Linwood Library Gazette

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

VOL. 1, No. 8.



#### ANY BOOK FOR ANY READER By C. W. COLLINS

Librarian, Canterbury University College.

The library system of England is by no means the best in the world. Yet it is enough to make reading New Zealanders go bright green with envy.

The idea behind all libraries (except private collections) is to pool the books and the book expenditure of a group of people so that each may have access to a far wider range of recreational or informative reading material than he could afford to own. Like roads, parks and schools, libraries are examples of what practical socialism makes possible. In England the principle has been carried one step further. Libraries have combined into eight large regional systems, and these systems are co-ordinated by the National Central Library in London. Through the system of inter-library borrowing which this comprehensive linking up makes possible, any person may, broadly speaking, borrow any book.

Experience has shown in England that fully rate-supported libraries whose service is free to all are not an extravagance but a necessity. Experience has also shown that small communities should not try to maintain a separate library service, but should combine with other small communities to form a large enough group. Consequently the country is covered by free public libraries in all cities and sufficiently large towns and free county library systems for the smaller communities and countryside. All citizens may borrow free from the library supported by the city, borough or county council responsible for the districts in which they reside.

No library, however great, can have all books which are likely to be wanted. But a borrower wanting any book may apply to his city, borough or county librarian. If the book is not possessed by the library system, the librarian will apply to the regional headquarters, where there is a "union catalogue" recording the books in all the libraries of the area. As each regional group includes not only all public library systems but also most university and special libraries of the area, there is a good chance that the headquarters will be able to locate and borrow a copy within the region. If not, the regional headquarters applies to the National Central Library in London. This library has a growing stock of books which are not easily obtainable elsewhere, and may supply the book from its own shelves. Or it may request the other seven regional headquarters to find and send a copy of the book. Or it may buy the book. If the book is otherwise unobtainable, it may apply to the headquarters library of another country. But if it is at all possible, the book asked for by the resident of the most remote village will be supplied.

Of course, there are limitations to this wonderful organisation. Encyclopaedias. rare books and scarce pamphlets, are not usually available for borrowing. In general these books are never let outside the doors by any library, even to its own borrowers. Another class of book not included in the scheme is current fiction. At first sight this seems (to New Zealanders who mostly think that a library begins and ends with current fiction) a serious drawback. Actually, however, there are not in England such small library units as here, and each library system is able to buy a reasonable stock of fiction for its own readers. In special cases, fiction can be borrowed in England between libraries. but by supporting libraries as we support

MAY, 1936

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#### LINWOOD LIBRARY GAZETTE

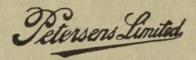
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parks the ratepayers provide themselves with a satisfactory service for common books.

Owing to the comparative sparseness of our population, there is a clearer case for co-operation between libraries in New Zealand than there is in England. Some steps have already been taken. The university libraries are arranging interlibrary loans. A system of co-operation has been discussed and plans drawn up by a small group of public librarians and others. But little can be done until the libraries of New Zealand are put on a proper basis of full municipal support, which has long been the case in most other English-speaking countries, and in Timaru and Dunedin. Christchurch is by far the most backward town in this respect. It is to the interests of every reading Christchurch citizen to press for a unified metropolitan system fully supported by the community through the rates.

### NEW NOVELS

By OUR REVIEWER Forgotten of Allah. By Steven Travers. Some critics of "The Straight Road" written by the same author, describe the book as "a firstclass adventure story," "a very skilfully written thriller," in which "excitement and emotional interest range high." All these attributes may well apply to the present book, which is a story of secret service work and romance with the North-West Frontier for a background. The principal characters are Captain Colin Grice, of the Gomal Intelligence, Lady Cressida Stenson, Otho Mulvar, a Russo-American flying ace and Cres-sida's fiancee, and Hastings, purporting to be a coffee planter, but in reality a Russian spy whose proper name is Schoultz. Grice's life is in danger from the Mahsuds, and his Colonel gets him temporarily transferred to another post disguised as a private. While he is here Lady Cressida arrives on a visit to her uncle, the Commandant, and Grice, now under the name of Raines, is detailed to act as her groom. From here on the story runs swiftly along, and how he twice saves Cressida from grave danger and frustrates the plans of Schoultz will give the reader plenty of sensational thrills.

Crime Counter Crime. By E. C. R. Lorac. This is a somewhat unusual thriller, the theme of which is provided by a hotly contested byelection. Trenchard, the Tory candidate, arrives late in a somewhat dishevelled state at the crucial meeting of his campaign. Although he is elected, the discovery of an empty car in a quarry, which is proved to be the car of a Communist orator who has threatened to ruin Trenchard by sensational disclosures, leads to ugly rumours, the unravelling of which by Macdonald, C.I.D., in collaboration with a Blueshirt named Dunne, unfolds dramatic results that are entirely unforseen by the reader.

Saint Overboard. By Leslie Charteris. Readers who have already heard of Simon Templar, known as the Saint to crooks and police alike, will no doubt be glad to hear of some more of his adventures. When and how he met Loretta Page; her amazing story, his cruise through the Channel Islands, a duel with Kurt Vogel, plunderer of missing ships, how he cracked a strongroom twenty fathoms under water and obtained £5,000,000 in gold will all prove alluring reading.

### FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

During the last few years the Chair has been in communication with one of the inhabitants of Pitcairn Island, and having to-day received a letter from the Island brought to mind that during the last week or two the film "Mutiny on the Bounty" has been shown in Christchurch. Though fairly well acquainted with the story from the departure of the Bounty, on Dec. 29th, 1787, to the landing at Pitcairn, the Chair did not see the film, but we understand that it represented the Pandora as being commanded by Bligh. This is a picture producer's departure from history, which informs us that Captain E. Edwards commanded that vessel in the search for the mutineers up to the time when she was wrecked on the Barrier Reef, New Holland-now Queensland.

The object of drawing attention to this gripping record of tyranny and callous brutality is to stress the value of methodical reading; by that is meant to read from the very beginning right through to the final scenes, this enables one, in this case, to view the whole of one of the most stirring tragedies in British mercantile history.

Our subscribers have recently been able to read three books dealing with three phases of this episode, viz., "Mutiny," "Men Against the Sea," and "Pitcairn," and have thereby learned that it would be difficult to find recorded anywhere anything that would compare even in a remote degree with the story told in these books.

In the Non-Fiction Section we have also three In the Non-Fiction Section we have also three books, viz., "The Mutiny of the Bounty," by Sir John Barrow, first, then "The Voyage of H.M.S. Pandora," by Captain Edwards and Dr. Hamilton, and finally "The Story of Pitcairn Island," by a native daughter, Rosalind A. Young.

When one has read these volumes there is little more one can learn about those sailors who left Spithead in December, 1787, in The Bounty, or about those people on the Island to-day, the descendants of Fletcher Christian, Peter Young, McCoy, and others. In the letter received to-day Jessie Clark (née

Jessie Young) says :- "We are all very happy. . . Comfortable. . . A few men have gone to Hen-derson Island, and I wish they were back again, the boats are so small, and cannot stand all the hard big waves. It is blowing very hard and it is cold. . . . They go to get some new mero to make souvenirs, also sandle wood, there are only a few left so I don't suppose they will get many." Miss Young about two years ago married a carpenter named Clark, who had decided to throw in his lot with the Islanders.



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#### LINWOOD LIBRARY GAZETTE

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# Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the Linwood Public Library

Vol. 1	May 1936	No. 8

New Zealand Authors' Week has passed. The inauguration of what promises to be an annual event throughout the Dominion has proved an unqualified success and the promoters of the movement have every reason to be proud of their effort.

In Christchurch the Exhibition that was held at the Canterbury Public Library was appreciated by large numbers of people, many of whom visited the display of books and manuscripts each day of the week. Those of our members who visited the exhibition are doubtless pleased that we advised them to do so, for not only was it of an educational nature; it proved to be of no mean entertainment value.

There were many remarkable exhibits, some of them almost priceless, generously loaned by some of our enthusiastic bookcollectors for the benefit of book-lovers in general. Possibly those books dealing with Canterbury's early days proved of prime interest to many visitors, providing as they did, a history of our province from an entirely new angle.

We offer our sincere congratulations to those responsible for the exhibition, and

Our readers' opinions upon any matter

Address all correspondence to "The Editor,"

congratulate Mona Tracy, herself a Canterbury author, and Mr E. J. Bell of the Canterbury Public Library, upon the part they took in the organisation and management of the exhibition and of the many social entertainments that were a feature of New Zealand Authors' Week. The fundamental idea underlying the

compliment them upon the success that

attended their efforts. Particularly do we

LINWOOD LIBRARY GAZETTE

movement was to encourage readers to devote more time to books by New Zealand authors. We would take this opportunity of emphasising the importance, to the cultural side of our national existence, of encouraging local talent. We certainly have the talent in New Zealand but that talent cannot find adequate outlet for expression without the co-operation and support of readers in this country.

As a general rule, the monetary reward given to authors is but of meagre substance and those gifted writers from our midst are further handicapped by reason of their distance from the hub of the publishing world. To gain success an author must have access to a wider field than that of New Zealand and when he approaches a London publisher he receives much greater consideration if the publisher is assured of a potential market in the author's own country.

New Zealand's literary products are in line with her other commodities as regards quality and the slogan, "Support home industries" may be applied equally to the output of the creative mind as to that of factory or farm.

The moral is obvious. Demand books by New Zealand authors from your libraries and your booksellers and spread the gospel so ably championed during New Zealand Authors' Week.

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#### SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED FICTION

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#### **OUR FOUNDERS-No. 6** J. A. CLARKE.

When the project of founding a public library in Linwood was first mooted, Mr J. A. Clarke was a member of the first provisional committee appointed in connection with the scheme.

The result of this committee's endeavours has been told before, and of the debt of gratitude that we owe our founders, Mr Clarke has earned his full share.

When the Library became established, a deal of spade work had to be done in preparing the old Linwood Borough Council building and converting it into a library. Mr Clarke was indefatiguable in his zeal, and was appointed first treasurer to the committee.

He was born at Upper Tooting, Surrey, England, and left with his parents for New Zealand at an early age, arriving at Lyttelton in 1872. He started his business career by entering the employ of Dartnall and McKiver, was later engaged by Hobday and Jobberns, thence transferring to W. Strange and Co. in 1876. He remained with this firm until 1923;-a long and faithful service.

In 1883 Mr Clarke joined the Oddfellows, and held several important positions in that body.

The welfare of schools has also occupied Mr Clarke's mind and time, and much good work has been done by him in this direction. Affairs of public interest apparently have had a fascinating influence on him, and we find that the Linwood Burgesses' Association absorbed some of his energies, with resulting benefits to the district.

Although Mr Clarke has, for the past nine years, resided at Sumner, he is still a member of the Library that he helped to bring into being. He retains a keen personal interest in Library affairs, and we trust he will continue to do so for many years.

#### LINWOOD LIBRARY GAZETTE

#### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

We regret having been unable to record before this the business transacted at the March meetings. Pressure on space was responsible, but as some important items should prove of interest, we make no apology for printing them in this issue of the "Gazette."

At a special meeting held immediately after the annual meeting, Mr E. G. Thomas was appointed treasurer and Mr E. E. Wiltshire secretary. The thanks of the committee were accorded Mr T. H. Hopkins for the valuable services given by him during his secretaryship. At the monthly meeting on March 17th, the

secretary reported that 55 adult, 23 juvenile, and 2 Old Age pensioner subscribers had joined during February. Books issued during the period totalled 10,229, and those placed on the shelves were-Fiction 40, Non-fiction 9, and Juveniles 21; a total of 70.

The Executive Committee recommended that monthly book allotments be apportioned thus:-Fiction £35, Non-fiction £5, and Juveniles £3; the subject to be reviewed in six months time. The recommendation was adopted.

The various sub-committees were appointed for the year. These were as follows:-

**Executive**—President (A. Brettell), treasurer (E. G. Thomas), secretary (E. E. Wiltshire), H. W. Friedman, H. Burson, A. E. Salvesen, T. H. Hopkins, and L. W. Ballan.

Dilapidated Books and Culling Committee-H. W. Friedman, F. J. Nash, H. J. Bowlker, and E. G. Thomas.

Shelving-A. E. Salvesen.

Magazines Committee-A. E. Salvesen and M. Foster.

Non-fiction Committee-A. Brettell, R. Fleming, J. H. Houlden, and E. E. Wiltshire. Publicity-E. E. Wiltshire.

Gazette Committee-E. E. Wiltshire, A. Bret-

tell and E. G. Thomas

Book-buyers-Fiction: E. G. Thomas; Nonfiction: A. Brettell; Juveniles: L. W. Ballan.

Donations of books were made to the Library, and it was decided that Mr J. H. Houlden be thanked for his gift of eight volumes of "Harmsworth Self-Educator," also Mr J. Shackleton for his donation of six volumes of "New Zealand Official Year Book."

April Meeting. It was decided that Mr D. Carson and Mr M. Rolls, Jun., be appointed assistants to the Fiction buyer.

Accounts were passed for payment totalling £78/8/10. New subscribers for March were— Adults 28, juveniles 16, and Old Age pensioners 2. After allowing for resignations the total number of subscribers as on March 31st was 1767. Books issued for the month totalled 9,056, and those placed on the shelves were-Fiction 123, non-fiction 12, and juveniles 11; a total of 146.

#### ROTA FOR LIBRARIANS

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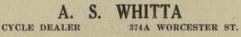
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Wednesday afternoon-Mrs McLean, Misses Good and Burfitt.

Wednesday evening-Messrs Carson, L. W. Ballan, Newbury, and Ragg.

Thursday evening-Messrs Nash, H. Ballan,

Lake, and Kennedy. Friday evening—Messrs Hayley, Davis, Sum-mers, and Muff.

Saturday afternoon-Misses Spence, Burfitt, and Bridgman, Messrs Clark and Moore. Saturday evening—Messrs Foster, Rolls, King,

Hopkins, Ruck, and Clark.

#### WALTHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Owing to lack of space last month mention of the annual meeting of Waltham Public Library was omitted.

It is a pleasure to visit Waltham Library, the books always presenting a bright neat appear-ance. We congratulate the committee on their very fine work during the past year, and heartily wish them even greater success in the coming

year. We extend our sympathy to all on the tragic death of their young and enthusiastic secretary, Mr E. C. Cook. His loss will be felt by all con-nected with the Waltham Public Library.

A GOOD TRAVEL BOOK The Red Centre. By H. H. Finlayson. The author, Mr H. H. Finlayson, is the Honorary Caretaker of Mammals of the South Australian Museum, and in this book deals with the country, its flora and fauna, the camel and its value in transport, a vivid and interesting section on the Australian native, and concluding with a chapter on The White Man.

While the book is full of information, the presentation is so attractive that one's interest never flags, whether it is dealing with either one or another of the main headings.

The vivid graphic unfolding of the theme grips one increasingly, so that finally the book is laid down almost with regret.

Dr. Rasedow, in his book "The Knight of the Boomerang," gave us more of the Blackfellow himself, but Mr H. H. Finlayson has here made the picture complete, for we go with him for months from range to range, thus giving us a splendid pen story of Australia's flowers, vegetation and animals.

There is also a fine map, by which we, too, can travel as we read of the route the author takes for his long journey.

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