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in society. He may then be able to work or think out for himself a philosophy of life which is in harmony with the laws of nature. He may realize what citizenship means, its duties and responsibilities. His life may become ordered according to the realities of life and not according to his prejudices, his fears, his superstitions. He may secure liberty of living instead of being shackled with the chains of habits, fears, prejudices, superstitions, and ignorance.

To achieve the possibility of this liberty for the individual the suburban libraries can be utilised for the provision of the necessary books.

The End in View.

With that suggested added function, namely, the provision of books the reading of which provides the facts and experiences of life, the suburban libraries will become a force in adult education. To my mind, and I may be wrong, the real function of a library is to provide books which have an educational purpose and which are too costly for the individual to purchase. To-day the libraries are expressing this function more and more, and great credit is due to the men and women who organise these libraries.

The greatest social movement of this century is the adult education movement. The production of the necessities of life has reached a stage where the individual can now be released for a number of hours at least from hard toil. This release makes possible the individual's attention on higher pursuits, namely, mental development, knowledge, and education, in other words makes possible his cultural development. Thus adult education facilities have been provided to meet such a need. The Workers' Educational Association makes provision for lecturers and classes. These lecturers stimulate an interest in their students for further knowledge on any special subject. This further knowledge can be gained by reading books which have been written on such subjects. The books demanded should be available in the libraries. The suburban libraries could provide the books for students who live in the area for which the library functions. The most expensive books should

be available in the reference section of the central library. By such a scheme where each institution has a special function to perform, the facilities for education would be secured in the most efficient manner. Then each institution would become a real social service, contributing its share to social well being and human happiness. Happiness through individual expression is the end or purpose of life. The suburban libraries can contribute to this end, but let it be remembered that good will towards an end without mental effort is useless. On the other hand the organisers of the suburban libraries cannot do much towards this end without the practical support of the citizens individually and through the other social institutions. Democracy is on trial, it will only be retained and progress when the citizens who comprise the democracy understand and appreciate the liberty they enjoy. This understanding comes through education.

Mr E. J. Bell, Chief Librarian at Christchurch, recently completed a tour of Marlborough, Nelson, and West Coast libraries, made possible by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Libraries in Canterbury will also be visited.

Mr Bell inspected many libraries, where he met members of the committees and discussed with them problems on library matters. Reports upon these libraries will be forwarded to the Carnegie Corporation. The other portions of the Dominion will be visited by the Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin librarians. These visits from trained librarians should prove of great value to the smaller places.

On Thursday, November 13th, Mr F. W. Reed, the world authority on Dumas Pere, performed the opening ceremony of the new Public Library at Whangarei, North Auckland. The New Zealand Library Association was represented by Mr J. Barr, chief librarian at Auckland, and also by Mr E. B. Ellerm, librarian, Leys' Institute, Auckland. The building, which cost about £7,000, is a single storey reinforced concrete structure, faced with bricks. The main departments comprise a lending library, reference room, children's library, reading room, offices, workroom. Twenty thousand volumes can be shelved in the lending library. The interior walls have been finished in pleasing tones, the lighting and heating systems are modern, and the whole building possesses an attractive appearance.

Whangarei has a population of 7,060. The Borough Council controls the library, and is to be congratulated upon its enterprise. Miss May Bain is the present librarian.

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