

Linwood Library Gazette

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

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MARCH, 1936.

LINWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY.

27th ANNUAL REPORT.

In presenting this, the 27th Annual Report, your committee has pleasure in recording another successful year's undertaking in library affairs, for the benefit of the district.

Membership shows an increase of seven over last year's figures, the total number on January 31st, 1936, being 1739.

During the year 754 members joined and 747 resigned. The Juvenile Section has shown a decrease of 3 and the Adult Section has 32 members less than last year. The Old Age Pensioners now receiving the full benefit of the Library total 58, an increase of 42 over last year's figures. It is pleasing to note that your Committee's efforts in providing a year's reading for the aged, for the nominal sum of 2/6 has been much appreciated.

The close of the Library year coming, as it does, in the height of summer, does not disclose the maximum membership, which is always greater during the winter months. The highest point ever reached in the Library's history was during May last, when 1882 members were on the register.

The financial position of the Library is in keeping with precedent, a credit balance being shown, while the income received from subscriptions and charges on extra books has been utilised largely in the purchase of reading matter for members. The total income received from subscriptions was £523/17/6 and that from extra books £360/10/11. It will be seen that this item is a most important one, representing nearly 33,000 books taken by subscribers at the nominal charge of three pence per volume.

The Christchurch City Council granted the sum of £100, following recent practice. Although £50 less than the subsidy formerly given, your Committee is deeply grateful for this assistance, but trusts that with the return of more prosperous times the full amount may be granted in the near future, as with the growth of the Library and the increased cost of books even the larger sum is proportionately less.

1804 books were added to the shelves during the year; these were classified as follows:—1428 Fiction, 146 non-Fiction and 230 Juvenile.

1374 books were discarded, the total number of volumes on the shelves and in circulation being approximately 16,900. 4742 books were repaired on the premises and 82 were rebound.

The number of books issued during the year was 109,958.

New magazines purchased were "Current History," "Geographical Magazine" and "Walkabout." These are journals of educational character presented in a popular manner. They have been well received by subscribers.

The successful management of the Library has been largely due to the continuation of the system of dividing the Committee into several sub-committees, each responsible for its own particular sphere of activities. These sub-committees are Executive, Magazines, Shelving, Book-culling, Juvenile, non-Fiction and Publicity.

The three book-buyers—Mr E. G. Thomas (Fiction), Mr A. Brettell, (non-Fiction) and Mr L. W. Ballan (Juveniles) have rendered good service during the year, their judgment in selection having met with general approval.

Special thanks are due to the Lady