Kansu, Szechwan, and Yunnan. They are operated on a small scale. During the last few years the progress of these traveling libraries in the interior and mountainous regions has been much retarded due to the continuous disturbance of petty civil fights.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Province</th>
<th>Number of traveling libraries</th>
<th>Volumes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fengtien</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiangsu</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** The 4th statistical Report published by the Ministry of Education.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Province</th>
<th>Number of Public Libraries</th>
<th>Volumes</th>
<th>Number of Free Public Libraries</th>
<th>Volumes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peking</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chihli</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14,160</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fengtien</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12,402</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirin</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heilungkiang</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,830</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shantung</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanssi</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiangsi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiangsu</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anhwei</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fukien</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,240</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chekiang</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hupeh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7,310</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shensi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,250</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansu</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singkiang</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Szechuan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwangtung</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3,065</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwangsi</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6,930</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yünnan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4,740</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kweichow</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jehol</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>51</strong></td>
<td><strong>72,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>239</strong></td>
<td><strong>152,847</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The figures including the number of volumes in the different libraries are inaccurate, for some libraries consider pamphlets as books and others not. Furthermore some count the number of volumes in "pu" and others in Pên." Pu " means a set of books, sometimes one pu " consists of hundreds of "pên " which is a folio volume.

**COLLEGE LIBRARIES**

Almost every college in China now has a sort of library. According to the available statistics there are 37 college libraries maintained by various educational institutions. A few of the well known college libraries are as follows:

**I. Peking**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Volumes in Chinese</th>
<th>Volumes in foreign languages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Peking National University Library</td>
<td>65,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Peking Teachers College Library</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Tsing Hua College Library</td>
<td>50,000</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Union Medical College Library</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Yen Ching University Library</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**II. Chihli:**

1. Nankai College Library, Tientsin ............ 6,000 .......... 7,000
2. Pei Yang University Library, Tientsin ...... 25,000 .......... 12,000

**III. Shantung:**

Shantung Christian University Library, Tsinan ............ 10,000 .......... 9,000

**IV. Shansi:**

Shansi University Library, Taiyuan ............ (?) .......... (?)

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*Thu numbers of volumes in each library are approximate.

**V. Kiangsu:**

1. Fu Tan University Library, Shanghai ............ (?) .......... (?)
2. Nanking University Library, Nanking ............ 4,000 .......... 10,000
3. St. John's University Library, Shanghai ............ 3,500 .......... 17,000
4. Nang Yang University Library, Shanghai ........ 20,000 ........ 5,000
5. Shanghai Baptist College Library, Shanghai .......... 1,500 ........ 3,500
6. Soochow University Library, Soochow ........... 2,500 .......... 9,000
7. National Southeastern University Library, Nanking .......... 10,000 ........ 7,000

VI. Hupeh:

1. Boone University Library, Wuchang .......... 15,000 .......... 12,000
2. Wuchang Teachers College Library, Wuchang .......... 21,000 .......... 3,000
3. Wesley College Library, Wuchang .......... 2,000 .......... 3,500

VII. Hunan:

Yale College Library, Changsha .......... 1,000 .......... 3,500

VIII. Kwangtung:

1. Canton Christian College Library, Canton .......... 5,000 .......... 9,000
2. Canton Teachers’ College Library, Canton .......... (?) .......... (?)

IX. Fukien:

Amoy University Library, Amoy , .......... (?) .......... (?)

page 10

X. Chekiang.

Chekiang College Library, Hangchow .......... (?) .......... (?)

XI. Kiangsi:

William Nest College Library, Kiukiang .......... 3,000 .......... 3,000

The libraries named above are scattered over eleven provinces. They all have two collections, one in Chinese, the other in foreign languages. All colleges maintained by the Chinese possess invariably a larger collection of Chinese books, while institutions supported by missionaries and western philanthropists always have more foreign books. Several reach the figure about 80,000 volumes.

As to classification most libraries classify books in foreign languages according to the Dewey Decimal System. and Chinese books according to four main divisions, viz., (1) Classics (2) History (3) Philosophy (4) Belle Letters. It is nearly unavoidable to have two parallel systems of classifications used side by side in the same library. The nature of the old Chinese books is quite different from that of the western books. The ancient and comprehensive system of the above four main divisions with subdivisions is therefore inadequate for western books, as well as for the new Chinese books. For instance there is no place for a book on such a subject as gasoline engines. On the other hand the headings provided by the western library systems are not comprehensive enough for the old Chinese books. So the difficult task of working out a system of classification
suitable for the old Chinese books as well as the new is at present confronting the Chinese librarians. Beside the question of classification, there are other problems connected with books in the Chinese language, such as binding, lettering, cataloguing, indexing, filing cards, etc.

Libraries and library commissions have undertaken a few of these problems and try to find satisfactory solutions.

The Boone University Library has published a modified Dewey system adapted to Chinese books. It works fairly well but is not detailed enough for big libraries. The Tsing Hua College Library supplements this modified system with three tables to be used for books on China, one for language, one for the period divisions of the Chinese history, and the third a table of geographical divisions. The Kwangtung Library Commission has initiated two undertakings, one a list of author numbers for Chinese names, and the other a method of indexing Chinese characters. The last is still in the age of experiment. The characters of the Chinese language are themselves the very obstacles for introducing a workable system of indexing. The college libraries in China are not only centers for promoting a library movement but also laboratories trying to solve some of the technical questions of library administration. Almost every college library has made some contribution to the development of modern libraries in China.

The Peking National University Library is considered as one of the best college libraries in China. It has a very fine collection of Chinese books among which are manuscripts and original imperial edicts most valuable for historical research. As to books in foreign languages the collection was originally well selected, but unfortunately not kept up for a number of years. At present the authorities feel the great need of a workable collection of western books, so a liberal annual budget has been provided for the purpose of buying new books. Partly due to Chancellor Y. R. Tsai’s efforts, and partly due to the good will and generosity of The Library of Congress, the National University Library has been given a complete set of Library of Congress depository card catalogues. This much valued gift will undoubtedly be of great benefit to research students. The authorities are now planning to erect a fire-proof building for these depositary catalogues and other national bibliographies.

Not far from the eventful spot where the ruins of the old Summer Palace of Peking (Yuan Ming Yuan) still can be seen, a humble library was founded in 1912 in the beautiful campus of Tsing Hua College. After the first few years it began to grow rapidly, now in the course of only nine years its collections in Chinese as well as in foreign languages are among the largest libraries in China.

The Library has at present 75,000 volumes of well selected books. It subscribes to 310 leading periodicals of the world and also 50 dailies. The circulation figure generally reaches to 2,500 books every month, besides a much bigger figure for books used in the reading rooms. The library not only provides reference facilities for the faculty and students, but also answers many
reference questions from the alumni of the college as well as the teachers of various schools in
northern China.

In order to accommodate the rapidly increasing number of books, an up-to-date and beautiful
library building has been erected, the first library building in China to have Italian marble in the
lobby, steel standard stacks, glass and cork floors, and other scientific equipment. According to
the present rate of annual acquisition it will in the next ten years become the largest college
library in China.

Tsing Hua College Library is also responsible for taking the initiative to promote a movement for
scientific management of libraries. In the fall of 1918 it played an active part to form a Peking
Library Association. The purpose of the Association is to further the interests of libraries in
Peking. Under its auspices the system of inter-library loans of books' have been introduced in the
capital.

The missionary colleges in China have also much interest and desire in developing college libraries.
Among the few noted ones, the Low Library of St. John's University, Shanghai, is one of the
oldest. It was founded about 1890.

Mr. Low's donation formed the nucleus of the collection. It grew steadily year after year, until
now it has its own quarters in the Anniversary Hall which. was a gift from the alumni, students,
and friends to the present president, Dr. Pott, in commemoration of the twenty-fifth. anniversary
of his presidency.

For the sake of convenience in charging, shelving, and cataloguing, all the Chinese books in 1912
were bound in the style of English books. This was a great advance in the history of Chinese
libraries. Both English and Chinese books were classified according to the Dewey decimal
classification, and the experiment was introduced of having a card catalogue for Chinese books.
The reading rooms which are divided into cozy alcoves, are attractive places for students to study
and research.

Another well-known missionary college library is the Boone University Library at Wuchang. It
was extended and reorganized about 1907. This library has been adequately organized and has
done a great service not only to the students and alumni of that university, but also to the people
of Hubei and the neighboring provinces at large. It is the first institution in China to introduce a
regular course of library science. Besides producing a class of trained librarians every year, the
Boone University Library has also introduced the serviceable system of traveling libraries. It has
already established more than twenty centers to handle the circulation of traveling libraries.

About nine college libraries at present have their own library buildings, as a rule the most
beautiful and comfortable buildings on the college campus. The South Eastern University in
Nanking is thus erecting a large and magnificent building which will after its completion be one
of the most imposing libraries in the region of the Yangtze valley. It is safe to assert that in every
respect the college libraries in China are more efficiently administered, richer in, collection and
better in service than the public libraries.
SOCIETY LIBRARIES

The third type of libraries in China, generally known as society libraries, is now only in the period of dawning. They are now only a few in number, scattered in Peking and in cities along the coast. The annual expenditures and initial expenses of these libraries are secured either from donations or from the funds of the respective societies. They are generally only used by the members of the society. The collection of books is of course similar to the nature of the parent society. It will not be out of place here to describe very briefly a few of the well-known society libraries.

The best known is the library of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society at Shanghai, founded about 1860. The collection on China given by Mr. Wylie formed its nucleus. Although the library is not very large, it is fairly strong in works on China. The Dewey Decimal Classification system was adopted in 1907 upon the recommendation of Dr. Bolton of the Boston Athenaeum. The library is open daily and the privilege of taking out books is enjoyed by members only.

Another society library now rapidly coming to the front is that of the Science Society at Nanking, entirely maintained by the Chinese. Its collection emphasizes the various subjects of science. The catalogue and equipment are all up-to-date; it has a fine building and renders efficient library service to its members and the students in Nanking.

A famous memorial society library, formerly situated in Shanghai, was recently removed to Peking. It was founded by a group of well-known politicians in memory of General Tsai Ao* who in 1915 managed to get down from Peking to Yunnan, there rallied his troops around him and frustrated Yuan Shih Kai's long cherished and ambitious plan of converting the Chinese Republic into his own personal dynasty.

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General Tsai thus saved the Republic, Having accomplished this task, he succumbed to the rigors of his superhuman effort.

This library will occupy a large building in the beautiful Pei Hai, a part of the Winter Palace. The necessary arrangements, such as installing shelves, etc., are being made at present. It is intended soon to open Pei Hai to the public, and this memorial library will then constantly inspire the readers to follow the uplifting example of this immortal general.

The library has a well selected collection of books in Chinese and foreign languages and the Dewey Decimal system has been adopted, and it is planned to extend the privilege of using books also to the general public.

The fourth society library belongs to the Chinese Social and Political Science Association, Peking.
It was started largely by a group of "Returned Students," but its final success in 1918 depended upon the United States of America, the late Imperial Manchu family and the Carnegie Endowment Corporation of New York. The first, through its worthy representative in Peking, Dr. Paul S. Reinsch, set apart the sum of taels 100,000 from the remitted fund of the Boxer Indemnity as initial and maintenance expenses of the library. The second kindly donated a centrally located site for the library building, and the third is the Carnegie Corporation to contribute every year about a thousand volumes in history, social and political sciences. I believe this is the first endowment of English books from that corporation to a library in China. The movement of founding society libraries is now slowly extending to the interior of the country.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES

In order to increase the efficiency and knowledge of the component factors of certain organizations and bureaus, special libraries have been founded. Again, cities like Peking, Shanghai and Canton are in the lead. There are four special libraries in the capital, namely, the Library of the Bureau of Geological Survey under the Ministry of Agriculture, the Library of the Railway Association under the Ministry of Communication, the Library of the Ministry of Education, and the Library of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Their collections are naturally along the lines of their respective spheres. Only the members of these ministries have the privilege of using the libraries. The Imperial system of classifying the books into classics, history, philosophy and belle letters is adopted in shelving the Chinese books. The collection in foreign languages are roughly grouped according to subjects. Generally no books can be loaned for home use.

In Shanghai there are two very interesting special libraries, one under the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce and the other established and maintained by the Commercial Press. The Library of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce was founded in the Winter of 1921 under the leadership of Mr. C. C. Nieh, then the Chairman of the General Chamber of Commerce. He feels very keenly that the business men should not only have a thorough understanding of Chinese affairs, but also a general acquaintance of the conditions of the foreign societies and a thorough knowledge of the trade-problems of various mercantile nations. He persuaded the merchants to open their pockets to found a special library for their use. The writer had the privilege of organizing this library and of compiling a bibliography of books and periodicals suitable for industrial magnates, merchants and business men.

The Library of the Commercial Press has a unique feature, namely, its rare editions of many famous books; they are collected for the purpose of producing reprints. In addition to this the company has a good general collection for the use of the editorial staff-members and other employees. The relative location is used in shelving books which are classified according to the Dewey Decimal System.

In spite of the constant political troubles in Canton a special library for the use of educators was founded in January, 1922, by the Canton authorities. It has two parallel collections of books, one
in Chinese and the other in foreign languages, chiefly on education and general reference. It acts as a laboratory for the short term library school in Canton. The administration is up-to-date, and this library intends to be the model library in the province of Kwangtung.

LIBRARY SCHOOLS

Since the gradual disappearance of the old idea regarding the librarian as only a page to the scholars, the beginning of demanding trained librarians has been on foot; hence library schools in one form or another have been inaugurated to give courses in library science and administration.

The Boone University at Wuchang as mentioned before is the first institution in China to introduce a regular curriculum of library science. It gives a three years' course and admits only students of sophomore standing. Many young librarians now working in different libraries all over the country are the products of the Boone University Library School. The demand for trained librarians is larger than the Boone University can supply, and many a library finds it impossible to await the employment of a trained librarian before transforming its storing place into a serviceable institution; hence library trustees and educators wish to introduce apprentice courses of library science and also summer schools in order to give the present library workers a general knowledge of library service.

In the Summer of 1920 the Peking Teachers College opened the first library summer school in China. It was a great surprise to all that the enrollment numbered seventy-eight men and women. Most of these were the librarians of various libraries in different provinces and sent up to attend the summer school. Even the Public Library of Amoy (Fukien) delegated its librarian to attend the lectures in spite of the great distance and the summer heat. Among the seventy-eight attendants, nine were girls. The lectures, being strictly professional, were open to both sexes. Undoubtedly the innovation has exerted a strong influence in support of the movement toward co-education.

In the Spring of 1922 a short term course of library science was introduced in Canton by the Provincial Educational Committee. This apprentice course of three weeks was under the authority of the Kwangtung civil governor who asked all schools above the middle school to send an instructor or a staff-member to the capital to attend the lectures. The school was opened on March 27th and attended by sixty-five representatives from various high schools in the province. The forenoons were occupied by lectures on the principal points of classification, cataloguing, order and accession work and library administration, while in the afternoons the students did practice work. All the attendants would take charge of their native libraries after the expiration of this three weeks' course of library science.

The Peking Teachers College for Women, the Peking Teachers College, and the National Southeastern University are planning to introduce a regular library course. Probably in the near future the plans will be realized, and there will be three more institutes to supply trained librarians.

LIBRARY MEETINGS
In order to accelerate the library movement a Committee on Library Education was organized under the auspices of the Chinese National Association for the Advancement of Education. In July, 1922, at Tsinan, Shantung, the librarians of the principal educational institutions came together under one roof to discuss the many problems related to the question of launching a nation-wide library movement. Of the following resolutions passed by the Association, items number 2, 3, 7 and 8 have been carried out.

1. That all schools shall have instruction in the use of books.
2. That the normal schools in China shall offer courses in Library science.
3. That extension of school libraries shall be emphasized.
4. That the chief places, such as Shanghai, Hankow, etc., including provincial capitals, shall establish libraries.
5. That a National Library shall be properly established in Peking.
6. That the publishers of new books shall present one volume to the Ministry of Education, and one volume to the National Library.
7. That primary schools, within certain regions, shall unite to establish circulating libraries.
8. That a committee for the study of library science shall be organized by the National Association for the Advancement of Education.

Considering the rapid growth of modern libraries in various parts of China, a few common principles and practices should be followed by all for sake of the systematic development of libraries and library economy. Now the first stop in the minds of the trained librarians is to form a national library association and in turn to ask each city to form a local library association. Meetings have already been called by the Library Committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Education to discuss several important problems such as cooperative buying, inter-library loans of books, consolidated catalogues and others. A spirit of cooperation between the various libraries of the same locality is a sure way to success for a library movement.

AMERICAN LIBRARY SCHOOL GRADUATES

Since 1914 five Chinese librarians have graduated from the New York Public Library School, New York City, and the New York State Library School, Albany. They are the promoters of the library movement in China. At present there are four more men studying library science in the American library schools. They all had years of practical experience in administering libraries in China before they left for the United States of America to continue their studies.

CONCLUSION

As the writer reviews the situation of the Chinese libraries, the progress during the last nine years has been a slow but steady one in spite of many difficulties, as civil wars, famines, and other calamities. If the educators and social workers will actively support a wide library movement in
China, its result will be immeasurably great and deep. True democracy cannot be attained unless the bulk of the people can enjoy and utilize the printed material with easy access.