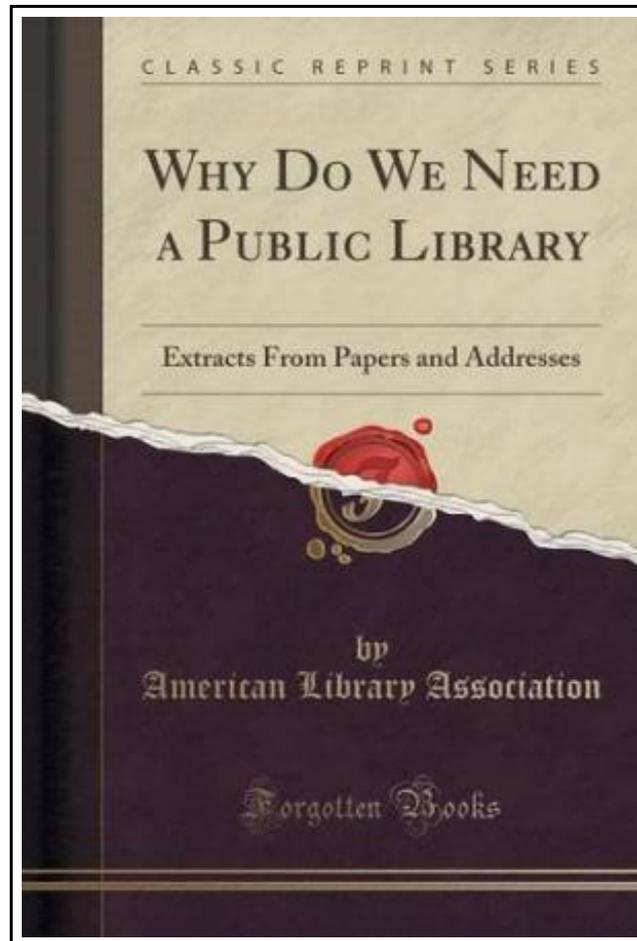


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Why Do We Need a Public Library: Extracts From Papers and Addresses There are people who may assent to all that is said of education in the life-lasting view of it, who will deny that there is a question in it of books. We, they say, find more for our instruction in life than in books. The reality of things interests us more and teaches us more than the report and description of them by others. We study men among men and God s works in the midst of them. We prefer to take knowledge at first hand, from nature and from society, rather than second-handedly, out of a printed page. Your book wisdom is from the closet and for closet use. It is not the kind needed in a busy and breezy world. Well, there is a half-truth in this which must not be ignored. To make everything of books in the development of men and women is a greater mistake perhaps than to make nothing of them. For life has teachings, and nature out-of-doors has teachings, for which no man, if he misses them, can find compensation in books. We can say that, frankly, to the contemner of books, and we yield no ground in doing so; for then we turn upon him and say: Your life, sir, to which you look for all the enlightenment of soul and mind that you receive, is a brief span of a few tens of years; the circle of human acquaintance in which you are satisfied to make your whole study of mankind is a little company of a few hundred men and women, at the...



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