

# Linwood Library Gazette

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." —Steele.

VOL. 1, No. 1



OCTOBER, 1935

## THE LOVE OF READING

By D. G. SULLIVAN, M.P.,

Mayor of Christchurch

(Patron of Linwood Public Library)

I have been asked to write something for the first birthday number of this little magazine, and it has been suggested to me that I should take as my subject the desirability of patrons of the Library giving more support to the non-fiction section.

I comply with the suggestion made to me. And yet I am not very hopeful of being able to influence people to depart from their established reading habits. I do not dogmatize about the matter, but I have an idea that the only chance of so influencing people is to "get them young." I have read many brilliant exhortations on the subjects of "how to read," "the pleasure of reading," and so forth, but that was the end of it. I have no recollection of ever having applied those excellent maxims put forth for the instruction of the public. I have just read what I wanted to read, when, where, and how I liked. I have little right, therefore, to moralise on the subject, and, apart from official and necessary things, I have read for my own pleasure, always suiting the mood of the moment.

It just happens, however, that my tastes run to the heavier side of literature. Normally, I do several hours a day of serious reading—but only because I like it. And let me make another shocking confession—most of my reading is done in bed. An hour and a half in the early morning, and another hour and a half in the late hours of the night—except on

Sundays, when a comfortable arm-chair is requisitioned. I assume the reader's displeasure, and bow my head in silent submission to his (or more probably "her") reproach. But bad habits die hard. In that respect I think I am beyond redemption. But it is a very pleasant bad habit, and I have no other defence to offer.

I wish that I could claim that my attraction to serious literature was the product of some noble and self-sacrificing motive of public service and self-improvement. Alas! It was nothing of the kind. It happened this way. In the days of my early boyhood I had a flair for disputation on a wide range of subjects. In most of these encounters I had a complacent feeling of success and triumph. But there came a time when my complacency was rudely shattered by another lad of my own age, who seemed to know more about everything than I did. To retrieve my lost laurels, I commenced to read. Somehow or other, I secured the funds necessary to enable me to pay a library subscription. I had a lady relative, who was a school teacher, and I borrowed books from her. And if she should happen to read these lines she will say, "Yes, you scamp; you never returned them."

But the love of reading grew and became the ruling passion. It was a parental task of vast magnitude to get me to leave my books at night and go to bed. There came sad days like those we have been passing through in recent years, when the fiends of depression and unemployment were striking at the homes and lives of the people, and to assist the family income I voluntarily went out and delivered newspapers in the morning, and sold them after school, in the streets, till a late hour each evening. But not even the weariness

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

But enough of these personal recollec-  
tions, for, in accordance with my under-  
taking, 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 ordin-  
ary 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 novel-  
reader, 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 hard-  
est 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 read-  
er 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 fol-  
lowing 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 out-  
side office hours, and is told with delicate charm,  
pathos and wit.

### FOR THE JUVENILES

#### Girls

Kits at Clynton Court School ..... May Wynne  
The Fifth at Cliff House ..... Irene Mossop  
Marjolaine ..... Isabel M. Peacocke  
Sir Anthony's Champions Mrs E. Whalley-Tooker

#### Boys

Standish of the Air Police Percy F. Westerman  
Thrilling Flights ..... Capt. W. E. Johns

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 Zea-  
landers will only renew the faith in British ideals  
which their pioneer fathers respected so much.  
Mr G. B. Shaw in his recent visit to Christ-  
church 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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**Linwood Library Gazette**

The Official Organ of the  
Linwood Public Library

Vol. 1 October 1935 No. 1

In the presentation of this, the first number of the Linwood Library Gazette, the committee wishes to advise subscribers that the publication of the journal will be conducted in their interests and issued monthly.

It is hoped that subscribers will regard the Gazette as a connecting link between themselves and their management committee. These columns will be open to correspondence on topics intimately connected with library matters and suggestions relevant to possible improvements will be welcomed.

The committee is elected by subscribers each year and the fact that several of its members have served for more than fifteen years is evidence that its services are appreciated; generally, it is felt that a closer union between subscribers and their representatives should result in much benefit to the Library.

Linwood Public Library is an institution of which Christchurch may justly be proud and by increased co-operation it should occupy an even higher place in library circles of New Zealand.

To ensure a continuance of this journal it is essential that advertisers shall renew their contracts. The Gazette is published at no cost to the Library, all

Our readers' opinions upon any matter relative to Library matters are welcomed.

Address all correspondence to "The Editor,"  
Linwood Public Library.

expenses being covered by revenue derived from advertising contracts. It is only by continued support on the part of the advertisers that we will be enabled to carry out our policy of maintaining a monthly gazette containing matter of vital interest to subscribers.

We therefore ask readers to patronise, whenever possible, those business people who are helping us by means of their advertisements. Further, we would ask our readers to mention the "Linwood Library Gazette" to these shopkeepers when doing business with them. This will afford concrete evidence that advertisers' assistance is appreciated and should be a means of ensuring continued publication of the journal.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CHAIR**

Though cramped for room in every department within its walls, Linwood Library is again opening new ground and in such manner that will, we think, appeal to all our subscribers. Briefly, the genesis of the Gazette is a strong desire to find a closer measure of contact between the committee and subscriber.

We feel that the more our subscribers know about the thought, intentions and aspirations of the governing body, the more readily will they respond, especially when the crystallised thought is appealing or informative. As the motive behind the Gazette is supremely one of progress and improvement of our library, it surely follows that all will range themselves wholeheartedly with the committee and thus make success certain.

The goodwill of the subscribers and the many examples of approval have often, in the past, acted as a spur to the committee with beneficial results to Linwood Library and we confidently place the Gazette before you, strong in that belief.

**OUR FOUNDERS**

Daniel Richardson

Mr Daniel Richardson may truly be called the Father of Linwood Library; it was mainly due to his foresight and energy that the Library

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came into being. It was after Linwood Borough became merged into Christchurch that Mr Richardson conceived the idea of utilising the old Borough Council offices as a library building and so he, together with Mr W. W. Tanner and Mr A. Marshall, approached the Christchurch City Council with that object. The result was the foundation, in 1909, of the Library, commencing operations with about 250 books and some 40 subscribers.

Mr Richardson was born in 1854 at Norham-on-Tweed, England. In 1876 he sailed for New Zealand and upon arrival settled down at Richmond, Christchurch; or Bingsland as it was then called. His reminiscences of early Christchurch are intensely interesting, one of the early recollections being of the Post Office, then a four-roomed cottage in Market Square.

His early years in Christchurch were spent in the building trade; in 1881 transferring his activities to the coal and firewood trade, carrying on business for forty years.

We are proud of Mr Richardson's work on behalf of the Library he was largely responsible for and are glad to say that his interest in the institution is still very much alive. Long may we have him in our midst.

## NOVELS TO READ

By Our Reviewer

Black Bell Rides the Uplands .... Vingie E. Roe  
Black Shirt the Audacious ..... Bruce Graeme  
Blood Relations ..... Sir Philip Gibbs  
Canyon of Peril ..... Johnston McCully  
The Cat and the Corpse ..... R. A. J. Walling  
Conflict ..... Faith Baldwin  
Cowboy's Revenge ..... Jackson Cole  
Dangerous Twins ..... Edgar Jepson  
The Eunuch of Stambul ..... Denis Wheatley  
The Fortunes of Evadne .... Dorothea Conyers  
The Four Winds ..... Roland Pertwee  
Greek Fire ..... Dora Barford  
Here in Disguise ..... Marjorie M. Price  
The Hills Sleep On ..... Joanna Cannan  
The House at the World's End .. Patrick Macgill  
The House of Four Winds ..... John Buchan  
In Whose Dim Shadow ..... J. J. Connington  
Laggard in Love ..... Dorothy B. Upton  
Laurelled Captains ..... Geo. R. Preedy  
Lord of Terror ..... Sydney Horler  
Love's Altered Face ..... Deirdre O'Brien  
McLean Knows Best ..... Geo. Goodchild  
Madame Spy ..... Bruce Graeme  
Norwich Victims ..... Francis Beeding  
Occupation Spinster ..... Lettice Rathbone  
One Hour Before Dawn ..... Valentine  
Physician Heal Thyself ..... Eden Philpotts  
Blow Desert Winds ..... William Corcoran  
Pathways of Free Men ..... Louis Kaye  
Sackcloth Into Silk ..... Warwick Deeping  
The Seventeen Thieves of El-Kail Talbot Mundy  
The Silent Man ..... J. M. Walsh  
The Squire of Zabuloe ..... Jos. Hocking  
Storm Riders ..... C. W. Sanders  
"Susie's" Career ..... Robt. Hichens

Tempest in Paradise ..... Janet Mitchell  
Town Girl ..... Eliz Carfrae  
Understudy to Sylvia ..... Marjorie Warby  
The Wedding ..... Denis Mackail

## BECKENHAM LIBRARY

Representatives from Linwood Library attended the Annual Meeting of the Beckenham Library held on September 14. The report showed that progress had been maintained. Four hundred and eleven fiction, 109 non-fiction and 40 juvenile books had been added to stock at a cost of £152. Issued for the year were 27,642. The secretary, Mr Cooper, represented the Library at the Conference of the N.Z. Library Assn. Inc., held at Timaru in March last.

The Library being comparatively new, presents a bright clean appearance, both inside and outside, and being located close to the Park and school grounds, is particularly fortunate in its surroundings.

We cordially extend our good wishes to Beckenham.

## "SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM"

Famous book by "Lawrence of Arabia" now available for Linwood Library Subscribers.

## SPECIAL NOTICE.

Subscribers wishing to read this book should hand their names in to the Secretary.

## NON-FICTION BOOKS RECENTLY PURCHASED

The Garden Grows. J. F. Leeming. Another garden book and one that is delightfully refreshing, especially if you come from somewhere near to Cheshire. To follow the author and his wife through the "Growing" is as good as a holiday, interesting, invigorating and provocative. Why cannot WE grow gardens like these? Read the book and find out how they did it, then, go and do likewise. It is well worth while.

Jungle Mania. Arthur Torrance. This is not the usual adventure type, because it has a higher purpose. It is a realistic fight for the ultimate benefit of humanity. To Arthur Torrance the jungle and forest were huge workshops to be explored and searched and the results carefully analysed, in order to find preventives for tropical diseases. Very often facing danger and near to death's door, he has a great story to tell and tells it well.

The Donkey of God. Louis Untermeyer. This is a book unlike all others—alone. Never was there a "Travel" book like this; the beauty of its word pictures, unique, and deeper—the reverential tone of some of the stories. The story

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of St. Francis and the Donkey is one to be told to children—and to old men. It has been described as a heavenly book. It certainly is a book full of beauty.

If Stones Could Speak. F. St. A. Bristane. Another book about London and its wondrous charm, its old beautiful historic buildings, its indescribable fascination. If stones COULD speak what a story they could tell. However, that is left for your imagination to create.

T. E. Lawrence: In Arabia and After. Liddell Hart. Mr Hart wields a gifted pen and here he has given us, what I think is the best of all the books written about Lawrence. Robert Graves gave us a splendid work of Lawrence and his work but L. Hart goes further. I recommend all who can to read this book before they start Lawrence's own classic, "Seven Pillars of Wisdom," for I feel sure that having absorbed the fine analysis of Lawrence's unique mentality one will be able to enjoy more fully the beauty and mystery of the great T. E. Lawrence.

**PARAGRAPHS**

Travel and Reading are the two main agencies by which a nation attains culture and breaks the shackles of parochial thought. The average citizen must depend upon the latter and his need for continuous cultural development demands efficient and up-to-date libraries.

—Hon. R. Masters, M.L.C., Minister of Education. From Munn-Barr Report.

There is no such thing as completing one's education. When school, college and university days are over the education of the individual may almost be said to have just begun. The gates of knowledge have been thrown open to him, and it is largely according to the extent and soundness of the grounding in those early days and the opportunities now available to him, that his knowledge may be increased.

—Extract from Hon. Sir Chas Stratham, Speaker.

Good literature is one of the greatest boons with which mankind has been blessed. The cultural progress of a nation can be judged largely by its assimilation of it, and this in turn, under modern conditions, depends mainly upon the public libraries, their energetic administration and the adequate supply of good books of every description.

To render good books available to every intelligent inhabitant (young and old) within its area should be the objective of the modern public library.

—Lord Bledisloe, Munn-Barr Report.

The need for libraries was never greater than it is today. Books are the vehicles of thought and practice, and must be used by everyone who wishes to keep up with the affairs of the world. They are expensive, and few individuals have the means of providing them for themselves; yet their value to the community is such that, like schools, they should be freely at the service of all in the interests of better citizenship.

—From Plan for a National System.