

HUNTING FOR BOOKWORMS IN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The New York Public Library, which now contains about 8,000,000 books, is being constantly augmented by additions from libraries, given by will, of rare old editions, and valuable books from the very ends of the earth. To preserve these intact, and to guard against the ravages of bookworms and other insects, which feed upon the paper, the glue on the backs and the



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cloth and leather bindings, a constant care is exercised, and a keen watch kept for any evidence of their activities. One woman is assigned exclusively to this work. When treating the books, she wears a huge apron which completely covers

her gown. A cheesecloth veil protects her face against the germs which lurk in the musty documents, and even the air she breathes is screened against contagion. Close touch is kept with the Health Department, and books which have been returned from infected areas are fumigated before being restored to circulation. The frequent use of the vacuum cleaner is a great aid in keeping the books free from dust and germs.