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Linwood Library Gazette

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

Vol. 2, No. 9



JULY, 1937

THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

By E. B. ELLERM, The Leys Institute Public Library, Ponsonby, Auckland.

During the latter years of the last century many libraries established separate reading rooms for children, sometimes for boys only, but later to benefit both boys and girls, sometimes separated, sometimes together.

Although at first experimental and subsidiary, this children's reading room, usually combined with the lending section, has come to be an integral part of the modern library.

As children are the future reading public, they are entitled to have this portion of the library regarded as absolutely essential, and it is impossible to overrate the importance of this side of public library work.

To attain full success, librarian, teacher and parent must co-operate. Few parents take any interest in what their children read, and very often those few take too much; they do not realise that coercion is fatal to the true object of an apprenticeship in reading, and will assuredly not lead children to love and enjoy reading or to discover for themselves the values it can give to their own interests and pleasures. A boy will more often hate a book if he is

told he must read it. Rather by encouragement let him discover its merits and charms himself. The parent, by a wise interest and proper share of responsibility, goes a long way towards inculcating a love of books.

Other obvious points must be borne in mind by teachers, parents, and librarians. The mere posture in reading and the need for good light at the proper angle, are not minor points. Many children read far too much. The parent should see that they have a healthy outdoor life, and the teacher, that the charms of the book-world do not lead to the neglect of tasks set at school. Steady co-operation with teachers in leading children to find in books, aids to the business and the pleasures of life, is characteristic of those library systems where the children's department has been given its due place in the scheme.

The library is certainly part of the educational fabric, as on the one hand the teacher is aided enormously by the child's use of the library, all the more if the use made has been spontaneous and enjoyable. On the other hand, the children who find out the vital part a library can play in their work and recreations, who have become familiar with books of reference, with the uses of catalogues and a clear system of classification, will have acquired something of inestimable value in the process of self-development to be carried on, long after school days are over.

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FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

The condition of world affairs to-day demand that every thoughtful man and woman should make themselves, in some manner, acquainted with the position from time to time.

Oil, electricity, and radio have helped to make this world—once so vast, that inter-relations were in many instances impossible—one great unit, and it is this closer contact that has, to a large extent, primarily caused such an upheaval among the nations.

For those who desire to learn something of world affairs, or to get information on any particular phase of national disagreement we have on our shelves many books that will satisfy these desires of our subscribers. To mention one phase, the Far East and the Pacific problem. Quite a good number of books on Japan and China, including "The Menace of Japan," by Professor T. O. Conroy; "Japan the Mistress of the Pacific," by P. T. Etherton and H. H. Tiltman; "Manchuria, the Cockpit of Asia," by the same author; "Japan's Place in the World," by Julian Grande; "The Far East Comes Nearer," A. Tiltman; "The Chinese People, their Past, Present, and Future," by A. S. E. Sutton; "The Dragon Awakes," by A. Krarup-Neilsen and others; Siberia, India, Java are also well represented on our shelves. The Magazine "Current History" is a mine of information on world affairs from month to month, and this month's copy contains much that is interesting about the Far East.

Turning up some old papers the other day, the following interesting item came to light:—

The Museum.

"Amongst some of the new contributions recently received from Europe is a complete male skeleton, and a very fine collection of large European and North African birds. The Golden Eagle and the Great Bustard from Europe, the Flamingo and others from Egypt are the most conspicuous. It is greatly to be regretted, as we have repeatedly stated, that want of accommodation will prevent these, and many other collections previously received, from being exhibited to the public."—From "The Lyttelton Times," Sept. 17th, 1868.

From "The Southland Times," August 21st, 1868, we find an account of a discovery "of a certain unctuous liquor oozing up, it has a strong olefant odour somewhat appertaining to kerosene."

The last report of the Carnegie Corporation of New York illustrates the great work that is being done by the Corporation in various British Dominions and Colonies. During the year ended September 30th, 1936, grants totalling 965,000dol. were made in aid of educational work. Among the grants we find:—

New Zealand artists for study abroad ..	\$ 6,000
Ctago University	15,000
Australian Council for Educational Research, being part of total grant of 154,000dol.	40,000
University of Melbourne	26,000
University of Western Australia	12,000
—From "United Empire," January, 1937. (Extract.)	

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Moved—"That the Council support the inauguration of a National Library Scheme as proposed by the New Zealand Library Association, and that when it is sufficiently developed consideration be given to the possibility of making the existing library free."

NEW NOVELS

By OUR REVIEWER.

Golden Peacock, by Gertrude Atherton. In this story we are introduced to supposedly high life and political intrigue in Augustan Rome. Camponia, the heroine, is a modest strong-minded and resolute golden-haired young lady of sixteen, capable of using a dagger in necessitous circumstances and in a good cause, skilled in dissimulation, and in short has all the qualities of the literary species. Her father and mother are murdered at the instigation of covetous relations, but Pomponia escapes, and, with the help and support of Horace and Maecenas, outwits a wicked uncle and lays bare a conspiracy against the Emperor Augustus, finally ending in the arms of her lover. There are pictures of Roman sumptuousness and country life of the time, and of course other characters, but these are of little importance, the human interest being entirely absorbed by the heroine.

The Door in the Wall, by Lawrence W. Meynell, is a somewhat unusual mystery story dealing with foreign plotters, and although there are many lively and varied adventures detailed neither the hero nor his enemies come to any unseemly end. A young Englishman, while holidaying in Charnac, is supposed to have stumbled upon an important secret, and is spirited away by a gang of political plotters. Aided by outsiders who can speak English, he manages to escape. The reader will find an interested thrill in his adventures to the conclusion, which is a good and thrilling one.

"THE SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM."

By T. E. Lawrence.

The long waiting list of subscribers for this famous book has now been dealt with, and the volumes have been placed in the glass case in the Non-fiction Room. They may be obtained upon request.

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Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the
Linwood Public Library

Vol. 2. July, 1937 No. 9

It is really surprising to know that some of our subscribers have been ignorant of our non-fiction department. Librarians at the desk have often been asked if we have books of a more informative type than fiction; books of travel, history, and biography. Others have apparently read some of the book reviews in our pages but have not discovered the Non-fiction Room. We have had signs displayed in the library directing to this important section, but perhaps these have erred on the side of modesty as regards size. The committee has recently hung a sign in the main library that, if not blatant, is not likely to be missed by the average subscriber.

It is pleasing to note that the Non-fiction department is claiming increasingly larger numbers of devotees, and the committee, in response to this appreciation on the part of subscribers, is spending correspondingly larger sums of money upon books for this section. Unfortunately, space is very limited in this room, and to make room for the newer books, older ones have to be taken from the shelves and stacked in reserve. Although this is to be regretted, subscribers have the satisfaction of knowing that the Non-fiction shelves are replete with a collection of

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

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recent and popular books that are well worth reading.

In passing, it might be mentioned that the assistance of subscribers would be gladly received by the buyer for this department. Suggestions as to books required will always meet with careful consideration and co-operation between reader and book-buyer gladly welcomed. Some confirmed fiction-readers are under the impression that non-fiction is too "heavy" for them. How far from the truth is this; once the reader has embarked upon a course of travel and biography, he will find the path so fascinating that he will be loth to leave it. If the Editor might give a suggestion to readers who find that Eternal Triangles, Thrillers, and Wild West novels are not so satisfying as once they were, he would recommend those three wonderful books by Lord Frederic Hamilton: Vanished Poms, The Days Before Yesterday, and Here, There, and Everywhere. These books were written almost twenty years ago, and to show how well the world of readers has received them it is only necessary to say that they have gone through twenty-five editions.

NON-FICTION BOOKS RECENTLY

PURCHASED.

Sawdust Caesar, by George Selder. This is quite a different Mussolini to the one we met in "My Autobiography." It is authoritative in its quotations, and they help to colour the picture, giving a very different impression of the popular conception of Il Duce. The book depicts one who is a great showman, a keen opportunist, and one made well-nigh insane with his own success. The factual records of his earlier days are fast disappearing, and to publish some of Mussolini's own documents is a crime punishable by exile. The "March on Rome," of which we have heard so much, and which Mussolini is said to have led, is here shown in its stark truth. Details are given about the plot against Matteotti, the crime that stirred the western world. An interesting pic-

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ture of the man who has defied and is defying the Empire.

The Far East Comes Nearer, by H. Hassell Tiltman. To keep abreast of events in this day of startling change is a difficult problem for the average person in New Zealand. Japan is one of the nations that has contributed very largely to the changing scene. When one nation seizes from a neighbouring nation nearly 1,000,000 square miles of its territory, it is perhaps a bit surprising that more notice was not taken of this, and its probable repercussions. By this and other actions Japan has emerged quite definitely as a Continental Power, and to-day is challenging not only China and Soviet Russia, but also Britain, the U.S.A., and others. The future of Japan as envisaged by her leaders is a source of considerable anxiety to the English speaking peoples. If conflict with either China or Russia should happen, then the stage is set for a world conflagration, for it would probably involve Europe, and later the U.S.A. Mr Tiltman in this book makes many things easier to grasp, and gives a most informative analysis of the situation in the Far East.

In My Path, by Halliday Sutherland. The author of "The Arches of the Years" and "A Time to Keep" needs no introduction to the patrons of the Non-fiction Section of the Linwood Public Library, as both of the above books have been in keen demand for some time past. The "Dedication" of this book should not be missed, as it is well worth perusal. The various chapters tell us of events and people whom he met in his path, and all possess an interest that is pleasing. Being a doctor, he devotes a larger share of the professional side of his life than in his previous books, but here as well, the interest is well sustained and much important knowledge is imparted. The author's humour, of course, is present, and in the chapter on "The Matchmakers" we find a good illustration. "The Perfect Eugenic State" may be said to supply humour with a grim touch. While differing from his other work, we see in this book a part of him we but faintly realised in his other books.

Mutiny at Sea, by R. L. Hadfield. Usually a mutiny at sea is far from being a drawing-room affair, being human nature at its worst. Those who have had even a slight first-hand experience of a windjammer at sea, will know of the wretched conditions under which sailors existed, often housed in the top-gallant fore-castle. In heavy weather they were never dry, with green seas breaking aboard. Everything in their fore-castle would be as wet as the sea itself. Yet this was their only shelter. The food was often on a par with their living quarters, and if the "Old Man" and the mates were drivers, then conditions were all there to sour and embitter the men. Only the strong could win through, keeping their manhood and respect. Yet, with everything to kill the finer qualities in times of stress and danger, the

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"common" sailor often proved himself to possess heroism, high courage, and dogged endurance. The labours of Samuel Plimsoll in the '70's of last century in procuring some improvement in their conditions, has since become a matter of history. There was romance of a sort in a sailor's life, but mostly it was undiluted hades. In this book the author gives us some instances of where the men broke down under the grim pressure, and it inevitably made for tragedy. A book that widens one's sympathetic understanding for the "common" sailor.

Heavenly Hell, by Richard Brinsley Sheridan. A realistic sea narrative. Icy gales, reefing sails in howling winds, and all the hardships to be found at sea. The life of sailors in windjammers is well described, with all the saltiness of their calling. You will like this book.

Seventy Years Hard, by "Jo" Hallam. The title is well described in this book. Read it, and be glad you are not "Jo."

The Whalers, by Dr. Felix Maynard, and edited by Alexandre Dumas. This book is from the diary of a French surgeon on whalers in New Zealand waters during the years 1837 to about 1846. Most interesting in its adventure and exploration, with the added interest of the touch given by Alexandre Dumas. The introduction by Johannes C. Andersen makes a splendid commencement to this very interesting book.

Our King and Queen. An authentic and authoritative story.

Desert Encounter, by Knud Holmboe. An adventurous journey through Italian Africa. The author, Danish by birth, was killed by brigands in Arabia in 1930, at the age of 29. In him we have lost a second T. E. Lawrence. Being able to speak Arabic, and assuming the native dress, he mixed with the populace and got the true understanding of the aims and thoughts of the people ruled over by the ruthless Italians. He has much to say against Italian methods in Africa. Recent events in Abyssinia have proved his censure to be justified. Leaving Ceuta he travels by car over the Atlas Mountains, through Morocco, Algeria, Tunis, Tripoli, and across the Libyan Desert, meeting adventures and mishaps by the score. Reaching Persia he is thrown into prison as a spy, and the atrocities of the Italians against the Arabs are faithfully portrayed. Not being allowed to travel further in his endeavour to reach Egypt, he is deported and sent home. An interesting and instructive episode, which is well worth reading.

I Found No Peace, by Webb Miller. One of the most thrilling books we have read for some time, unrivalled as a picture, realistic to a degree, of world affairs from 1914. The chapters on India, Ethiopia, and Spain will make you think. One of the best books for a long time.

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The Land of the Langan, by Arthur Miles (Gernie Baronte). As revealing as Katherine Mayo's "Mother India."

NEW BOOKS PLACED ON THE SHELVES IN THE JUVENILE SECTION

Girls.

"The Girl from the Big Horn Country," by Mary Ellen Chase.

"Peter and Co.," by Mary Louise Parker. This story is packed full of action and interesting happenings in the school and out of it.

"The Crash Girl," by Eileen Marsh, is another interesting story of the air.

Boys.

"The Big Five," by Gunby Hadath.

"Redskins and Settlers," by Ascott R. Hope.

"Saucy Patrol," by Railton Holton.

"The Lost Crown of Ghospora," by J. T. Gorman.

"The Menace of X," by Alex. Kahn.

SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED FICTION

Ambitious Tiger.....Knight Chester
And After April.....Diana Ridley
Arizona Guns.....Ormand Clarkson
The Beautiful Crook.....Mairi O'Nair
Big Jim.....Roy Norton
The Bridge of Time.....Sophie Cole
The Burning Court.....Jno. Dickson Carr
The Capable Girl.....Anne Stanton Drew
The Circle of Guilt.....Chas. Kingston
Confetti for a Killing.....Charman Edwards
The D.A. Calls it Murder .. Erle Stanley Gardner
Flowering Death.....Angus McVicar
Gather ye Rosebuds.....Jean Barre
A Gent from Bear Creek.....Robt. E. Howard
Glory in the Gum Woods.....Vingie A. Roe
Halo.....Jane Henderson
The House by the Sea.....Mrs Belloc Lowndes
If Love Were All.....Guy Trent
Infinity.....Doris Irene Thompson
The Killer of Kamerun.....Jno. R. Winslow
A Murder will be Committed.....Geo. Goodchild
Prairie Dust.....Jas. L. Rubel
Ranch of the Two Thumbs.....Archie Jocelyn
Roaming Holiday.....Colt Macdonald
The Sleeve of Night.....Peter Traill
Suzette.....Florence Lawford
They Called Him Nighthawk.....Sydney Horler
This Errant Heart.....Anne Maybury
Turn the Hour.....Rosemary Rees
Try and Hold Me.....Norma Patterson
Unlucky Farm.....F. E. Mills Young
Vanished Legion.....Louis Kaye
Vanishing Herds.....James Marshall
Vintage Murder.....Ngaio Marsh
Wildwoods Garage.....Norman Giles
Young Flynn.....E. Laurie Long
Yours Respectfully.....Jane Lyle