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only make the position much worse for us, but the cost would be considerable.

The solution of the matter would be to remove the Council stables and yard, on the East side of the Library altogether, and to plan for a building in reinforced concrete to occupy the whole of the section belonging to the Council—including the site of the present Library. This would provide for a small lawn and a few shrubs about the entrance.

Town planning committees have been at work for some time, but they have apparently overlooked the Council stables and yard on the main road and surrounded by dwellings.

Surely these two facts, first the cramped and crowded condition of the Library, and second the unsightly and unhygienic stables and yard, are more than sufficient reason for a new building.

Lack of finance has been advanced as the reason for the delay, but if Christchurch and Linwood citizens were aroused to a stronger interest in local civic affairs, it is more than possible that even this difficulty would be overcome.

OUR FOUNDERS. No. 3.

ALFRED MARSHALL.

Associated with Mr D. Richardson and Mr W. T. McKay, both of whom have been mentioned in this series of thumb-nail sketches, Mr A. Marshall was one of that group of men whose efforts resulted in the foundation of Linwood Public Library.

Soon after the Library was launched, he was appointed treasurer and book-buyer, positions that he held for a number of years. An accountant of distinction in Christchurch, his knowledge was an acquisition to the Library committee, and as a book-buyer he earned the thanks of thousands of readers.

Mr Marshall was born in Hereford Street in 1859 and later attended a school conducted by Mrs Charlesworth. His later education was completed at other schools, one of which was the Wesleyan School in Durham Street. Here he gained the coveted position of Dux, but as this honour placed him beyond everyday contact with his school chums he decided, to use his own words, "Not to do it again."

Many interesting memories of the "good old days" are recounted by Mr Marshall. In his boyhood days Armagh Street was unformed and Latimer Square was but a waste place, tussock covered. Bedford Row was the site of a nursery and vegetable garden.

As an instance of what determination and application will do, we might mention that young Alfred's bugbear was arithmetic, but realising that difficulties existed but to be conquered, he concentrated on this subject and mastered it to such effect that he later filled some important positions in the financial world of Christchurch. The later years of his business life were devoted to the Mutual Benefit Building Society where he occupied the managerial chair until quite recently.

Mr Marshall is of a modest and unassuming nature, but his life's work has earned for him a full measure of esteem and goodwill from the

public in general and members of Linwood Library in particular.

Like the other founders we have referred to, our past treasurer and book-buyer is now a life-member and we trust he will, for many years, enjoy the books he obtains from the Library that owes so much to his early foresight.

Committee Meeting

The monthly meeting of the committee was held on Tuesday, the 20th inst, the president, Mr A. Brettell in the chair and twenty-one members being present.

A motion of sympathy with the relatives of the late Mr C. J. Cox, for many years a subscriber and active member of the committee, was carried.

The resignation of Mr W. Wigglesworth from the Committee owing to his leaving the district was accepted, and the Secretary was instructed to write and thank him for his past services.

Mr J. H. Houlden was elected to fill the vacancy.

The treasurer's statement showed the income for the month of October to have been £65/8/1, and the expenditure on books and reading matter £60/11/10.

One hundred and sixty-five new books were placed on the shelves.

The secretary reported the membership to be 1822 as against 1762 for the same period last year—a gain of 60—and 9197 books were issued.

The secretary, Mr Hopkins, was granted leave of absence to the end of the financial year, and Mr E. E. Wiltshire was appointed as acting secretary.

New Zealand Author's Week.

We understand that a "New Zealand Authors' Week" is shortly to be organised in Christchurch.

We are entirely in sympathy with any project that aims at encouraging local talent and particularly so when that talent is of a literary nature.

New Zealand literature is slowly but surely commanding the respect of the reading public, not only in our own country, but overseas generally and in Great Britain, in particular.

Nationally, we have not yet evolved a distinct type of novel, but several authors have been successful in presenting us with interesting books, bearing the stamp of craftsmanship and using the Dominion, in some phase or other, as a background.

Non-fiction books, dealing with New Zealand and New Zealanders, both Pakeha and Maori, provide enthralling reading matter and we would urge our readers, who have not already done so, to commence a course of combined study and entertainment by learning something of their own country and its history.

Our non-fiction department has a fine collection of these books available to all subscribers.

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