

February 9, 1904

Miss F. S. Hawley,

Superintendent of Branches, Brooklyn Public Library,

26 Brevoort Place, Brooklyn, New York.

Dear Miss Hawley:-

Replying to yours of February 5 regarding applicants for position I will state as follows:

Marion E. Sparks possesses a good mind and has good college preparation for the work. Her experience in organizing several libraries since graduation has been successful so far as I know. Her accounts of the work as given to me have shown good judgment. There is no doubt of her interest in her work.

When all this has been said I must state that she is seriously handicapped by her personal appearance and her indifference to it. It would never do for her to have a position which brought her in contact with the people, and the students in the Library School found it unpleasant to be in close contact with her in class or a study room. She considers herself superior to considerations of neatness, clothing, etc. I regret exceedingly to make these statements but I know how important they are in library work and Miss Sparks has been reasoned with many times by her fellow students, her college professors and her library instructors, to no avail.

Anna D. Swezey, Miss Swezey possesses a very bright and attractive personality and would do well in a public position. She has intense interest in the work and showed considerable executive ability, we thought. She is very quick <sup>and</sup> in some ways ~~and~~ I thought she could <sup>not</sup> always

February 9, 1904

Miss P. I. Hawley,  
Superintendent of Branches, Brooklyn Public Library,  
26 Brevoort Place, Brooklyn, New York.

Dear Miss Hawley:

Replying to yours of February 5 regarding applicants for position I will state as follows:

Marion E. Sparks possesses a good mind and has good college preparation for the work. Her experience in organizing several libraries since graduation has been successful as far as I know. Her accounts of the work as given to me have shown good judgment. There is no doubt of her interest in her work.

When all this has been said I must state that she is seriously handicapped by her personal appearance and her indifference to it. It would never do for her to have a position which brought her in contact with the people, and the students in the Library School found it unpleasant to be in close contact with her in class or study room. She considers herself superior to considerations of neatness, clothing, etc. I regret exceedingly to make these statements but I know how important they are in library work and Miss Sparks has been reasoned with many times by her fellow students, her college professors and her library instructor, to no avail.