

GIVE THIS JOURNAL TO A FRIEND

Linwood Library Gazette

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

Vol. 2, No. 3.



DECEMBER, 1936.

LIBRARIES AND HOW TO USE THEM

By Dr. J. GUTHRIE.

Proposals are being considered for the re-establishing of our Library system on a municipal basis, more in keeping with the practice in most other cities of the world. In doing so, it is hoped that more adequate financial provision will be found for upkeep, and for a rate of expansion which will keep abreast of the growth in population. The proposed changes will also place the libraries under more direct public control.

Hitherto financial stringency has seriously starved the growth and development of all our Library resources. Yet we must acknowledge our deep indebtedness to the efforts of the Canterbury College Council for the fact that the Library is still in existence.

It is hoped that the new scheme will be of a comprehensive nature, embracing a central and various district libraries, the central library to feed the latter, thereby saving much overlapping and expense in buying books.

The foundation of a Public Library is its Reference Department. It is here that the reader is able to find, not only the knowledge and wisdom of the past, but the changing thought of the present. This is more than ordinarily necessary in a small isolated community such as ours. How can our builders, architects, industrialists, technicians, engineers, teachers, and artists keep abreast of the flowing stream of knowledge, and avoid the sluggish backwater of complacency without this vital point of contact with the outside world? It serves the needs of the few,

certainly, but what an important section are this few! They are the leaven of our active trades and professions. On their efforts our national progress depends.

Let it not be thought that the Circulating Department is to be belittled. This department performs an analogous function for the majority of readers. It will be found on analysis that the reading of the average man responds to urges which fall roughly under one of two categories—entertainment or enlightenment.

Many people, after a day's work, don't want to be enlightened. They want only to be entertained. Life is dull enough for them. They need mental rest. They find this by becoming engrossed in the telling of a story. If the story be well told they can, in reading it, hardly escape a little instruction, and it will have been painlessly instilled. The fact that it is always the same story, with perhaps some difference in the telling, will not deter the fiction-reader from wanting to hear it just once again.

Reading for enlightenment, on the other hand, is a habit that grows, and can be cultivated. Its pursuit will reward the reader by providing him with an outlook on life through many more windows. He will see more of life and understand more of the meaning and gist of human affairs. Appreciation will grow and multiply. His intellectual stature will increase. He will find that what he read with difficulty yesterday he will read easily to-morrow.

Readers are not to be praised nor blamed for their preferences. Their choice is first a matter of temperament, later of habit. Each has his own reasons for

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reading. It is the function of the Library to provide impartially for the needs of all. It is a foolish mistake for one kind of reader to try to curtail the enjoyment of the other.

Let each follow his own bent, and leave his neighbour to follow his. The truth will still prevail, as the greatest of all writers has stated it—"No profit grows where is no pleasure ta'en."

NEW NOVELS

By OUR REVIEWER.

Forty Centuries Looking Down, by F. Britten Austin. The author of the "Road to Glory" has given us a further historical romance, taking Napoleon's campaign in Egypt as the basis for his tale. "The Times Literary Supplement" says of this book: "Mr Austin is remarkably well equipped for his task and knows his subject thoroughly and in as much detail as a devoted Napoleonic scholar; he takes very few liberties with history, and has equally rare gifts of imagination and imparts an extraordinary liveliness to his narrative." The tale commences with the young General Bonaparte's return to Paris after a victorious Italian campaign, and owing to an incident at a reception given by Talleyrand becomes momentarily suspicious of his wife. Confirmation comes later on the eve of the Battle of the Pyramids, when he is advised that Josephine has betrayed him to Hippolyte Charles. His great ambition to follow in the footsteps of Alexander the Great as a conqueror, his own infidelities, and other matters of that era are all brought in to make up a most romantic, exciting, and interesting tale which should appeal to the general reader.

Oh Give Me Death, by Erle Spencer, is an exciting and thrilling novel, of which an Englishman, William Eccleston, and Clio, the daughter of an elderly and invalid statesman resident in Egypt, are the principal characters. Eccleston goes ashore to visit Athens in the declining days of the Republic, and gets mixed up with conspirators whose aim is to put the elderly statesman at the head of affairs. Clio is of course very beautiful, and has many admirers, even among the plotters. The insurrection proves a failure through betrayal to the government by one of the plotters, who hopes thereby to get rid of Eccleston and making more sure of getting Clio himself. Eccleston, however, escapes from the traitors to find that Clio has been carried off by them. From here on adventures and thrills enough to please are provided to the happily ending story.

**SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED
FICTION**

Air Feud W. E. Hansbro
Beyond Desire Phillipa Preston
Blacky Finn of the Diamond D. Tivis Miller
By Command of Yee Shing Chas. Cooper
Crucible of Courage Hugh Nevan
The Curtain Will Go Up Oliver Sandys
Disciples of Satan Mary Richmond
Disinherited R. J. White
The Dramatist Anthony Gibbs
Fandango R. S. McNamara
The Flagg Family Kathleen Norris
Forty Centuries Looking Down F. Britten Austin
The Girl Groom Dolf Wyllarde
Housemaster Ian Hay
The Kidnap Murder Case S. S. van Dine
Laughing Gas P. G. Wodehouse
Liquid Fury Victor Bayley
Lords and Masters A. G. McDonnell
The Lost County Norman Giles
The Lost Wagon Train Zane Grey
The Man Who Caught the Weather B. S. Aldridge

Marriage Bargain Phillipa Preston
Marriage of Nicholas Cotter Nelle M. Scanlan
Mid Atlantic Taffrail
Mrs Meigs and Mr Cunningham Eliz. Corbett
Murder off Miami Dennis Wheatley
One-Eyed Knave Ganpat
Peter Thornhill, R.A.F. Emmeline Morrison
President Fu Manchu Sax Rohmer
Race the Sun Dale Collins
Range Law C. W. Sandys
Rebel Loyalist Ralph Connor
Redemption F. J. Thwaites
Renfrew in the Valley of Vanished Men Laurie Erskine

Rolling Years A. S. Turnbull
Rose Deep-Rose Sheila K. Smith
Sinister River Andrew Soutar
The Stars Grow Pale Anne Malbury
The Talisman Ring Georgette Heyer
A Torch is Lit Hazel Adair
Trail Smoke Ernest Haycock
Vanishing Frontier G. B. Rodney
Winter Jasmine Sophie Cole

Out of Alberta's total population of almost three-quarters of a million two-thirds are of British origin, and more than this proportion are Protestant. Thus Alberta's social and educational problems are less complicated than those of its sister Saskatchewan, and are by no means insurmountable.

The largest foreign national elements are:—German 35,000, French 30,000, Russian and Ukrainian 25,000 each, Austrian 20,000.

Five per cent of the people over ten years of age can neither read nor write. The number of townspeople is about 275,000, the remainder of the population being scattered more or less sparsely over the province.

The system of education is similar to that in the neighbouring province of Saskatchewan.

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Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the
Linwood Public Library

Vol. 2. December, 1936. No. 3.

EDITORIAL

The passing days have brought us once
again to the close of the year, and we take
the opportunity of expressing the wish
that the New Year may bring prosperity
to all our subscribers.

The past twelve months has been mem-
orable in more ways than one. World
conditions have been fraught with diffi-
culty and danger and our own Empire has
faced unprecedented circumstances with
that magnificent spirit that makes one
feel proud to be British. Statesmanship
of the highest order has commanded the
respect and admiration of the world. In
our own Dominion we have entered into a
new order of things, politically and
socially, and we await the outcome of our
advanced legislation with equanimity,
hoping that the new year may make the
depression a mere memory, and that the
unemployment problem may be a thing
of the past.

The subject of Libraries and their con-
trol has received considerable attention,
both nationally and locally, and it appears
probable that the coming year will see
some improvement in the library position
in Christchurch. We in Linwood have
endeavoured to serve our district faith-

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

Address all correspondence to "The Editor,"
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(Even two or three members on the Council at the present time could effect a welcome change if possessed of a heartfelt conviction of its necessity and desirability.) It surely is not beyond the capacity of the Council to find another home for the horses, carts, gravel, tar, and other sundries one usually connects with a Council yard, for the fact has been stressed again and again that this yard is a blot set in the midst of a closely inhabited and business centre. It is wholly out of place, and should be removed forthwith.

The widening of Stanmore Road is imperative and comparatively little remains to be done now to have the two blocks from Hereford Street to Gloucester Street widened to the full width. The old house that was next to the Library has been pulled down, and it seems to us that the time is opportune for this question to be considered seriously.

For some years the Library has been far too small for its requirements, and ultimately a suitable building will have to be erected. We suggest that the purchase of this now vacant section by the Council would be a politic move, for with the removal of the stables and gear, there would then be sufficient ground to plan and erect a building that would be worthy of the library, worthy of the city, and a source of pride to the citizens of the district. The day is past when any building could be altered, enlarged, or adapted for the purpose of a library. I believe that the consciousness of the people is daily becoming aroused to the urgent and vital necessity of having libraries housed in buildings suitable and capable of meeting all requirements. Town planning compels one to look ahead and plan accordingly—the erection or enlargement of buildings that are, or will be, out of place in a few years is a sheer waste and a confession of inefficiency. Rather should we visualise requirements for the future, and lay out a building so that it contains within itself the acme of comfort in the working and utility, and without such aesthetic beauty that will be attractive to the eye of residents and visitors.

Let 1937 be a year of endeavour and work for—the removal of the stables and gear, for the purchase of the adjoining vacant section in Stanmore Road, and for the erection of an up-to-date, commodious building for the Linwood Public Library.

NON-FICTION BOOKS RECENTLY PURCHASED

The Black Tents of Arabia, by Carl R. Rasman. An interesting book concerning a country of which most people know little. Besides containing much information, the many and varied experiences recorded hold the reader from beginning to end.

Two Vagabonds in Sweden and Lapland, by Jan and Cora Gordon. Still another of those charming volumes from the ever-moving Gordons. The "Sunday Times" says:—"The Gordons get into the very soul of the people among whom

they elect to wander." And "The Spectator" says—"Their book is as good as a holiday."

Leaves from the Lipton Log, by Sir Thomas Lipton. "Lipton's Tea" has been used in every part of the world, and Lipton, with his five "Shamrocks" in dour endeavour to regain the Americas Cup, aroused intense interest on both sides of the Atlantic, but the question "Who is Lipton" could be answered by only a few. "Leaves from The Lipton Log" tells us much about Sir Thomas, and we get a close, intimate acquaintance of a man lovable, kindly, and true. Born of the people he remained so, and his friendships with Royalty and nobility produced in him a perfect blend of understanding sympathy and generosity. From the early days of his life until the end, he proved his loyalty to the dictum:

Take your victories with modesty
And your defeats with a smile.

A most enjoyable book.

Roll, Jordan, Roll, by Julia Peterkin. Julia Peterkin not only fully understands the negro, but presents that knowledge in such a manner that one is caught by the unusual charm of her book. One learns quite a lot about the negroes, their quaint customs, and manner of life, their beliefs that have such a powerful influence from birth onward to death.

"They are taught that bearing heavy burdens makes for strength and that life was meant to be enjoyed." The numerous illustrations are by Doris Ullman. A book well worth reading.

No Place Like Home, by Beverley Nichols. Here we have a journey that takes us through Eastern Europe, described in the author's usual arresting manner. At times he is downright frank in his onslaught of others. There is that delightful touch of fun and frolic that makes the book a real pleasure. In Palestine there are quite unusual touches, for here the author tells us what he sees, and that often differs from the usual or conventional. In Tel Arie and Zion Vale he gives us something to remember and think about.

Poland and her Economic Development, by Dr. Roman Gorecki. We acknowledge with thanks the gift of this book from The National Economic Bank, Warsaw. Compressed within 124 pages this book is very informative and intensely interesting. Indeed, it is a revelation of National Recovery from something akin to chaos. Torn and split between their powerful and predatory powers for one hundred and fifty years, and during the last war ruined by military occupation and deliberate destruction and spoliation, Poland has during the subsequent period made most remarkable progress. A book well worth while.

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A Million Miles in Sail, by John Herries McCulloch.

This is a book that is sheer delight to a lover of salt water, and the tales that are told about it. "Do you want to go aloft, me lad?" queried the mate. "Yes, sir," was the eager reply. Squinting upward, the mate said, "All right, go up aloft and overhaul the gear on the royal and stop it." For us to go aloft with the boy, and, having reached the royal yard to "overhaul the gear and stop it," is a thrilling episode, the first time, especially if one has had a similar experience. "A Night off the Cape," has a quality that gets under one's skin and the terse, vivid writing makes it real. The final chapter is splendid; first an amusing time with a U.S.A. warship and last a tribute to the men who went down to the seas in ships, with a letter from Count von Luckner. A most interesting and at times, thrilling million miles at sea.

King of Air Fighters. The Biography of Major Mick Mannock, V.C., by Squadron Leader Ira Jones.

In the records of the Royal Air Force Mick Mannock, V.C., will for a long time stand as the ideal air fighter. Modest in demeanour, courageous to the highest degree, he was "the most inspiring figure in aerial warfare of the Great War." Of all the aces, either British or German, Mannock was unsurpassed with 73 official victories.

Mr Jones has done a great service to the world and this epic adventure, of courage, and of success will for generations appeal as a splendid legacy of inspired self-sacrifice.

A "Manchester Guardian" literary competition recently set readers to composing rhymed book inscriptions, discouraging careless book borrowers. Here are some entries:—

"A thought may arise in the minds of the wise,
Which is more to the point than it looks,
That a prodigal lender observes with surprise
The return of his prodigal books.

This book's for your use—
Please keep it, dear brother;
I've a splendid excuse
When you ask for another.

A compliment to friendship true
This book to you is lent:
"Twill not be long, I trust, ere you
Return the compliment.
(This one was a prize winner.)

The total number of books published during 1935, says a London review, was 16,678, a total which has never before been touched in the whole of publishing history.

It is perhaps needless to say that all of these did not reach Linwood.