

HARVARD'S NEW LIBRARY---MEMORIAL TO TITANIC VICTIM.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Sept. 7.—In a few days ground will be broken in the Harvard College yard for the erection of the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library, the building which the generosity of Mrs. George D. Widener of Philadelphia will provide for housing the books of the oldest university in the United States. Gore Hall, which has been since 1841 the College Library, will be demolished, and on and about its site will be placed the new fire-proof structure of brick and limestone. The Widener Library will have a capacity of about 2,500,000 volumes—almost five times as many as can be stacked in Gore Hall.

The new library, as its name indicates, will be a memorial to Harry Elkins Widener, who, with his father, George D. Widener, was lost at sea when the White Star steamship Titanic foundered last April. George D. Widener was the son of P. A. B. Widener of Philadelphia. Mrs. George D. Widener, who will build the new library to perpetuate the memory of her son, is the daughter of the late William Elkins.

Harry Elkins Widener graduated from Harvard College in 1907. While an undergraduate he showed marked literary tastes, and began to collect rare and beautiful books. It became known after his death that he had bequeathed to Harvard College a library of extraordinary richness. The money value of the collection can be estimated only, but men who are familiar with books say that the 2,500 volumes would bring at auction hundreds of thousands of dollars; their value in other ways is inestimable.

The news of Mr. Widener's gift caused intense gratification at Harvard, but gratification was tempered with chagrin at the knowledge that the university had no fit place in which to house the splendid collection of books. The Widener bequest called attention once more to the insufficient accommodations of Gore Hall. Mrs. George D. Widener at once proposed to erect a suitable building in which to place the books her son had gathered together, and later, when she realized the opportunity for doing a great service

Presented by Mrs. George D. Widener to House the Valuable Collection of Books Left by Her Son, Harry Elkins Widener.

for education and scholarship, she notified President Lowell of Harvard that she should like to provide the means for constructing a library large enough to contain all the books of the college and to give room for growth. Her offer was gratefully accepted and steps to put it into effect were taken at once.

The plans have now been drawn and accepted, and work on the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library will begin as soon as the books in Gore Hall can be moved to temporary quarters and that building can be torn down.

The Widener Library will be placed, as has been said, in the Harvard College yard on and to the south of the site of Gore Hall. The new structure will cover a plot of ground 206 by 275 feet, the longest dimension running approximately north and south. The facade of the library is most impressive. Twelve Corinthian columns, each forty feet high, rest on a portico 128 feet long, which extends along the front of the building and is reached by a flight of wide steps ascending from the ground, twelve feet below. On

each side of the portico are one large and several smaller windows, and back of it are the main doors which open into the library.

The lowest floor of the building rises from the ground to the level of the portico. On this floor are large special reading rooms for the departments of history, government, and economics. These reading rooms will accommodate about 150 students. Here are several workrooms for the staff; also a "rest room" and a lunchroom for the women employees of the library.

The floor next highest is called the first floor; it is on the same level with the portico and the main entrance. As one goes through the doors he steps into a vestibule, which opens into a great entrance hall; it, in turn, leads to the Widener Memorial Hall, 40 by 32 feet, and lighted on each side by a court. Beyond the Memorial Hall is the Widener collection, the library which Harry Elkins Widener left to Harvard College. This room is 38 by 60 feet, and on each side is a smaller room for rare books. Still further back

is the great open south court, 52 by 112 feet, which provides light for the interior of the building. At the right and left of the main entrance are the offices of the chiefs of the library staff, and in the northeast corner a group of rooms for cataloguing and other work of the library.

On the second floor, at the head of the stairs, is the card catalogue room, and back of it the delivery room where books will be given out. In front, facing the College Yard on the north and extending 136 feet from east to west, is the main reading room. It has seats for 375 students and goes up through three stories of the building. The third floor contains a large arts and archaeology room and a map room. On the top floor are a bindery, a photographing room, special quarters for the English Library, the Classical Library, and other collections, and twenty or more other rooms of various sizes for seminaries where instructors can meet their classes and have their reference books close at hand.

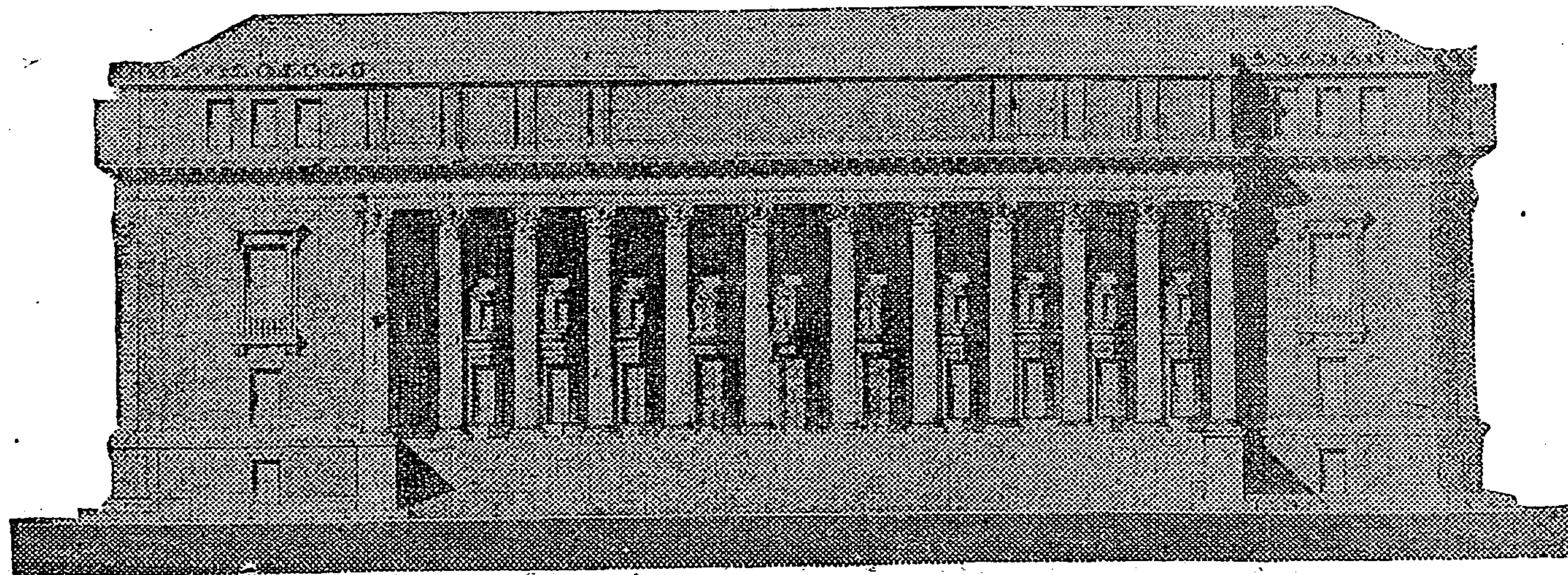
The stacks extend, roughly speaking,

around the east, south, and west sides of the building. They will be lighted by windows on the outside and on the three large open courts in the interior. The stacks will hold, it is estimated, about 2,500,000 volumes, and will be made up of about 59 miles of shelves. The stack space will be about the same as that in the New York Public Library.

One of the noteworthy features of the Widener Library will be the opportunity and encouragement it will give for special research work. Scattered about on the various floors will be eighty private rooms for professors and visiting scholars, and also 350 "cubicles," small separate rooms, furnished with a desk and chair, where students may work in seclusion. In this respect the Harvard Library is striking out a new path in providing scholars with greater conveniences for work in the stack than have ever been furnished by any other library.

All the details show that Mr. Trumbauer, the architect, has admirably designed the building for the purpose to which it will be devoted. The Widener Library will be a workshop for those whose tools are books. There are in this country three libraries which contain more volumes than the Harvard College Library; these three are the Congressional Library in Washington, the New York Public Library, and the Boston Public Library. But none of these compares with the Harvard Library as a library for students and scholars.

All the libraries of Harvard University now contain about 1,000,000 books and 500,000 pamphlets. Many of these are in the libraries of the Law School, the Medical School, the Divinity School, and the other special departments of the University, and will remain there. Gore Hall has within its walls about 500,000 volumes; about 150,000 additional volumes are scattered about in various other buildings of the college. These 650,000 volumes and some 400,000 pamphlets, which make up the College Library proper, will be placed in the Widener Library as soon as it is finished.



The Proposed Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library at Harvard.