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parks the ratepayers provide themselves with a satisfactory service for common books.

Owing to the comparative sparseness of our population, there is a clearer case for co-operation between libraries in New Zealand than there is in England. Some steps have already been taken. The university libraries are arranging inter-library loans. A system of co-operation has been discussed and plans drawn up by a small group of public librarians and others. But little can be done until the libraries of New Zealand are put on a proper basis of full municipal support, which has long been the case in most other English-speaking countries, and in Timaru and Dunedin. Christchurch is by far the most backward town in this respect. It is to the interests of every reading Christchurch citizen to press for a unified metropolitan system fully supported by the community through the rates.

NEW NOVELS

By OUR REVIEWER

Forgotten of Allah. By Steven Travers. Some critics of "The Straight Road" written by the same author, describe the book as "a first-class adventure story," "a very skilfully written thriller," in which "excitement and emotional interest range high." All these attributes may well apply to the present book, which is a story of secret service work and romance with the North-West Frontier for a background. The principal characters are Captain Colin Grice, of the Gomal Intelligence, Lady Cressida Stenson, Otho Mulvar, a Russo-American flying ace and Cressida's fiancée, and Hastings, purporting to be a coffee planter, but in reality a Russian spy whose proper name is Schoultz. Grice's life is in danger from the Mahsuds, and his Colonel gets him temporarily transferred to another post disguised as a private. While he is here Lady Cressida arrives on a visit to her uncle, the Commandant, and Grice, now under the name of Raines, is detailed to act as her groom. From here on the story runs swiftly along, and how he twice saves Cressida from grave danger and frustrates the plans of Schoultz will give the reader plenty of sensational thrills.

Crime Counter Crime. By E. C. R. Lorac. This is a somewhat unusual thriller, the theme of which is provided by a hotly contested by-election. Trenchard, the Tory candidate, arrives late in a somewhat dishevelled state at the crucial meeting of his campaign. Although he is elected, the discovery of an empty car in a quarry, which is proved to be the car of a Communist orator who has threatened to ruin Trenchard by sensational disclosures, leads to ugly rumours, the unravelling of which by Macdonald, C.I.D., in collaboration with a Blueshirt named Dunne, un-

folds dramatic results that are entirely unforeseen by the reader.

Saint Overboard. By Leslie Charteris. Readers who have already heard of Simon Templar, known as the Saint to crooks and police alike, will no doubt be glad to hear of some more of his adventures. When and how he met Loretta Page; her amazing story, his cruise through the Channel Islands, a duel with Kurt Vogel, plunderer of missing ships, how he cracked a strong-room twenty fathoms under water and obtained £5,000,000 in gold will all prove alluring reading.

FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

During the last few years the Chair has been in communication with one of the inhabitants of Pitcairn Island, and having to-day received a letter from the Island brought to mind that during the last week or two the film "Mutiny on the Bounty" has been shown in Christchurch. Though fairly well acquainted with the story from the departure of the Bounty, on Dec. 29th, 1787, to the landing at Pitcairn, the Chair did not see the film, but we understand that it represented the Pandora as being commanded by Bligh. This is a picture producer's departure from history, which informs us that Captain E. Edwards commanded that vessel in the search for the mutineers up to the time when she was wrecked on the Barrier Reef, New Holland—now Queensland.

The object of drawing attention to this gripping record of tyranny and callous brutality is to stress the value of methodical reading; by that is meant to read from the very beginning right through to the final scenes, this enables one, in this case, to view the whole of one of the most stirring tragedies in British mercantile history.

Our subscribers have recently been able to read three books dealing with three phases of this episode, viz., "Mutiny," "Men Against the Sea," and "Pitcairn," and have thereby learned that it would be difficult to find recorded anywhere anything that would compare even in a remote degree with the story told in these books.

In the Non-Fiction Section we have also three books, viz., "The Mutiny of the Bounty," by Sir John Barrow, first, then "The Voyage of H.M.S. Pandora," by Captain Edwards and Dr. Hamilton, and finally "The Story of Pitcairn Island," by a native daughter, Rosalind A. Young.

When one has read these volumes there is little more one can learn about those sailors who left Spithead in December, 1787, in The Bounty, or about those people on the Island to-day, the descendants of Fletcher Christian, Peter Young, McCoy, and others.

In the letter received to-day Jessie Clark (née Jessie Young) says:—"We are all very happy. . . Comfortable. . . A few men have gone to Henderson Island, and I wish they were back again, the boats are so small, and cannot stand all the hard big waves. It is blowing very hard and it is cold. . . They go to get some new mero to make souvenirs, also sandle wood, there are only a few left so I don't suppose they will get many." Miss Young about two years ago married a carpenter named Clark, who had decided to throw in his lot with the Islanders.

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