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Circular letter: Louise P. Bull to New Yorkers, September 12, 1928

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The Staff Associations of
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Sept. 12, 1928.

From One New Yorker . . . to Another

We New Yorkers can take a just pride in our libraries.
But NOT in the way we treat our librarians.

They are the most poorly paid of all professional workers. It's a relic of the old days when a librarian was a genteel lady in reduced circumstances who had to make a living - but wasn't encouraged to live too long. Even today the 91 heads of the branch libraries, who average more than 23 years spent in the service, receive an average wage of only \$45. per week. And these are at the top of the graded service! They can advance no further, except by appointment to one of a handful of executive positions. There is no increase for added years of loyal service, no chance of pensioned retirement.

Librarians are the only important division of city paid employees for whom no graduated increase in pay nor pension system is provided by the city.

As one step toward rectifying this condition this committee has been organized to persuade the Board of Estimate to grant library workers an average increase of \$3.63 per week.

Write to James J. Walker, our mayor, to the President of the Board of Aldermen, to the Comptroller, and to your Borough President and tell them that libraries are fully as important as public schools, and our librarians should be as well treated as our teachers.

Since the Board of Estimate makes its final budget estimate shortly, this requires prompt action, so please write today. Any expression of opinion from you would be most encouraging to us. If we might quote a line from you on the importance of our libraries and of those librarians who conceive that their true function is to unlock the door which leads to larger living--we would be very grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Louise P. Bull