were few and poorly attended. Teachers colleges and departments of education in our State universities were rare and even these not recognized by the older academic faculties.

Mr. Glass's reputation as an educator will rest on his work as superintendent of schools of the city of Lynchburg. During his forty-seven years in this office, he maintained the confidence of the city authorities, his official board, the teachers, pupils, and patrons of his schools. Such a service requires all the consummate wisdom, patience, sympathy, and intellectual vision that is rarely combined in a single personality.

He is not a man who is blindly carried away with fads and innovations, nor has he wasted any of his powers of body, mind, and heart in fighting educational windmills or playing to the galleries. His schools have always been regarded as among the best in his own State and in the Nation whenever comparisons have been made. In 1907, the Lynchburg schools won the "gold banner" and every gold medal offered to Virginia schools.

Mr. Glass has introduced into his school consistently all the innovations in modern education as they have been proved and tested. In 1895 he provided for systematic instruction in music, dancing, and physical training, and a few years later manual training and domestic science—all organized under expert supervision. Recently a junior high school was erected at a cost of $350,000.

Outside of his professional life Mr. Glass finds time and inclination for active participation in religious and civic affairs in his community. For twenty years he conducted a Wednesday night class for Sunday school teachers and taught a class of college girls every Sunday morning at Court Street Methodist Church until a recent illness prevented. He has served on important welfare committees in his community and on various educational boards of the State, including the Board of Trustees of the College of William and Mary. At its last convocation exercises he was honored with the degree LL.D., and the same degree was conferred upon him last June by Washington and Lee University.

Mr. Glass is a striking example of how some people preserve their youthful vigor of body and mind. He never became interested in, or associated himself with, any business or financial concern that would divide his time and energy, but he gave his undivided attention to the schools and the children of Lynchburg. He now goes about his daily duties with the same sympathetic interest and energy that he did years ago.

**FORTY AMERICAN BOOKS FOR THE WORLD LIST**

At the request of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations the American Library Association has selected the forty American books of the year 1924 which it judges the most important for inclusion in the world list of six hundred titles to be published under the auspices of the League.

The best books ordinarily become known abroad very slowly, and it is thought that the annual publication of a list limited to six hundred titles will be effective in drawing nations together into closer intellectual contact, by keeping them in touch with the works each nation believes to be its best.

Countries publishing ten thousand or more new books annually are entitled to name forty—the British Empire, France, Italy, Japan, Germany, and the United States are the only nations in this class. Countries publishing from five to ten thousand new works annually are entitled to name twenty; those of from twenty-five hundred to five thousand, ten; below twenty-five hundred, five.

**BELLES LETTRES AND ART**


THE AMERICAN LIBRARY

SINCE 1876

THE advances made by our libraries during the past half century have been almost entirely in the direction of making their contents more accessible, and this direction has been determined by the spread of the opinion that books are not for the few but for the many. The result has been the rise and development of the form of public library now common throughout a large part of the country. This is so different an institution from any that was known in earlier times that it almost merits a distinctive name, the former connotations of the word "library" being largely foreign to its present functions. This transformation, however, has been very largely limited to the field of libraries organized and supported by municipalities. Its fundamental points have come to be free access and home use. In other words, the extension of accessibility has been first in the direction of letting readers see and handle the books themselves instead of being restricted to a catalog, and second, in that of allowing readers to use books at home instead of confining such use to the library building. Obviously, this kind of extension could not well apply to large special libraries, such as that of an historical society or a library of science, like the John Crerar in Chicago. In such cases there has undoubtedly been great increase in accessibility, but this has taken the direction of more convenient buildings, better catalogs, and an improvement in book stock, both in quantity and quality. All these points, of course,