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FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

Recently the Chair received from Dr. Keppel, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, U.S.A., per Mr E. J. Bell, Chief Librarian of the Canterbury Public Library, a volume entitled "Portrait of a Library."

It is the history of a library in U.S.A., and is most interesting.

But it shows once again the gulf that lies between their conception of a suburban library and the actual libraries in Christchurch. We baulk at the idea of a library rate, but until we accept that liability the gulf will remain unbridged.

It was refreshing to read in the daily papers this week that despite the dilatory attitude of Christchurch, the Carnegie Corporation has allocated £10,000 (50,000dol.) to New Zealand museums and art galleries.

This is the latest proof of the interest that the Carnegie Corporation takes in New Zealand cultural activities, but by no means all, for there have been several instances during recent times.

It is interesting to remember that the first proof of the Carnegie Corporation's interest in our country was to arrange for a survey of New Zealand libraries, and it is a moot point whether Christchurch, in pursuing a policy antagonistic to a library rate, is not penalising other centres from benefitting through the sympathetic generosity of the Carnegie Corporation.

COMMITTEE MEETING

At the monthly Committee meeting, held on Tuesday, May 19th, Mr A. Brettell, President, occupied the chair. There was a good attendance of committeemen.

The Treasurer presented his monthly statement, showing that receipts from subscriptions totalled £38/10/6, while the revenue from extra books for the month amounted to £30/9/3. Accounts for £80/2/11 were passed for payment.

New subscribers for April were as follows:—Adults 49, old age pensioner 1, juveniles 19. The total number of subscribers on April 30th was 1785.

Books issued during the month totalled 8,808, and those placed on the shelves were—Fiction 127, non-fiction 18, and juveniles 18; a total of 158.

SOME NON-FICTION BOOKS RECENTLY PRCHASED

George the Faithful—The Life and Times of George V., The People's King, Edited by Sir Philip Gibbs. Future historians will place our late King as one of the most worthy occupants of the Throne, through the whole of its long history.

His fine understanding allied to his graciousness brought him close to the soul of the English speaking people. His passing was not only the death of a King but the death of a Man that was King, who had by the richness of his nature

and the beauty of his personality brought his people to a better and more sympathetic knowledge of kingship and its great responsibilities.

Sir Philip Gibbs in this book has given the world something that makes it the richer for its possession.

Inside Europe, By John Gunther. This is not a book to be skipped through or scanned over, but rather for the man who desires to know the men who to-day rule—or—misrule Europe. It is a miniature encyclopedia of men and events. The author has carefully probed into those things that matter, and gives us a wide and comprehensive picture of politics in Europe. It is a searching analytical study of the economic and political forces ruling to-day

The "Daily Telegraph" says:—"This is one of the most educative, as well as one of the most exciting books which I have read for years I cannot recommend it too warmly"

Enchanted Isles, By Stanley Rogers. A fine breezy book bearing the atmosphere of both ancient and modern adventurers in lonely and isolated places.

We read of Atlantis and other lesser islands lost in remote times; of Mauritius, and delight in its romantic story; of the Marquesas Islands, beloved of Herman Melville; and with Pierre Loti spend a brief time in lovely Tahiti.

Legends, romance and adventure are all here, given to us in a fresh setting, both informative and interesting.

Meditations on The Cross, By Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa. It has been stated on authoritative testimony that Dr. Kagawa is one of the most outstanding men of modern times. A study of his life and work gives us ample proof of this.

In this book he presents in his arresting direct style an unusual interpretation of the sayings of Christ while on the Cross.

His own life, so full of sacrifice and devotion, is a striking illustration of man's power for good, when wholly surrendered to Divine direction.

SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED FICTION

Above the Law John Goodwin
All This I Gave Joan Tempest
The Back of Beyond Edmund Snell
The Bat Flies Low Sax Rohmer
Bubble Reputation P. C. Wren
The Case of the Caretaker's Cat .. E. S. Gardner
Deadman Manor Val Williams
Dead or Alive Patricia Wentworth
A Different Woman Muriel Hine
The Exile Pearl S. Buck
Fair as the Moon Temple Bailey
For Goodness Sake Carolyn Wells
The Forgotten Hills Mabel L. Tyrrell
Gay Bachelor Helena Grose
Glittering Heights Anne Duffield
A Gun and a Rose C. W. Sanders
The Half Face J. M. Walsh
Horsethief Hole R. A. Bennett

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