

VIRGINIA WILLIAMSON MEMORIAL BOOK FUND

The Virginia Williamson Memorial Book Fund was inaugurated by the North Carolina Library Association to honor Miss Williamson who was killed in an automobile accident on February 17, 1950. The purpose of this Fund is to purchase attractive children's books for the Johnston County Public Library, Smithfield, North Carolina, of which Miss Williamson was librarian, and the Aireborough Libraries, Yorkshire, England, where she served as exchange librarian for the year of 1949. Miss Williamson was the first American exchange librarian in the public library field, and the inspiration for the idea of sending some of our attractive American children's books to the Aireborough Libraries was her own conceived while she was still in England. She felt greatly the lack of such books in English publishing and English libraries.

The drive has been successful beyond the fondest hopes of the Association. Except for some of her library school classmates and a few publishers and authors, only North Carolina librarians and friends of Miss Williamson were solicited. Others hearing of the drive through the newspapers or word of mouth contributed. The total sum collected is \$1,130.87. In addition 18 books have been contributed by authors and publishers. All of the books presented by authors are specially autographed. It is a tribute to the warmth and appeal of Miss Williamson's personality and of the cause itself that the drive has been so successful.

The entire list of more than 100 books selected by a committee ap-

pointed for this purpose has been purchased in duplicate, one set for the Aireborough Libraries and one for the Johnston County Public Library. In addition \$100.00 worth of children's books published in England have been purchased for the Johnston County Public Library. These were selected by Miss Margaret Scoffield who exchanged positions with Miss Williamson for 1949.

There is still money in the Fund. This will be used for the purchase of more books, some of which have been requested by Miss Scoffield who remembers them from her year in an American county library, and for the printing of a specially designed book plate to go in all books bought with the Fund.

It is interesting to note here that the people of Yorkshire, quite unaware of our memorial efforts at first, had their own memorial book fund drive for Miss Williamson. Miss Scoffield told them that this was what was done in America, and as one Englishwoman wrote, "This is an idea quite fresh with us, so perhaps you will catch its special significance. We all loved Virginia here." The books purchased with this Fund were selected to show England, and particularly Yorkshire, to Johnston County readers and have already been received in the library there.

MOTTO OF THE MONTH

Politeness is the art of making your guests feel at home—instead of wishing they were.