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Periodical Report of  
The Non-Fiction Reference  
Section of The L. P. L.

It may be of interest to members of Committee to know that the Non-Fiction Section of the library is steadily gaining, in the number of its readers, & consequently, <sup>in</sup> its interest & usefulness.

The number of subscribers who examine the shelves in search of pleasure & knowledge is certainly, far more than hitherto, while the books themselves are utilized & taken out to a far greater extent than previously.

In conversing with members of Committee about this department of our library, the Convenor of the Section has noticed that the ~~impression~~ <sup>facts</sup> concerning the financial aspect of the last 15 months or so have not been fully realised, hence his desire to place one or two facts before the Committee.

Although the shelving has been added to on two occasions, it was not altogether because of new books having been brought during that period, but, that during the time of organising not less than from 300 to 400 books have been gathered from the shelves in the main library. And it was to carry these that additional shelving was necessary. The amount of cash spent on this Section for new books has averaged about £1 per month, not more & up to the present about 70 new books have been purchased. The low average price per book is owing to the fact that nearly all have been purchased at sales. This month for instance some were bought at W & J. average price 2/9 another lot of 4 cost 6/9 plus 2/- for returning one, yet bought in the ordinary way, would

be cheap at 157. Then 3 others which were found among an odd lot of papers, were rebound & are a valuable addition to the Fauna Section of N. Z.

Natural History

After consideration by Mr. Fairclough & myself, we decided that some rare books, more properly belonged to the Fiction Dept & were consequently deleted from the Catalogue & the books placed on the shelves in the Main Library.

After visiting other Suburban libraries we are satisfied that, in the Non-Fiction & Ref Section of the L. P. L., the Committee possess a collection of books superior to any other Suburban library, & of which they well may be proud.

It reflects the greatest utmost credit on those gentlemen, who during the earlier & more difficult financial times of building up this Institution, ~~yet~~ made opportunities of acquiring such a fine collection, as we fortunately find ourselves in possession of <sup>today</sup> & as time goes on, it is our privilege & pleasant duty to see that their efforts & objects shall not be nullified, but carried on in the same fine spirit; to the end that the L. P. L. shall always have reason to be proud of their work & its results. For ourselves, we are glad to be associated with them.

W. Brettell  
T. C. Fairclough.