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# Linwood Library Gazette

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

VOL. 1, No. 10.



JULY, 1936.

#### LEYS INSTITUTE

By A. BRETTELL

Though there are many of our citizens who from time to time have heard or read of Leys Institute, there may be some who have but a vague idea as to what its activities are, and why it is called an institute. I propose to attempt briefly to relate how and why it came into being.

Leys Institute was founded under a

bequest of Mr Wm. Levs.

After making full provision for his family he wished that the surplus estate be invested until the amount so accrued be sufficient to build a brick building to cost not less than £2000 and to equip the same for the purpose of a Free Library and Mechanics Institute, in the Ponsonby district, to be called the Levs Institute, and, when complete, the whole to be conveyed to the citizens of Auckland. During 1905 a deputation from the Library Committee of the Auckland City Council, waited upon the trustees of the endowment, for the purpose of ascertaining the prospects of an early completion of the building, but discovered that it would take ten years for the accumulated fund to satisfy requirements.

As the need was urgent Mr W. T. Leys offered to contribute one half of the cost of erection and equipment if the Auckland City Council would provide a suitable site. This generous offer was accepted, the present site in St. Mary's Road, Ponsonby was bought and the building proceeded with. Apart from the cost to the Council for the site £850, the building and equipment cost £3,500. Mr W. T. Leys also presented 4,400 volumes, and over 1,000 volumes were

given by the Auckland Free Libraries,

duplicates of standard works.

At the official opening, Mr W. T. Leys was eloquent in praise of his brother's high ideals, broad sympathies and his simple hearted desire to serve the com-

munity in which he lived.

Born in 1852 he arrived in Auckland in 1863 and soon became apprentice to a pookbinder. When 20 years of age he commenced business on his own account. Though he never had a large business, he lived carefully and invested his savings wisely. A life of self denial, but ever ready to help those in need. He became chairman of the Auckland Liberal Association, and a keen student of everyday affairs. "Old age Pensions" was a subject near to his heart, and a lecture he delivered in 1893, was later printed and widely circulated throughout the country, exercising considerable influence in securing adoption of the old age pensions Act in New Zealand. In a pamphlet he wrote we find many gems, but space only allows reference to one.

"If we patiently trace the footprints on the highroad of life, we see the working masses are diligently plodding on, exercising their mental and physical skill to the utmost of their ability, and receiving in return just enough to keep body and soul together . . . We might well say 'Labour destroying inventions' when we consider that with all these wonderful scientific and mechanical aids which should daily and hourly lighten man's toil-some lot and increase his happiness in this world; his burden of toil, of sorrow and of suffering is as hard to bear as ever it

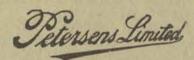
was."

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He frequently pointed out that while the country spent an enormous sum of money upon education practically nothing was done to encourage and help boys and girls to continue their studies after they left school. This latter fact is one quite frequently heard in Christchurch today. but Mr Wm. Leys saw it and stressed it forty years ago, yet so apathetic and slow to perceive, we are today face to face with the position that he saw in his day.

Leys Institute has progressed and its work has expanded until it now comprises Lending Library, Reference Library, Recreation Room, Reading Room. Lecture Hall and Gymnasium.

The Gymnasium is a later addition, made possible by the gifts of the Hon. E. Mitchelson (£100), Mr A. M. Myers (£100), Mr W. T. Leys (£100), and a bequest of Mr Wm. Mason (£1000), Mr (now Sir) Cecil Leys defrayed the cost of the whole of the gymnastic appliances, and a piano was presented by Councillors Court and Casev.

The generosity of Auckland citizens in regard to libraries is evidence of a fine public library spirit, and is further shown by the maximum Library Rate of 1d in the £, paid by the ratepayers for several years. Latterly, owing to the depression this rate was reduced to 4d in the £, which is the rate paid today.

The present Government's sympathetic understanding of the position of Libraries as a whole in New Zealand was admirably expressed by the Rt. Hon. M. J. Savage, Prime Minister, in these pages last month. But is it not essential that the public of New Zealand should co-operate with equal readiness and ardour in this splendid work for the fuller development and use of the latent talent in our country. If our city fathers could envisage the possibilities, then the difficulties would quickly be overcome.

Or, is there a Wm. Levs to show them how "impossibilities" become possible and difficulties disappear, as the mist before the rising sun.

#### NEW NOVELS.

By Our Reviewer.

The Tune and the Dancer, by Sheila Macdonald. In this lively and entertaining romance the author has chosen as her heroine Favne Ralston, who despises the idea of a set career and seeks employment as a governess as a means of gain-ing travel and experience. In the course of time she gains a temporary position as a school-mistress in a remote part of Africa. While there she discovers an authoress in her landlady's daughter and meets Mark Conroy, a jilted and temporary misogynist, who falls in love with

her.

The story is told in a simple and pleasing way and readers will follow the peregrinations and vicissitudes of Fayne with interest from the

Jane's Way, by A. C. G. Hastings is an interesting story, the background for which is set in the Cameroons in West Africa. Jim Allen, who holds a Government post on a lonely station in the Mandara Hills is returning after furlough and meets on board Jane Ford who is studying African languages and cultures on behalf of an international institute. Allen, whose only interest is his work, has a deep seated distrust of the opposite sex, but confesses a liking for Jane and admits her evident capability. They part at Lagos to go their various ways, but fate takes a hand and brings them together again. There is a rising of natives and the white man's authority is at stake. Then Jane takes a hand in saving the position. How she does, the reader must read for him or herself. The story is both interesting and thrilling and should appeal to all readers.

Red-Handed, by Lee Thayer, is a mystery story surrounding the death of Marvin Hayden who was found in the library lying shot through the head while his wife Emily and his son James stood over the body with blood on their hands. James was supposed to be miles away on his way to South America and his unsatisfactory explanation of his presence in the house leads to his arrest. Emily also is suspect and an old family friend unsuccessfully tries to shoulder the guilt by a bogus confession. The mystery thickens and the reader is kept thinking until the final unravelling of the tangle with the assistance of Peter Clancy, whose solution when revealed, is neat and

unanticipated.

Satyr Mask, by Augustus Muir. A thrilling story of Irvine, a young man who inherits from his grandfather a house in the Highlands. His grandfather was rather a wicked and blackmailing old scamp who during his life obtained the title of "Satyr Mask." The story dates from the time Irvine is shut in by a blizzard, his companions being two servants, an elderly man and a girl as visitors, and a suspiciously friendly neighbour. Some had been victims of old Satyr Mask, and others wanted to secure certain letters to carry on the business. It is around these the plot is built up and it is not until Irvine has twice been nearly strangled that the climax is reached.

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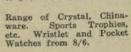
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#### Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the Linwood Public Library

Vol. 1.

July, 1936

No. 10

Things are at last moving in the Christchurch library world and it seems likely that a long standing stigma will be removed. The City Council has announced that a substantial grant will be given towards a Reference Department in the Canterbury Public Library. The next problem will be to find suitable housing for a comprehensive collection of technical and other books suitable for reference purposes, but once a worthy collection becomes an accomplished fact, then a building in which to place it is of such importance that it must naturally follow.

The mills of our City Council grind exceedingly slow in library matters, but we hope that the ultimate result will be worthy of the Cathedral City.

When thinking of library extensions our thoughts automatically turn towards our own library and the urgent need for a new building. Extra shelving space has been sadly needed for many years and our present building is hopelessly inadequate for the large number of subscribers who congregate every evening.

Representations have been made on many occasions to the City Council relative to this problem and we have been repeatedly assured of the Council's sym-

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

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

pathy and given a measure of encouragement and hope for the future. "Hope deferred" must some day reap its reward and we trust that the day is not far distant when we may see a library building in Linwood that will be worthy of the district and of the subscribers.

We would direct the attention of our readers to the coloured illustration of the steamship "Queen Mary," placed over the fireplace in the subscribers' reading room. This wonderful ship is shown in section, disclosing a great wealth of detail and a close study of this engineering marvel should help us to appreciate more fully the greatness of that seafaring nation to which we belong. It will bring home to us the truth that there is nothing decadent in a country that can bring into being this "mistress of the seas."

As noted briefly elsewhere, the Committee will, at its next monthly meeting, be called upon to deliberate upon the advisability of revising the subscription rates for both juveniles and old-age pensioners. At present the juvenile members pay one shilling for three months' reading. When this low sum was first decided upon, the committee, in its zeal for the welfare of our young readers, did not anticipate the demand for short-term membership; it was hoped that those taking advantage of the exceptionally easy terms would remain with us for at least half a year. Time has proved that a large percentage of juvenile members resign at the end of the quarter in many cases rejoining a few weeks afterwards.

This entails a considerable amount of extra work and much wastage of material, such as printed cards for librarian's and secretary's use. The expense thus entailed is thought to be too great to warrant a continuance of the quarterly sub-

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Similar arguments may be used against the old-age pensioners' subscription of 2/6 for a year, and a proposal will be brought forward to increase this to 3/6.

Notification of the committee's decision will be given in our next issue.

#### SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED FICTION.

All This I Gave	Jan Tempest
Arabian Nights Murder	Jno. D. Carr
As a Man Loves	E. M. Albanesi
Ask Miss Mott	E. P. Oppenheim
Barren Metal	Naomi Jacobs
Be Gentle to the Young	Mary Sturt
Bubble Reputation	P. C. Wren
Clansmen	Ethel Boileau
Clear Waters	Owen Rutter
Dance of the Marionettes	Marjorie Warby
Death in the Bathroom	Sir Basil Thomson
Deep Calleth Unto Deep	Jos. Hocking
Demi Widow	Mary Pickford
Devil of a Girl	Guy Fletcher
Don John's Mountain Home	Ernest Raymond
Eve's Orchard	Margaret Widdemar
Fly Away Paul	Victor Canning
Following Footsteps	Louise Gerard
German Spy	Bernard Newman
Hurricane	Nordhoff and Hall
Inspiration Valley	Coningsby Dawson
Mistress Mary	Hazel Adair
Night Action	Sydney Parkman
Old King Cole	Edward Shanks
Quest of the Fearless	Tempest Keeping
Rustlers of Beacon Creek	Max Brand
The Silver Desert	Ernest Haycox
South Riding	Winifred Holtby
Sparkenbroke	Chas. Morgan
Summer Toy	Lewis Cox
Tiger Heart	J. G. Sarasin
Too Much Together	Ruby M. Avres
The Tune and the Dancer .	Sheila Macdonald
The Tunnel	. Bernard Kellerman
The Vanishing Idol	Geo. Gibbs
The World Over	Edith Wharton

#### FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR.

As you enter "Our Library" through the subscribers' door you see on your left our Juvenile Section. And this month the Chair desires to say a few words about its importance to the boys and girls who use it, and in a wider sense, to the community.

To the average boy or girl, the gift of a book is one that is received with delight, especially if it is chosen with regard to his or her desires. A sea story for one, a school story for another, or red Indian adventures, or an air story, in short, something with plenty of movement and action, and authors like E. Keple Chatterton, W. H. G. Kingston, L. M. Montgomery, E. S. Ellis, Capt.

Johns, and G. E. Rochester. For the girls Mrs A. C. Osborne Hann gives useful and charming stories about the Girl Guides, but perhaps Christine Chaundler, Dorothy Moore, Maud Peacock, Mary Gervase and others, may appeal more with their lively school stories, while Ethel Turner and M. G. Bruce take their readers to Australia and find there plenty to interest and charm. Then there are many others as full of appeal to their devotees, and sometimes when I look in and see the eager, searching look on a boy's face, the chair sees himself sixty years ago and sometimes, in an endeavour to probe into the boy's mind asks him a question or two. At present, many of them have no fixed idea what occupation, or calling, they shall follow later, but who knows but what there may be a Prime Minister, or Chief Justice, or an eloquent preacher among the boys who delight in our Juvenile Section; it is quite possible if they "hitch their waggon to a star," or in other word be ever looking upward.

The value of the Juvenile Section to the community is that it encourages the love of reading and as all our books are carefully chosen, there is the tendency for the young and plastic mind to be aroused to a love for deeper and more serious subjects and affairs.

May I ask all parents to encourage the younger members of their families to join up with us, thus not only giving us greater opportunities but probably also enriching the lives of their young

#### COMMITTEE MEETING

At the monthly Committee meeting, held on Wednesday, June 17th, the chair was occupied by Mr A. Brettell, President.

The Treasurer presented his monthly statement, showing that receipts from subscriptions totalled £43/9/- and those from extra books amounted to £30/5/-. Accounts for £79/10/10 were passed for payment.

New subscribers for May were as under: Adults 51, old-age pensioner 1, juveniles 17. The total number of subscribers on May 31st was 1807. Books issued during the month totalled 9,190, and those placed on the shelves were, fiction 112 and non-fiction 24.

Notices of motion were given "that the subscription rate for juveniles be 2/- for half a year." "That the subscription rate for old-age pensioners be 3/6 per year."

Mr A. Brettell and Mr J. H. Houlden were appointed delegates to attend a meeting of bodies interested in library matters to discuss the need for a Public Reference Library.

We cordially congratulate Miss D. M. Neal, of the staff of the Canterbury Public Library, on being the chosen candidate for the Carnegie Corporation Scholarship.

Miss Neal is now on her way to U.S.A. to study Librarianship and we confidently believe that she will fulfil all the expectations of her friends. She carries with her the good wishes of Linwood.

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#### NEW BOOKS FOR JUVENILES.

Two Girls on the Air Trail, by Eileen Marsh, is a story of adventure in the air for girls of all

Jackals of the Clouds, by G. E. Rochester. This is a great story of one of the most amazing dangers that ever confronted the civilised world and tells of the heroic part that Captain Eric Howard played in fighting it.

The Story of the Island, by Arthur Mee.
The Glory of the Island, by Arthur Mee.
The Adventure of the Island, by Arthur Mee.
Peggy, Parachutist, by Eileen Marsh.
Win Through Altonbury, by Auton Lind.
The Sea Harvesters, by Walter Wood.
King of the Air, by E. K. Chatterton. Another excellent flying story, well thought out plot and very exciting.

very exciting.

#### AN OUTSTANDING BOOK.

The Riddle of Jutland; An Authentic History, by Langborne Gibson and Vice-Admiral J. E. T. Harper.

One of the keenest controversies on events of the Great War, either at sea, or on land has been about the battle of Jutland.

At times it has hurt the susceptibilities of those who inclined to either the Beatty school, or that of Jellicoe. The famous Harper Report, at first suppressed by the Admiralty, but later published by them in an attenuated form roused the just indignation of those who claimed that Admiral Jellicoe "had not received a full measure of justice at the hands of the Lords of the Admirof justice at the hands of the Lords of the Admiralty." Then came the publication of Vice-Admiral Harper's book "The Truth About Jutland," also Admiral Bacon's book, "The Jutland Scandal," and the question was cleared sufficiently to make the hearts of Lord Jellicoe's friends rejoice. Now we have "The Riddle of Jutland," an authentic history," and at long last readers in New Zealand have the story of Jutland told in full detail supplemented from official documents. full detail, supplemented from official documents from both British and German, from the moment the opposing forces left their respective bases to the time when Scheer, to avoid inevitable destruction, made good his escape to his home port.

The fight between Beatty and Hipper ended in favour of the German, their firing being accurate, while the British firing, to quote the book showed "sheer impotence." The later phase however was just as emphatically in favour of the British and why and how the battle missed being another Trafalgar this book fully explains.

The splendid diagrams accompanying the volume help the reader to follow the respective fleets, through the thrilling events of that memorable battle.

This book will be kept in a locked case and subscribers may have it upon application to any of the librarians.