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# Linwood Library Gazette

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

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## LINWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

### 28th ANNUAL REPORT.

In presenting the 28th Annual Report, your Committee has pleasure in recording another successful year although the membership shows a decrease of thirty. At the close of the year, January 31st, the register showed a total of 1709 subscribers, the adult section being 52 less and the juvenile section 22 more than at the corresponding period of last year.

During the year 695 new members were enrolled and 725 resigned, the remaining totals being—Adults 1436, Old-age Pensioners 69, Juveniles 204. The highest point during the year was reached in June, when the number of subscribers was 1828. As is usual at this period of the year, membership is at its lowest, but with the shortening of the days it is confidently anticipated that membership will again increase.

The Library's finances are in a healthy state, a credit balance being shown after increased expenditure on reading matter. The total income received from subscriptions was £503/11/- and that from extra books £346/9/7. This latter item remains a most important one, representing 27,718 books taken by subscribers as extras at the nominal charge of threepence per volume.

The sum of £100 was received from the Christchurch City Council, your Committee being grateful for this assistance, but in view of the increased interest being taken by the civic authorities, it is hoped that the former subsidy of £150 may again be available.

During the year 2,098 books were placed on the shelves, 1582 of these being Fiction, 198 Non-Fiction and 318 Juvenile. The number of books discarded was 2691, 48 volumes were rebound, 1440 were reinforced before being put into circulation and more than 2000 were repaired on the premises. The total number of books on the shelves and in circulation is approximately 16,300. The need for extra space is being more keenly felt each year and it is hoped that the

day is not far distant when Linwood will possess a library building in keeping with its membership and reputation.

The number of books issued during the year was 112,681. This shows an average of 302 for each day the library has been open. When it is realised that the hours of business are extremely limited, the resultant congestion in the confined space is an additional argument for the urgent need of increased accommodation.

It was deemed wise by your Committee to increase the rate of subscriptions for Old-age Pensioners to 3/6 per year, this sum being that charged to other adult members for six months. The Juvenile subscriptions have been made payable half-yearly instead of quarterly as formerly. This has meant a considerable saving in the cost of stationery, and has not affected the membership, indeed, as mentioned previously, this section has increased by 22 subscribers. A small desk-table and seat have been provided for the juvenile readers, a feature that has been much appreciated.

Donations of books have been made by Mr J. Shackleton, Mr J. Anderson and an anonymous member. These gifts are very welcome and set an example that might well be emulated by other members.

The Library was represented on the Committee of the Christchurch Exhibition in connection with "New Zealand Authors' Week," a function that was very successful and received much favourable comment.

The "Linwood Library Gazette" is now in its second year and thanks are due to the Right Hon. M. J. Savage, Prime Minister, Mrs Mona Tracy, Mr John Barr, of Auckland Public Library, Mr E. J. Bell, of Canterbury Public Library, Mr C. W. Collins, of Canterbury University Library, Dr. G. M. Lester, Dr. Guthrie and Councillor G. Manning for their literary contributions to the journal. Your Committee also expresses its thanks to those advertisers who have made possible the publication of the "Gazette."