

crease in unemployment, which is noticed, I think, in all libraries. It has been asserted by some that the curves representing respectively balances in savings banks and library circulation always show an exactly opposite movement, the savings increasing as the circulation decreases, and vice versa. That there is an action of this sort is beyond question, although it is probably masked in many cases by other causes. I believe, however, that apart from this there is a noticeable general increase in reading, and an investigation made several years ago leads me to conclude that this is not an increase in individual reading, but rather an increase in readers. It should be borne in mind that questions about reading addressed to public libraries can receive in the nature of things only partial answers. We know only about the reading of our own books, and as we do not put into libraries books that we believe to be injurious or worthless, it follows that our statistics relate only to a pretty good class of reading. There is a vast amount of "infra" library literature and "infra" library reading, but there are no statistics of it. I should call all library reading fairly substantial, although, of course, much of it is done very properly for recreational purposes. Personally, I believe that it is difficult or perhaps impossible, to draw the line between educational and recreational reading. One may read a work on calculus for amusement, and there is educational value in the trashiest novel.

## ST. LOUIS

*By Arthur E. Bostwick*

Librarian, St. Louis Public Library

I am not at all pessimistic about the moving-picture. If those who are worrying about the moving-picture would recognize it as the greatest avenue for reaching the public devised since the invention of printing, we should have fewer futile efforts to counteract it, and more to direct it.

OUR circulation seems to be increasing, but I interpret this to be the usual increase consequent on in-

It needs direction very badly. So far as I have seen, however, it encourages rather than discourages the use of libraries. Much of the increased use of specific books may be traced to reproductions of those books, or allusions to them, on the screen. I usually find that distrust or dislike of the movies is very general among persons who do not know them well.