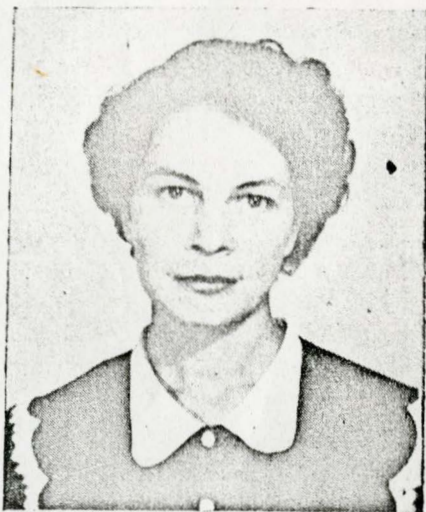


B/W Bennett, Hazel



Hazel Bennett, Deputy Dir. of Ja. Library Services.

Although this is a great help and Mrs. Robinson welcomes it, she is working towards the building and establishment of many more libraries in and out of the Corporate Area and indeed throughout Jamaica. She says, and rightly, that a mobile can never really take the place of a Library because although it is fitted attractively with books of all descriptions it cannot convey the atmosphere of a library and it cannot possibly afford the many advantages of a real library.

Reading Jamaicans of vision had hoped to see a free library established sometime in Jamaica, but few dreamt that it could have grown so quickly and efficiently in

so short a time. Mrs. Robinson has been able to cut through the petty strings and get the essentials for the extension of this urgently needed service, and, because she is not satisfied, but intends to see that it grows into an adequate service, she continues to drive hard.

This service is inadequate because every Library has been compelled to stop its membership ever so often when there are too few books for would-be readers. This is a condition which Mrs. Robinson is anxious to have changed.

AS to the matter of staff — the libraries are still understaffed, and the Director is sincere in her praise of her band of workers, paid and voluntary (a formidable army indeed) which has given such splendid service to the public and to the Library. She particularly mentioned the excellent and self-sacrificing work done by her deputy, Mrs. Wycliffe Bennett, and assistants and by Miss Norma Segre, F.L.A., Secretary and Librarian of the Kingston and St. Andrew Library and her staff during the removal and the setting up of the new library in June.

As tired as these ladies were on the day the library opened and for some weeks after, it is worth re-

cording that they maintained their courteous and highly efficient service to the public. In a day when so few people recognise the value and virtue of service, it is a relief to go to the Kingston Library or to headquarters. Why? Because here the people serving give the impression that they enjoy their work and that their special duty is to help and to be of service.

Every member of the Library is made to feel that Miss Segre is not a distant name to be reached through many locked doors, but that she, as well as her staff, is at the service of members. It is the same at the Headquarters, and it is obvious that the entire tone of the Library Services throughout the island is set by the power of example. Women form about ninety per cent of the Library staff throughout the island.

Certainly in this year of attainment by the Jamaican woman, Mrs. Robinson and her 97 paid and 127 voluntary workers who serve the 70,000 readers and whose hope is for the opportunity to serve every reading Jamaican, of any age, may well be proud that she and they stand at the top of the list of women who have not only attained but have and are contributing so much to one of the greatest fundamental needs of their country.

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WHEN the day's work is done, give me a book.
Or let me snatch some moments of delight,
Upon the printed page in haste to look.

*The sportsman cleans his gun with all his might;
Musing on pools, the angler baits his hook;
The eager revellers swarm into the night.*

*A porch contents me—or some quiet nook.
O then, my spirit like a mounting kite
Soars in the breeze!—while time runs, like the brook.*

Lena Kent.