

**USEFUL REFERENCE
SERIES, NO.
24: SUGGESTIONS**

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Useful reference series, No. 24: Suggestions by John Cotton Dana

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JOHN COTTON DANA

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USEFUL REFERENCE SERIES

No. 24

SUGGESTIONS

By
JOHN COTTON DANA



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INTRODUCTION

I have been a librarian for over thirty years. In that time I have written much on the subject of libraries. This book is made up of extracts from what I have written; though some, short as they are, were written as complete essays. I reprint them because they seem to be as true now as when I wrote them, and because I seem not able to say the same things again in any better way, and because I believe that much of what is here included can help the beginner in library work to look at her calling with fresh interest.

Not all the extracts are very closely related to obvious aspects of work in a small library; but even those which seem most remote can help to make library work seem more important or at least more deserving of careful thought.

J. C. DANA

Libr.
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SUGGESTIONS

The Library; its Books and its Public

I

ALL CAN JOIN IN PROMOTING A LIBRARY

The library is the one public institution which can serve as a center of pleasure and learning for all the city. To its service all can give their sympathy and aid without restraint of politics or creed, and without thought of difference in station or in culture. Recreation, good cheer, research, business, trade, government, social life, conduct, religion, all of these in every aspect can turn to books for help.

II

THE LIBRARY

We are for the first time in all history, building, in our public libraries, temples of happiness and wisdom common to all. No other institution which society has brought forth is so wide in its scope; so universal in its appeal; so near to every one of us; so inviting to both young and old; so fit to teach, without arrogance, the ignorant and, without faltering, the wisest.

III

THE LIBRARY BUILDING

A beautiful new library building is set down in one of our American cities. Consider what it may mean to that city as the years go by. By its mere presence it gives to every citizen a keener sense of the value and obligations of his citizenship. It strengthens that proper pride of place which does more to keep a city well built, clean, and well administered than all the laws and ordinances ever made. To the young, especially, it sets an example of municipal adornment and municipal housekeeping which makes them, as

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