

the books have been returned yet. It may be that the "absent-minded professor" really does exist. Two additional books bearing the Library's first bookplate have been located, thus adding to our pre-Revolution collection.

The New York Public Library recently had a gift of eighteen previously unlocated issues of the New York Gazette. We obtained photostats of these to supplement our unexcelled file of this city's first newspaper. It is interesting to note that the donor of most of our original file was the Rev. John Rodgers, the first minister of the Brick Presbyterian Church, which is celebrating its 175th anniversary this year. We acquired by exchange a unique pamphlet relating to the Library, "The Opinions of Samuel Jones, Josiah Ogden Hoffman, Thomas Addis Emmet and Davis B. Ogden, Esqs. on the late Election of Trustees of the New York Society Library," 1825.

That a large number of people continue to count the Library as essential in this year of vanishing luxuries is evidenced by a membership roll that is equal to last year's. As an outcome of the effort to interest the neighborhood schools in our reference facilities, many young people are taking their own subscriptions as they go on to college. They have discovered the excellence of our standard collection, particularly in the fields of old English drama and poetry. Several foreign readers who have subscribed this year are warm in their praise of the French collection which, they say, was gathered with knowledge and discrimination.

Reference questions have covered a wide range as usual. We have been asked for source material for a bibliography of Thomas Paine, a list of our earliest children's books printed by Samuel Woods and Mahlon Day, the name of the duchess who gave the ball before the Battle of Waterloo, the first action of the Marines in the Bahamas in 1790, the 1818 advertisements of a local firm celebrating its 125th anniversary, and the newspaper record of a mock marriage performed in New York City in 1830. This last question was posed in a letter from a worried lady in the Middle

West, who had just heard that her grandparents were not really married. The Government agencies located in New York have been using the Library for confidential research and our resources have been combed for information on various parts of the world in which our forces are or will be located.

Among the gifts received during the past year were four scrap books on World War I made by Mrs. William Greenough. Mr. Maitland Griggs presented the Walpole Correspondence, Yale edition in 12 volumes. Mrs. G. Beekman Hoppin and Mrs. George Backer each sent some hundreds of miscellaneous books to be added to our collection.

The Victory Book Campaign for the collection of books to be sent to our armed forces has continued throughout the year and about 2000 books have been given through the generosity of friends of this Library.

Following the recommendation of our government, the oil heating system was converted to the use of coal. The upper floors were closed off during the coldest months and a considerable saving in coal resulted. As grace after winter we give thanks that we have not had to duplicate a little notice dated January 14, 1918

OWING TO THE SCARCITY OF COAL AND THE INABILITY  
TO HEAT THE BUILDING, THE LIBRARY WILL NOT BE  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT PRESENT.

Members of our staff have volunteered for evening service in a nearby hospital and are carrying on the work of the Patients' Library in those wards not covered by the day-time volunteers.

The Trustees are proud to report that one of their members, Capt. A. Coster Schermerhorn, is serving with the Army Air Corps.

We wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the librarian and the library staff for their continued interest and cooperation, especially in these times of smaller staffs and increased duties.

For the Trustees,

LEWIS SPENCER MORRIS,

*Chairman.*

April 27, 1943.