

The Work of Friends' Reference Library, Devonshire House

IT is thought that information respecting some of the literary activities carried on in connection with Friends' Reference Library at Devonshire House may prove of interest to our readers.

VISITORS

During the summer and autumn of last year a large number of American visitors, Friends and others, made Devonshire House one of their places of call. Americans generally are keenly interested in the Penn collection of MSS. and relics; and Friends from the other side, or descendants of Friends, are delighted to find, as they usually can, some reference in the Card Catalogue to their forebears, or to see some seventeenth century manuscript or tract in which appears the name of their immigrant or earlier ancestor.

A few of the entries in the Visitors' Book will show that persons from many parts are finding their way into this department of the Central Offices. Pfarrer Theodor Sippell, Schweinsberg, Germany; Charles M. Andrews, Professor of American History in Yale University, U.S.A.; Evarts B. Greene, Professor of History in Illinois University, U.S.A.; I. I. Cox, Professor of History in the University of Cincinnati, O., U.S.A.; W. Penn Cresson, United States Embassy, London; Miss Baily, of Pa., the holder of the first Travelling Fellowship of the University of Illinois, U.S.A.; Dr. Karl Pearson, University College, London; A. L. Bell, H.M. Dockyard, Rosyth, N.B.; Miss French, Record Searcher for the Committee on English Research, New England Historic Genealogical Society; Albert E. Morlan, Belize, Central America.

RESEARCH WORK

A few of the subjects of research may here be given, some of them having been worked out by the Library Staff, and others by students themselves:—Appreciative notices of the good influence the Friends have had on the world; Quaker imprisonments in Horsham Jail; Quit-rents in American Colonies; Information regarding the ship *Welcome*; German Influence on England of the Seventeenth Century, particularly through the mystic, Jacob Boehme; International Tribunals; William Penn's coat-of-arms; statistics of birth-rate.

Among students engaged on Quaker literature in the Library may be mentioned:—

Alice Clark, of Street, Somerset, who is making a thorough search for information on the principles and practice of Friends regarding the equality of men and women.

Miss Violet Oakley, of Philadelphia (introduced by W. Penn Cresson, of the American Embassy), has come over to study subjects suitable for paintings on the history of Pennsylvania. Miss Oakley has been commissioned to continue the work, begun by the late Edwin A.

Abbey, of decorating the principal rooms of the State Capitol at Harrisburg, and she desires that all her subjects shall illustrate the spirit of the work of William Penn.

Albert Cook Myers is still busily pursuing his researches for his standard edition of the works of William Penn, with Devonshire House as his British base. Ellen M. Dawes is assisting him.

Dr. Hingston Fox and his daughter are availing themselves of fresh material in D. for a life of Dr. John Fothergill.

M. Christabel Cadbury, of Sutton Coldfield, completed, in the autumn, her studies here for her biography of Robert Barclay the Apologist, since published.

Helene Fenger, of Copenhagen, spent some time in the Library preparing to write a history of the Society of Friends in Denmark.

A London lady has spent many hours at Devonshire House, and also in Plymouth and elsewhere, collecting information regarding William Cookworthy and Richard Champion, famed makers of porcelain and china ware.

Georgina King Lewis has been in frequent consultation in regard to her new Life of John G. Whittier.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

Communications have recently been opened with the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth (the foundation stones of which were laid by the King and Queen in July, 1911), *per* the Librarian, John Ballinger, M.A. The Library has acquired, by purchase or gift, complete sets of the publications of the Friends' Historical Society, the *Friends' Quarterly Examiner*, and the *Annual Monitor*; and other Friends' books, especially those relating to the Principality, are being collected and despatched to Aberystwyth.

NEW BOOKS

New books are being constantly added to the Library. These and other objects of historical interest are usually on exhibition during Meeting for Sufferings week, *i.e.*, for a few days prior to the first Friday in each month.

A Quaker well known at the West-end of the town, after having curiously explored the rarities in the Tower, was informed by the Warden who conducted him, that it was customary for visitors to make a present to the Wardens on duty. Nehemiah hereupon placed in the hand of his friend a silver twelve-pence; this produced a remonstrance from the Warden, saying that, as there were twelve of them on duty, it would only be a penny a-piece. "Return my gift," says Nehemiah. This being done, a copper penny supplied its place, accompanied by these words:—"Take this, and inform thy brethren, that thou only wast employed by me."

Newscutting in D., dated 1788.