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resulting from those long hours dampened my passion for reading—which still endures. Its gratification has been the most continuously satisfying of all pleasures.

But enough of these personal recollections, for, in accordance with my undertaking, I must say something, however little, about the ostensible purpose of this article. All right, let me say it if I can do so without incurring the criticism of trying to climb up on to some pedestal of excellence, loftier than that of the ordinary reader. It is this: that the pleasure derived from the reading of the best books on serious subjects surpasses the most intoxicating joys of the confirmed novelreader, when one has really acquired the habit and developed a genuine interest in the subjects about which he reads. The subsidiary advantages should be obvious to all. One's interests, knowledge, and vocabulary are enormously widened. Life becomes more expansive. The range of common interest uniting one to his fellow men is greatly extended. Increase in capacity for friendship; improved mental culture; increased self-respect, should automatically follow.

One other thing. The best way to learn to read in a way most calculated to yield good results, is to select the hardest book you know of—provided you have some interest in the subject—and read that one book slowly, line by line, until you have got the author's full meaning. All other reading will thereafter become easy.

This do and thou shalt become a reader in the true meaning of the word, and the non-fiction section of your Library will become to you of the greatest importance.

In the meantime, may I congratulate the promoters of this magazine on their enterprise. It is a great idea, and, if it is intended to include a book-review page, it will be eagerly looked for by the patrons of the Library, and prove a valuable help to the devoted and energetic committee which controls the Library.

SOME NEW NOVELS

The Hills Sleep On. By Joanna Cannan. On account of his knowledge of the country James Raeburn, an ardent mountaineer, is sent on a secret service mission to Tibet, and how he carried it out is graphically described by Miss Cannan. The book is full of life, intrigue and adventure, whilst the descriptions of the scenery should appeal especially to all mountaineers. It is interesting from beginning to end.

Blow Desert Winds. William Corcoran. A good "western" story told of the earlier days of the small grazier settlers and their struggle against unscrupulous companies. Lovers of western tales will find plenty of excitement following the hero, a nominal killer, through his adventures from the time he breaks gaol to the time he is granted a pardon and settles down with the mate of his choice.

The Eunuch of Stambul. Denis Wheatley. A secret service romance with modern Turkey under Kemel Pasha as a background. Readers of Mr Wheatley's "Forbidden Territory" will find this novel equally as thrilling and interesting.

Understudy to Sylvia. By Marjorie Warby. Diana Dean, with a crippled brother dependent on her, works as confidential secretary to John Tempest and falls in love with her employer who looks upon her as no more than a necessary piece of office furniture. How does she overcome the situation? It is a delightful story of love outside office hours, and is told with delicate charm, pathos and wit.

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The spirit of the New Zealand pioneers, with its stress on cultural development should not be allowed to lapse, and it need not if New Zealanders will only renew the faith in British ideals which their pioneer fathers respected so much.

Mr G. B. Shaw in his recent visit to Christchurch gave utterance to this thought when he said that the old traditions of public action and spirit must be retained, and the country must ensure that the level of culture does not drop and that the son and grandson of the settler are more cultured than their ancestor.

-Outline of Library Development, Munn-Barr Report.

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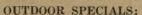
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