

Linwood Library Gazette

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

VOL. 1, No. 6



MARCH, 1936.

LINWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

27th ANNUAL REPORT.

In presenting this, the 27th Annual Report, your committee has pleasure in recording another successful year's undertaking in library affairs, for the benefit of the district.

Membership shows an increase of seven over last year's figures, the total number on January 31st, 1936, being 1739.

During the year 754 members joined and 747 resigned. The Juvenile Section has shown a decrease of 3 and the Adult Section has 32 members less than last year. The Old Age Pensioners now receiving the full benefit of the Library total 58, an increase of 42 over last year's figures. It is pleasing to note that your Committee's efforts in providing a year's reading for the aged, for the nominal sum of 2/6 has been much appreciated.

The close of the Library year coming, as it does, in the height of summer, does not disclose the maximum membership, which is always greater during the winter months. The highest point ever reached in the Library's history was during May last, when 1882 members were on the register.

The financial position of the Library is in keeping with precedent, a credit balance being shown, while the income received from subscriptions and charges on extra books has been utilised largely in the purchase of reading matter for members. The total income received from subscriptions was £523/17/6 and that from extra books £360/10/11. It will be seen that this item is a most important one, representing nearly 33,000 books taken by subscribers at the nominal charge of three pence per volume.

The Christchurch City Council granted the sum of £100, following recent practice. Although £50 less than the subsidy formerly given, your Committee is deeply grateful for this assistance, but trusts that with the return of more prosperous times the full amount may be granted in the near future, as with the growth of the Library and the increased cost of books even the larger sum is proportionately less.

1804 books were added to the shelves during the year; these were classified as follows:—1428 Fiction, 146 non-Fiction and 230 Juvenile.

1374 books were discarded, the total number of volumes on the shelves and in circulation being approximately 16,900. 4742 books were repaired on the premises and 82 were rebound.

The number of books issued during the year was 109,958.

New magazines purchased were "Current History," "Geographical Magazine" and "Walkabout." These are journals of educational character presented in a popular manner. They have been well received by subscribers.

The successful management of the Library has been largely due to the continuation of the system of dividing the Committee into several sub-committees, each responsible for its own particular sphere of activities. These sub-committees are Executive, Magazines, Shelving, Book-culling, Juvenile, non-Fiction and Publicity.

The three book-buyers—Mr E. G. Thomas (Fiction), Mr A. Brettell, (non-Fiction) and Mr L. W. Ballan (Juvéniles) have rendered good service during the year, their judgment in selection having met with general approval.

Special thanks are due to the Lady

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Librarians, Mesdames Binns, Hopkins and McLean and the Misses Good and Spence for their valuable assistance during the afternoon sessions, also to Miss Burfitt, Assistant Librarian and Caretaker for her services.

During the year we were successful in publishing the "Linwood Library Gazette," a monthly journal devoted to book reviews and other matters pertaining to library work. Book reviews broadcast from 3YA have been continued, a service that has brought us many appreciative remarks from near and far.

We were represented by Messrs Brettell, Thomas and Salvesen at the Conference of the New Zealand Library Association, held at Timaru in March last. These delegates were instrumental in drawing the attention of other New Zealand librarians to the good work done by the Linwood Library and their participation in Conference matters did good in other directions.

A deputation waited upon the Finance Committee of the Christchurch City Council, requesting an increased subsidy and a new building to replace the present structure which is so severely taxed for shelving space and accommodation for subscribers. The request was not granted, although the City Councillors present realised the justification of our claim.

We have to thank the City Council for painting and renovating the exterior of the Library; its appearance being considerably enhanced.

It is with much regret that we have to record the death of Mr C. J. Cox during the year. He was a life member of the committee and his constant and cheerful service to the community will be sorely missed.

In conclusion it is desired to express sincere appreciation of the consideration shown by subscribers and we trust that the same loyal support will be given to the incoming committee to the benefit of all concerned.

Signed,

A. BRETTELL,

President.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS
for the year ending, and BALANCESHEET as
on 31st January, 1936.

RECEIPTS.			
	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward			24 19 3
Subscriptions	523	17	6
Extra Books	360	10	11
Sale of Books		7	0
Fines		8	11
Council's Subsidy	100	0	0
Rents		6	19 0
Sundry Discounts		4	8
			992 8 0

£1017 7 3

PAYMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.
Books	496	6	7
Magazines	69	6	1
Newspapers	7	14	0
Binding	33	5	3
Caretaking	141	3	0
Additions and Alterations	7	4	5
Maintenance	4	16	8
Expenses Annual Meeting	6	15	7
Expenses Delegates to Conference	7	16	7
Insurances	8	6	8
Lighting and Heating	53	16	9
Printing and Stationery	29	19	1
Emergency Tax	3	15	0
Subscription to Libraries' Assn.	1	11	6
Rent		10	0
Petty Cash and Sundry	7	6	9
Bank Charge		15	0
Honoraria—			
Secretary	50	0	0
Treasurer	35	0	0
Custodian	5	0	0
			970 8 11

Balance at Bank £46 18 4

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK
EMERGENCY ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.
Balance at 31st January, 1935	179	4	5
Interest credited		5	7 5

Balance as at 31st January, 1936 184 11 10

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.
Balance at P.O.S. Bank	184	11	10
Cash in Bank Account	46	18	4
Cash on Counter		1	10 0
Furniture and Fittings	180	0	0
Books on Shelves, 16,9000 approximate value	1300	0	0
			1713 0 2

£1713 0 2

LIABILITIES.

NIL.

E. G. THOMAS, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct.

R. G. WARD

W. T. McKAY.

27th February, 1936.

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Compared with last year there has been an increase in the income of £6/19/9 which is made up mostly by an increase in rentals received by the letting of the Library for the general and other elections. Subscriptions show an increase of £7/11/- which is counter-balanced by an equivalent decrease in the takings for extra books.

The amount expended is lower by £9/9/-. During the latter part of the year the books coming forward, especially those from Australian publishers, were so poorly bound that it is found necessary to rebind some and in other instances to have the binding strengthened and to provide for this it was decided to set aside the sum of £30 towards the cost and put the work immediately in hand.

E. G. THOMAS, Treasurer.

**COUNTY LIBRARIES IN THE UNITED
KINGDOM**

In his foreword to the third statistical report of the committee of the County Library section of The English Library Association, just published, Colonel J. M. Mitchell quotes the following striking figures:—

	1928-9	1931-2	1934-5
Total issues	18,367,306	34,831,715	48,540,718
Total Stock	2,454,230	3,966,729	5,596,633
Tl. Borrowers	875,641	1,636,586	2,164,066

At a cost in England of 4d. per head per annum, Scotland 6½d., and Wales 3½d.

—From Bulletin of The New Zealand Library Association, No. 13.

When Mr W. D. Howells, the famous writer was editing an American magazine, a young man called on him at the office and offered him a poem. Mr Howells read the poem and thought it was good, but somehow it seemed rather familiar.

"Did you write this unaided?" he asked.

"I did," replied the youthful poet. "I wrote every line of it."

"Then I'm very glad to meet you Lord Byron," said Mr Howells, "I was under the impression that you died some years ago."

—"The New Era."

Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the
Linwood Public Library

Vol. 1 March, 1936 No. 6

EDITORIAL.

Our space this month is largely taken up by the Library's 27th Annual Report and Balance Sheet. We believe this step will be appreciated by subscribers who are naturally interested in the Library's progress.

That the Committee's efforts are recognised is evidenced by the large attendances at our annual meetings, but it is obviously impossible for all members to attend these meetings and so we are presenting the Report and Balance Sheet in the Gazette, that each member may see at first hand an account of the Committee's stewardship for the past year.

It is possible that some subscribers take the Library and all that it implies for granted. To any such we would suggest a few minutes' serious consideration of our pages in this month's issue. It will be seen that to manage the affairs of the Library calls for a lot of self-sacrificing work on the part of those subscribers who have been elected to the management committee.

As we have mentioned in previous numbers of the journal, co-operation on the part of all subscribers is earnestly desired and it is at the Annual Meeting that members have the right of expressing their views. To those individual members

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

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

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who are perhaps too diffident to air their views in public, we would again say that our columns are open to any helpful suggestions or criticism.

FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

THE LIBRARY SPIRIT

We have the authority of Holy Writ for the assurance that "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and the pleasure some of our workers and subscribers have enjoyed in presenting books to "Our Library" has been manifest at the time of the gift. Wondering what should be the subject for the usual monthly talk, the Chair decided to briefly mention as far as possible the gifts to Our Library since its inception.

During the first year many single volumes were presented by the enthusiastic workers and friends, of which no record has been kept but apparently which did not escape notice.

The splendid gift of 44 volumes of "The Illustrated London News" in a glass covered case must have cheered the hearts of the committee. Also about the same time Messrs Willis and Aiken gave 4 volumes of "The Illustrated London News," and Mr Connal donated two volumes of "Punch." As time rolled by the Library received at intervals gifts by Mr A. Rowntree, one volume British Art, Mr C. P. Rutland, seven volumes of "The Army and Navy Gazette," Mr G. N. Hayley, Mr D. Richardson, Mr H. Burson also gave useful and valuable books.

Special mention must be made of the gift by Mr F. C. Fairclough of a portion of the library of his father, the late Rev. P. W. Fairclough, consisting of nearly 900 volumes. A splendid gift, and when we get a new and suitable building, this can be made more accessible.

Finally the development and growth of the "Library spirit" does much to strengthen and improve the actual working in the library itself.

Voluntary work must mean sacrifice, otherwise it loses its vital power, so when anyone is moved to make a gift, it comes as an uplift and added incentive to carry on the good work.

NEW NOVELS

Out of the World. By Pamela Bourne. Miss Bourne is one of those who is fortunate enough to be able to satisfy her longing for adventure. Born in South Africa, and daughter of Sir Richard Bourne, Secretary of Defence, she desired acquaintance with the sea and far-off lands.

Working as a sailor aboard a steamer, she arrived in Australia. Then to the islands of the South Seas, visiting many and gaining much experience and enjoyment. Later to New Zealand, where she visited both North and South Islands. Back to Australia, and again shipping as a sailor she sailed for England in the "Herzogin Cecile," the well-known grain ship, going round the stormy Cape Horn.

A book that holds the reader from the first page to the end, bright and chatty, and leaves one with the impression that Miss Bourne deserved all the pleasure she evidently got out of

her ramblings, and that she herself is a charming lady. It is good reading and finely written.

On a Huge Hill, by J. D. Beresford, is rather an uncommon book, but one that should appeal to many readers who are interested in the occult. The story commences with the description of James Kingdon, a somewhat eccentric solicitor, and his partner, Anthony Spinks, who has brilliant mental powers and a gift of mediumship. James is married to Helena, a convincing characterisation of a narrow minded and extremely stupid woman. Their son Robin contracts, and is dying of, meningitis, but his father's powers miraculously save him and the mother is puzzled and jealous that her husband could do what she could not. Bickering and disagreement between them commences and is further accentuated when James tries to heal Lucy Gordon, a young married woman who is suffering from arthritis. Eventually the wife becomes transformed and joins her husband in his ideas and work. The book will be found not only enlightening but full of thrills and excitement.

The Scarlet Empress, by J. Smith Ross. This story has already been before the public, having been shown on the screen as Catherine the Great, and those who have seen the picture will enjoy the book, giving as it does, in fuller detail the romantic story of the great Empress in her later years, the marriage of her heir Peter to a German princess, his profligacy and eventual forcible disappearance, and the proclamation of his princess as Empress of all the Russias.

SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED FICTION.

The A.B.C. Murders Agatha Christie
The Bitterfoot Trail Jas. W. Johnson
Blaze McGee Jay Lucas
The Cabaret Girl Richard Starr
Climb to the Stars Denise Robins
Come Autumn Come Spring Anne Maybury
David Go Back John Connell
Death Chime Leonard Gribble
Death in the Fenns Colin Hope
Desert Silver Stone Cody
Dry Ridge Gang B. M. Bower
The Forbidden River Harold Bindloss
The Garden Murder Case S. S. Van Dine
The Glass House M. Barnard Eldershaw
The Hand of Four Mark Cross
Hurricane Vance Palmer
If the Fall Victor McClure
The Kiowa Trail Philip F. Deere
The Lamp of Friendship Effie A. Rowlands
The Lone Wolf's Last Prowl L. J. Vance
Love is a Star Deirdre O'Brien
Love Lies Deep Errol Fitzgerald
No, Sir Henry Anthony Weymouth
Orange Blossom Lewis Cox
Outlaws of Half-a-day Creek J. B. Hendryx
Perilous Errand Morris Sutherland
The Prairie Rider Fred Beckdolt
Scarlet and White Olive Wadsley
Son of a Cow Thief P. E. Leyman
Toils of Silence Hry. St. J. Cooper
Who Killed Gatton E. Chas. Vivian

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NON-FICTION BOOKS RECENTLY PURCHASED

Recollections and Reflections of An Old New Zealander, by E. Maxwell. Mr Maxwell has given us a book that in days to come will be of great value to the future historian. While Wellington and Taranaki occupy a prominent place in the book, there are details given of events and persons in various parts of the North Island. The narrative is full of interesting memories told by one who now possesses a rich perspective, a shrewd mentality and a happy gift of expression. This makes the book rich in matter and most pleasant reading.

Spun Yarn, by Commander H. B. Boothby, R.N. Full of anecdote and mostly humorous. As apprentice in sailing ships, where food is, or was, plain, hard and not too plentiful, he tells us how he and others planned and schemed to add some tasty item to their larder. Sea life in those days developed the "art" of acquiring things, and the fun these seafaring men got out of their pranks made a capital sauce.

Later as officer in the China and India steamers, he tells us quite frankly that one was quite unlucky if one did not become engaged at least once during a voyage.

A bright, chatty and most interesting book.

Youth Uncharted, by Stephen Lawford. A fascinating story of a very adventurous life.

Written as though told to his son, the author at the outset of his career determined to earn enough to give him a university training.

His many attempts to achieve his object led to unusual, and nearly always amazing adventures in various parts of the world. Though he did not succeed in attaining the desired goal, he gained wide knowledge and experience of the world and its affairs.

Service in the diplomatic world finally claimed his talents.

A most enjoyable book and well worth reading. The "Evening Standard" chose this book as The Book of The Month.

OBITUARY.

It is with deep sorrow that we have to record the death of our friend and counsellor—Mr D. Richardson.

His interest in the Library has remained constant since 1909 when his zeal on behalf of his fellow citizens resulted in the foundation of the Library. His was the guiding hand that set the institution upon its course, a course that has been followed by succeeding committees with marked success. This alone is a tribute to his keen foresight and vision.

Mr Richardson occupied the presidential chair for a lengthy period, afterwards filling the position of Vice-President for many years. A few years ago he relinquished this office but retained his trusteeship and his deep interest until the last.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family, whose loss is shared by the Committee. His kindly spirit and wise counsel will be long remembered by all with whom he came into contact.