



THE FACULTY AND FIRST CLASS OF THE BOONE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SCHOOL AT WUCHANG

China's First Library School

CHINA'S first library school which is a department of Boone University at Wuchang graduated its first class of eight students last year and seven students are enrolled in the second class.

This school is peculiarly the offspring of the American library idea, the principal, Mary Elizabeth Wood having studied at the Pratt Institute of Library Science and the other two members of the faculty being graduates of the Library School of the New York Public Library: Samuel Tou Yung Seng (second to the right of Miss Wood as you look at the group) of 1914-1916, and Thomas Ching-Sen Hu (second on the left of Miss Wood) of 1917-1919.

The School and the University Library are glad at all times to receive books in English of all kinds except fiction and welcomes especially reference books, works on library economy and history.

Collecting Overdue Books in Tampa

To the Editor of the LIBRARY JOURNAL:

Thinking that perhaps the library profession might be interested in our recent experience in connecting overdue books, I am sending the following.

One of the most universally discussed problems in the library world is that of collecting overdue books.

In the Children's Department of the Tampa (Fla.) Public Library, our system is to send post cards when the book is five days overdue

and a letter at the end of ten days. When both fail to reclaim our property one of the staff accompanies a member of the police force. Since the Library is a department of the city, we can explain to the borrower that both are operating under the same city commission and no disgrace need be felt by the person upon whom the call is made.

In three afternoons of two hours each, the Children's Librarian and the policeman collected eighteen books and nine dollars in fines, only one dollar and a half of which was penalty for lost books. Besides the money collected during the calls, five children accompanied by parents came to the Library to pay the fines which had to await "pay day."

Aside from the gratification of refilled coffers and completed records, these visits have aided us in getting acquainted with the home life of our juvenile friends and we have no reports of permanent enmities resulting from the visits of the "hand of the law."

In Ybor City, the Spanish section of our city, we encountered some difficulty; but that was always solved by the presence of an interpreter who explained our errand, and we usually received the book.

We have noticed a decided increase in the circulation and attendance in our Children's Room since many of the wayward members have returned saying that they "had forgot all about the 'Liberry.'"

We do not, however, advocate the adoption of this system in all communities.

MARIAN M. PERCE, *Children's Librarian.*