

Library, and which has continued to this day. There have been many gifts of books to the Library, and on July 13, 1909, it is recorded that Mr. Osborne presented a number of the London weeklies, some of them of an old date, with the proviso that they be bound. This was done by Mr. Aiken, and on February 10th, 1910, the bound volumes were handed over to the Library by Messrs. Willis and Aiken, who generously bound them free of charge. It was resolved that the names of donors be written in all books presented, and it is interesting to note that this rule obtains to this day, for suitable forms with the donors' names inscribed thereon are to be found in the non-fiction section in books presented by generous friends. But of the earlier gifts, including the volumes mentioned above, none are to be found now.

It is interesting to learn that nineteen years ago, at a committee meeting held on July 20th, 1909, at which Messrs. Smith, A. Marshall, Aiken, W. Meers, H. M. Chappell, Dr. Inglis, W. W. Tanner, W. Harvey, were present, it was resolved "That a catalogue list of all books in the Library be printed as soon as possible."

This was one of the founders' good intentions which failed to materialise, but the wonderful rapidity with which the number of books had increased is sufficient explanation. The matter was never lost sight of, but the bugbear of expense was ever present, and fully nineteen years passed by ere the committee could claim to have a full and complete catalogue compiled on modern lines, and accessible to subscribers.

There are two catalogues: 1st, Authors in loose leaf form; and 2nd, Titles arranged alphabetically, on the card system. These include all books, viz., fiction, juvenile and non-fiction, and in addition there are complete separate catalogues for both the juvenile and non-fiction sections, all being kept up-to-date as books are placed on the shelves.

It can safely be said, at the beginning of the 20th year of the Library's existence, that it has not only attained, but far exceeded the expectations of the founders, for not even the most sanguine could have believed that in less than 20 years the 40 or 50 subscribers on opening day would be increased 40-fold, thus reaching the splendid total of nearly 1800, and the modest two or three hundred volumes have grown to over 21,000 registered books.

The record of the Magazine Department, too, is one of which any library would be proud, for beginning with some 6 or 7 magazines, it has developed into a very popular and splendid section of the Library. In the early days Mr. W. R. Smith presented "Century;" Mr. Butterworth gave "Punch," and Mr. Aiken "The Red Funnel," a magazine

published by the Union Steam Ship Company, but which had a comparatively brief life. He also gave the "Strand," whilst Dr. Inglis donated "Progress" and "The Clarion," both now defunct.

From this humble beginning the number steadily increased, until to-day there are some 70 magazines, periodicals, weekly and daily papers. There is a room set apart for these, and every night the accommodation is taxed to the utmost.

The formal opening of the Library took place on July 22nd, 1909, the function being performed by the Mayor of Christchurch, Mr. C. Alison, assisted by Mr. W. W. Tanner and Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P. Appropriately the speeches were highly complimentary to the members of the Linwood Citizens' Association for their public spirit, sagacity, and zeal, in bringing so worthy an institution into existence. The function was followed by a pleasant social hour, during which many members were enrolled and subscriptions collected. The "Lyttelton Times" of July 23rd, 1909, reported the event, and the following is a copy of that report verbatim:—

LINWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY OPENED BY THE MAYOR.

The Linwood Public Library, which has been established through the efforts of the Linwood Citizens' Association, occupies the neat wooden building that was in former years the Linwood Borough Council Chambers, on the corner of Stanmore Road and Worcester Street. This building is vested in the City Council, which has granted its use to the Library Committee, and has also made a grant towards the purchase of books. Mr. W. W. Tanner, President of the Library, welcomed the Mayor of Christchurch, Mr. C. Alison, and thanked the Council for its assistance in establishing the Library. He assured the Mayor that the institution would grow, and that it would prove of very great value, in the future, to the inhabitants of the eastern portion of Christchurch.

The Mayor said that he heartily sympathised with any movement for the foundation of a Library, and he must congratulate the people of Linwood upon having at last attained one. The success of the Library would, to a great extent, depend upon the wisdom exercised in the selection of books placed upon the shelves. Care must be taken that none of the numerous class of modern novels, which were pernicious in their tendency, were allowed a place upon the shelves. Linwood was not making the use of its recreation grounds which it could, and should do, and he hoped that in regard to the Library the residents would see that it was to their best interests to make use of the opportunities which were now placed in their way. He declared the Library opened, and wished it a successful and useful career.

Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P., congratulated the people of Linwood upon the progressive step they had taken, and said that though the Library was at present but a small one, he believed it was based on good, solid and progressive lines. In two years, he believed, it would have greatly increased and justified its existence. The City Council had voluntarily handed over the building for the Library, from which it had previously been receiving a revenue, and besides it had given a subsidy. That subsidy, he understood, was to be made an annual one in the same way as the subsidy given to the Sydenham Library by the Council. In regard to the Christchurch Library, he was sorry to say that they could get no subsidy from the Council. The Mayor