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Linwood Library Gazette

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

Vol. 3, No. 1



October, 1937.

THE CINEMA AND THE LIBRARY

(From the Official Organ of the New Zealand Library Association.)

In an article in the June number of the "Library Association Record," by M. C. Pottinger, F.L.A., the question of educational film is discussed. "The cinema grew up, as all of us must have observed, in an atmosphere of considerable disapproval from educationists, and generally was regarded with disfavour by all who believed that entertainment need not necessarily be divorced from intelligence or good taste. The cinema industry had its origins as a showman's business." Mr Pottinger goes on to point out that the ordinary commercial film has improved immensely during its short life, and that now we are frequently privileged to see "such honest, intelligently conceived films as 'Man of Aran,' 'Dawn to Dawn,' 'Fury,' 'The Story of Louis Pasteur,' and 'The Private Life of Henry VIII.'"

From this consideration Mr Pottinger goes on to the fact that Great Britain gives the lead to the rest of the world in the production of the documentary film. As John Grierson, leader of the documentary film movement, put it—"Essentially the art of producing a documentary film is the art of skilled and faithful reporting, depending for its success upon the ability to use the camera to build up an interesting and dramatic picture of the life led and the work done in the world of everyday reality." The author goes on further to the direct use of films in the library as one of those

activities vaguely and conveniently termed extension work, and it is in this aspect of the matter that the Dunedin Branch of the Association has, as reported elsewhere in this issue, interested itself.

"Many libraries," says Mr Pottinger, "sponsor lectures, university extension courses, etc., on the principle that such activities consolidate the library's claim to be the community's cultural centre, and tend to encourage the circulation of books in the more solid and serious sections of the library. It is a very short step from the educational lecture to the educational film, and I have little doubt that in the next few years we shall find many of our large municipal services installing 16mm. sound projectors, and organising programmes of films designed to stimulate the use of their non-fiction sections. The use of the film in the class-room and as a substitute for university and other lectures, is advancing by leaps and bounds. Only the other day, the Minister of Education expressed publicly his ambition to see cinematograph apparatus installed in every elementary and secondary school in the kingdom. It is not, I think, over-sanguine to suggest that cinema screens will shortly be as common in our libraries as lecture platforms are now.

"And finally, it is not, I think, too far-fetched to envisage a day when we shall see local authorities administering local cinemas in the same spirit as they at present administer public libraries. Public libraries were established, and are conducted, as a means of imparting to the people, education and intelligent recreation.

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FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

"Competition is the soul of trade." So said the merchant princes some fifty years ago. Even to-day individual competitive effort is held by many to be the highest, best, and most valuable contribution to the well-being of a community. This attitude, taken as it stands, and compared with any social effort put forth by a number of individuals for the lasting benefit of the community does not appear so pleasing. The standards are on different planes. Co-operation is much more attractive, and at the same time more beneficial in its results. Individual effort may be summed up as a pursuit for individual profits. Co-operative effort is summed up as service for the benefit of all. And so to-day we stand for community work by a number of individuals banded together for the benefit and welfare of our section of the community. In the book clubs spread all over our city we have competition of the individual for personal profit, therefore we have decided to meet it. To this end we propose to display outside our library some of the jackets or covers of the books purchased week by week, running into from 120 to 150 books each month. The case will be right across the main window, measuring 14 feet by 21 inches deep, and these books will be available inside the library to all our subscribers. The charges for membership are 6/- per annum, 3/6 for six months. The annual fee works out at 1.385d. per week—less than three halfpence—and this entitles any subscriber to his or her choice in the latest fiction, or standard fiction, the most recent non-fiction, magazines, English and American, for home reading. In addition to these there are in the Magazine Room, which is warm and well lighted, English, Australian and American periodicals with the local newspapers.

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**SOME RECENT PURCHASES OF
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Beyond Midnight Chasm.....D. Bardwell
Brief Flower of Youth.....Graham Heath
A Bullet in the Ballet.....Brahms & Simpson
Case of the Hanging Rope.....Christopher Bush
Charlatan.....Margaret Ferguson
Crimson Hair Murder.....Baron von Kay
Daniel Airline.....Robt. Hichens
Death for Dear Clara.....R. Patrick
Death Framed in Silver.....Alice Campbell
Diva's Emeralds.....Victor McClure
Down Under.....Patricia Wentworth
The Dragon's Jaws.....F. L. Packard
Dream Awhile.....Sheila Burns
The Drone-Man.....John Ross
Found Floating.....F. W. Croft
Flood of Youth.....John Clappen
The Flower Dancer.....Edison Marshall
Grim Chancery.....W. Mills
Grow Up Little Lady.....Joan Tempest
Guncotton, Adventure Nine.....Rupert Grayson
The Happy Mummies.....Oliver Sandys
In the Flash-light.....Ottwell Binns
Jane's Parlour.....O. Douglas
Joyce and Jane.....M. M. Price
A Ladder to the Stars.....Phillipa Preston
The Late George Apley.....J. P. Marquand
The Lone Cowboy.....C. L. Edholm
Mr and Mrs North.....Richd. Lockridge
Mr Deeds Goes to Town.....C. B. Kelland
Mournful Martin.....C. W. Sanders
Murder of a Man Afraid of Women

Anthony Abbot
No Man is Love Proof.....Annabel Lee
The Old Jew Mystery.....H. Adams
One of the Ones.....J. C. Snaith
Our Miss Flower.....Joan A. Cowdroy
Phil's Castle.....D. Conyers
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Renegade Range.....H. A. Woodbury
Rough Ranges.....Garry Marshall
Sally Lunn.....Leo Walmsley
Saturday Match.....Hugh de Selincourt
Secret Sceptre.....F. Gerard
Seeds of Murder.....Van Wyck Mason
Spanish Pecos.....Colt Macdonald
The Stones Awake.....Carlton Beals
A Strange Destiny.....Carlton Dawe
Sudden Bill Dorn.....Jackson Gregory
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Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the
Linwood Public Library

Vol. 3 October, 1937 No. 1

This is the day of education. Our schools and colleges provide the youth of the land with a higher grade of education than ever before, fitting them with the necessary knowledge to face life's battle for existence. Matriculation is almost a necessity for the boy or girl to-day, if he or she wishes to obtain a position in the world of commerce.

Yet it cannot be said that, upon leaving school, the recipient of certificates or degrees has acquired more than the fundamentals of learning, for it is the great school of life itself that teaches us all, by experience, how to measure up to the highest standard of citizenship.

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To-day the books in our public libraries are helping to fill a great need, the growing hunger for books is becoming greater year by year and readers may be

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

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said to be more fully educated than ever before. When we talk of books in this sense we refer to books of an informative or educational nature, or as we term them—Non-fiction books.

In our small way, we of Linwood Public Library are striving to assist our own citizens by providing a varied and balanced bill of literary fare, to suit all tastes. Those of our subscribers who confine their reading matter to fiction do not know what untold pleasures they are missing, they have been gorging upon literary jam and imagine that any mental food of a more substantial nature must be more or less unpalatable. We would earnestly entreat any such reader to wander into the non-fiction room of our library and browse among the shelves there. We can safely promise that such a visit will be of lasting benefit and pleasure. There are books of travel and adventure awaiting the seeker, books that are indeed stranger than fiction and that leave behind a more satisfying sense to the reader. Biographies in plenty are there—stories of actual lives, far more thrilling than the imaginary exploits of a fiction writers' imaginary hero.

We often hear the remark "I have so many worries during the day that I feel the necessity for a little relaxation when evening comes." This statement is amplified by a further remark "A good thriller or mystery story provides such relaxation, but a heavy book would only add to my worries." While not decrying good fiction, we do most sincerely believe that well-selected books from the non-fiction class are a greater help to the jaded brain than the majority of novels. May we urge our readers to prove the truth of this assertion. By reading such books, one not only spends many a pleasant hour or two, much useful knowledge is gained, and our education, which never ceases, is advanced another stage.

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BOOKS RECENTLY PLACED IN THE NON-FICTION ROOM

Ordeal in England. Sir Philip Gibbs, in the earlier chapters, deals with the passing of Edward VII., accession of George V., the dramatic events of his reign with a panegyric on his jubilee, describes how his passing touched the hearts of peers and costers, all classes, men and women. As an interlude he relates his inclusion in the personnel of "A Royal Commission to enquire into the alleged abuse in the private manufacture of arms and the trading in weapons of war, and to decide whether it was possible or desirable to substitute a State monopoly in the industry." One of the ironies of this Commission was that while it was yet sitting Mussolini launched his Abyssinian campaign, and on more than one occasion the situation was critical in the extreme. The evidence of Vickers Ltd., and their cross-examination was a time of great strain. David Lloyd George was a lighter spot in that sombre strained atmosphere, fresh as a young man, full of dynamic energy, and at the top of his form. The recapitulation of the abdication is in Sir Philip's vivid style. He covers all the events, and writes faithfully and truthfully. Summing up, he says:—England loved Edward VIII., and we have lost something." As to the Air Force in the scheme of re-armament, he is pessimistic. We are moving slowly and still weak in future possibilities. He is alarmed by the thought that the "Brass Hats" may be similar to the "heads" or Brass Hats in 1914. A staggering thought, and unfortunately for all probably correct.

In defence of Conservative ideas and condemnation of leftism, he becomes very earnest and eloquent, apparently ignoring the basic cause of the conflict between these two parties. He is passionate in his desire for friendship with Germany, and his argument is apt enough to show a strong case. Searching for evidence of England's opinion, he meets many and various ideas illustrative of the chaotic condition into which not one country, but many, have been drawn. The views of an American—of whom he says, he is well known in the U.S.A. but whose identity is not divulged—are interesting, inasmuch as he presents another viewpoint of the Asiatic European situation. The Epilogue is an account of the Coronation, and concludes a very arresting and provocative book.

Japan Must Fight Britain. By Lieut.-Comm. Tota Ishimaru. This is a book well worth reading, and more than that it is one that must be read in order to get the Japanese viewpoint of expansion. The author tells us that the ultimate aim of Japan is to include China and India in the Japanese economic block, and as he holds that Britain's era of prosperity and power is quickly vanishing, he is confident of Japan's victory. He leaves a possible hope for Britain if she will renounce some of her Asiatic territory, thus making a gesture that will placate Japan and render a war of acquisition unnecessary. He makes out a case that will please naval authori-

ties in Japan, does not conceal his anger at the development of Singapore, and concedes that as long as Britain has a powerful navy and Singapore we in New Zealand and Australia can sleep in peace. He might have added that Britain has been likened unto a bulldog, whose strong point is to grip and hang on. A book to read by those who take concern at Pacific Ocean affairs.

The Siege of Alcazar. By H. R. Knickerbocker. The books on the Revolution in Spain have yet to be written, but this one is written by an American journalist, who was granted every possible facility to see as much as he could on the Rebel Front. He writes forcefully, and through him the reader makes acquaintance with war in its naked horror. The relief of Alcazar will long be remembered as one of the grimmest events in the struggle. Writing from the Rebel front we gain a slight insight as to how the struggle is carried on, but it is worth while noting that while the Moors are mentioned, very little is mentioned of either Italian or German troops fighting Spaniards in Spain.

The Valley of the Assassins. By Freya Stark. Miss Stark has given us here a work that has gained glowing eulogies from the critics and the English Press, also gaining recognition of her work and achievements from the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Asiatic Society. Those who enjoyed "The Southern Gates of Arabia" will find here the same charm in greater variety.

Red Sea Nights. By Wm. J. Makin. A story of action and movement, commencing at Marseilles, when penetrating into Abyssinia, he then is for quite a long spell in and about the unknown parts of the Red Sea, where he sees life in many shades and hues. He has adventures galore, and enjoys them all.

I'll Go no More Aroving. By Charles Ladds. This is not a fairy tale, though some parts of it read like pure imagination. The author left home at fourteen, and went to sea, and in eight years had gathered quite a lot of varied experiences, and that is what the book is about. It will be well read.

Three Lives and—Now. By Stephen Foot. Quite a different book this. The author was employed by a famous oil company, first in Singapore, then in Mexico. When war broke out he became a staff officer in the Tank Corps. After the war he was an assistant master at his Alma Mater. Then "Now" is recorded. At last he had found that direct service of God was the greatest thing of all. A "human" book.

NEW NOVELS

By our Reviewer.

Seaway Only. By Humphrey Jordan. Do you want to read a book full of the salt tang of the sea, a story of the strength of the finest product of England, a man's book salted and vigorous? "Seaway Only," a tale of the merchant service will fill your wants of a real book full of life, brimming with interest that will grip you from cover to cover. A real character walks here for you to visualize and study. This is a book you will take up with pleasure and put down with

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regret. Can one say more? For you there are three copies available.

The *Golden House*, by H. A. Vachell, is a charming romance written with a characteristic mellowness of the city of Bath. Humphry Paganel, scion of an ancient Somerset family, finds on coming of age that the estate to which he is heir is so heavily taxed that it would be impossible to keep it. He determines to try and recover it by hard work, and enters the wine trade, working his way up from the lowest rung of the ladder to the top as partner in the firm. In the meantime the girl he loves is forced by her parents to marry an elderly reprobate, and he finds "uneasy happiness with Dawn, daughter of "Ready-money Nash," whose advent into Bath divides the city into Montagues and Capulets." As, however, Bath reverts to her usual calm so Humphry regains his estates, and finds true happiness in the tranquil beauty of his home. "A book to delight all Mr Vachell's admirers."

Tucker sees India, by M. L. Skinner, is the story of a happy-go-lucky soldier of the Australian Light Horse, who misses his transport to Egypt and is stranded in Bombay. While in India he has a series of strange if extravagant adventures in unearthing spies, discovering hidden arms, rescuing a white girl from bandits, and saving a high personage from a bomb. Mr Tucker is, as one critique describes, "one of the most extraordinary characters encountered in fiction"—a genuine comic creation, a delightful waster, a coward who is always running into trouble he would far rather avoid." The description of places visited during his escapades are well penned and readers will find both interest and thrills of no ordinary kind.

Does anyone nowadays read Mark Twain? I have made certain random enquiries among my friends, and find that most of them have read "Tom Sawyer" and "Huckleberry Finn," but not since they were fourteen or fifteen. All of them know the names of "The Jumping Frog" and "Innocents Abroad," and some of them (though not accurately) that of "A Connecticut Yankee at the Court of King Arthur." Further, two leading booksellers whom I have consulted tell me that nowadays they do not find it necessary to stock the works of Mark Twain. Yet only the other day Mr Stephen Leacock bracketed Twain and Dickens together as the greatest humorists of modern times—while asserting that until modern times there was no real humour.

—Extract from "John O'London Weekly."

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