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### LINWOOD LIBRARY GAZETTE

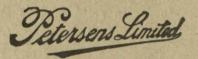
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provide her sons and daughters free of charge with all these aids to progress and efficiency.

If, as I hope, the interest which has been aroused in our library and museum system is to bear fruit, it is the many and not the few who must do the cultivating. Those who have been in charge of the existing institutions have been condemned to share the disheartening fate of the ancient Israelites, and to make bricks without straw. Plan after plan has been abandoned, ideal after ideal has been postponed for lack of money, and in a democratic society it is demos who holds the purse. No wiser or more helpful words have been written on this subject than those which I read this morning in the "Press":

"Christchurch could hardly mark the occasion (of its centenary) more fittingly than by recapturing the spirit of its founders and building a worthy library or museum."

I would add "Why not both ?"

### **NEW NOVELS**

By Our Reviewer.

The House Next Door, by Sophie Cole, relates the varying fortunes of a happy-go-lucky and somewhat Bohemian family named Smith. Algy has enthusiastic ideas for trying to better the fortunes of the family, but being a bungler his various schemes meet with disaster. Jemina, the daughter, becomes an actress, has a trying time, including a romantic interlude, but eventually gains the success she deserves. Robin, another member of the family, is engaged to an emptyheaded young woman whom he gives up in favour of Madoline Strang, a next door neighbour, who throughout the book acts as a foil to the bohemianism of the Smiths. In the end even Algy makes a success of a twopenny lending library. The vagaries and adventures described make light and breezy reading.

The Grim Game by Sydney Horler, is another story of Tiger Standish, the amateur detective, in which he has to unravel the machinations and curtail the Power of Ronstadt, of which Kuhnreich is a sinister and scheming dictator. Among the many secret agents he has to grapple with a lovely blonde spy named Elsa Brendt. What the particular plot was and its unravelling is best told by the author himself, and readers, however credulous, may be sure of a thriller of the first water.

The Vanishing Idol, by Geo. Gibbs. The story centres round a stolen emerald Buddha, which is supposed to have been among the lost treasures

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of Angkor, but the secret hiding place of which is known to a bankrupt English adventurer named Colonel Fonteney. The other characters in the book are a party of Americans on a "Far Eastern Luxury Cruise," consisting of Kendall, a young lawyer, Mrs Craig and her daughter Judy, Lili Daland, a film star, and Murray Dale, her leading man. There is a description of the cruise and adventures, surreptitious nocturnal visits to each other's cabins, and a number of love affairs, but the main theme is Fonteney's theft and smuggling of the Emerald Buddha out of Siam, to be ultimately defeated by Colonel Daskam of the British India Secret Service.

"And so a man certainly heartless, and apparently invincible, who bumps off many others in the course of the story, is at last himself bumped off."

## SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED FICTION

Adam and Even in the Garden of Edenbridge C. Hamilton

Behold Here's Poison ..... Georgette Heyer Behold Here's Poison ...... Georgette Heyer Black Wilderness ......Louis Kaye The Call of Love .....Henry St. John Cooper Cardyce for the Defence ......Bruce Graeme Caroline ......Richmal Crompton A City of Bells ......Baroness von Hutton Everything is Thunder .....J. L. Hardy Earnily Symphony L C. Clarke Family Symphony ......I. C. Clarke The Far Pursuit.....Ottwell Binns Faster! Faster!.....E. M. Delafield The Five Red Stars .....Ben Bolt A Fresh Deal ......E. W. Savi The Grim Game ..... Sydney Horler The Hammer of Allah ..... Douglas V. Duff Hollywood Madness.....Mis Pat Macgill Hoop of Gold ..... G. M. Attenborough The House Next Door.....Sophie Cole Island of Fear.....Hulbert Footner Mountain Men .....Jackson Gregory The New House .....Lettice Cooper Penrose Mystery.....Dr. A. Freeman The Posse of Crystal Creek ..... Tevis Miller Raffles Under Sentence.....Barry Pirowne Scar 77 ..... Graham Seton So They Began .....John Guthrie Solomon My Son.....John Erskine So Many Paths .....Simon Dare To-morrow Will be Lovely ..... May Christie Torch Bearers......Hugh Pendexter Trouble at Gayi......Mrs Baillie Reynolds The Vanishing Idol .....Geo. Gibbs



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