

Outline of Talk on "Plant Libraries and  
How to Encourage them"

April 7, 1921

"The problem of this century is the education of the worker"

William Davidson

If this is true, the librarian must do his part; and there is no better strategic position than that of a plant librarian.

It presents a number of problems: 1) Catch the worker, who is unbroken to books; who is apt to be suspicious that in installing a plant library the management is trying to put over something on him; who is awkward in the presence of the librarian.

2) Take the management along with you. Generally doubtful of the experiment. Doesn't believe the worker is interested in books.

3) Remember that all factories are different. What succeeds in one place will not necessarily succeed in another. Call attention to three different types: a) the purely industrial town, made up of the factory workers and what caters to their needs. Use Endicott Johnson as type, - catching the workers by administering to social needs and supplying conveniences, like a place for the girls to shampoo their hair. Johnson's idea that the workers are afraid of the stacks. b) Entirely different problem in skilled and semi-skilled factories, particularly those in cities. Gilbraith's experience in introducing books in Providence. Converting the management first; telling the workers by bulletins that they could get questions answered. They did not believe that books contained any-

