

Linwood Library Gazette

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

VOL. 1, No. 9.



JUNE, 1936

I have much pleasure in acceding to your request for a message for publication in the Linwood Library Gazette.

Libraries provide a social service of the greatest value. In assisting the diffusion of knowledge this particular service has been largely instrumental in producing the forces of modern democracy. And I have no doubt that the high degree of popular knowledge and enlightenment upon which democratic institutions depend will continue to receive that important stimulus which the good public library affords. *It will be the aim of the Labour Government in New Zealand to make the libraries part of the national education system.*

You will realise that in the press of more urgent public business it has not yet been possible for the Government to give library matters the attention they deserve, but I can assure all those interested in Library development that full consideration will be given, and all factors will be considered when a comprehensive library policy is drawn up.

My own view is that much can, and no doubt will be accomplished, by applying the principles of co-operative effort. Co-operation has proved so eminently satisfactory in so many fields that its application to the various and numerous library bodies in New Zealand seems a matter which calls for earnest consideration.

If development could proceed along these lines I personally feel justified in saying that the Government would have no hesitation in providing the necessary encouragement and help.

M. J. SAVAGE,
Prime Minister.

MAGAZINES FOR IDLE MOMENTS

Oftimes there are moments when the reader feels the need of a change in his literary fare. His diet of light fiction becomes unsatisfying and something with more "body" in it is required. Or maybe the opposite is the case—the reader may have had a surfeit of "heavy" literature and he fancies a little reading matter of a lighter nature, yet does not relish a full length novel.

To such there is one unfailing prescription—"Magazines." The present day monthly magazine offers a wide choice of appetising fare in almost tabloid form. There are short stories by some of the world's best writers; stories of all types; grave and gay, appealing to the varying moods of the average reader. Then there are short articles of educational interest, covering a wide range of human activities. Nature studies in palatable form are also a feature of the

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1936 WALLPAPERS**

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monthly journal and throughout its pages are
numerous examples of photographic art, illustrating
the letterpress.

"The National Geographical Magazine" is an
American journal of world-wide fame and is produced
at huge cost. This is a magazine that may be
recommended to all readers, giving to the "armchair
traveller" some idea as to how the rest of the world
exists. A newer magazine of similar character, but of
English origin is "The Geographic Magazine." Here one
may view the world, its peoples and their customs
through British spectacles, and take many a peep at
some of the world's finest scenery.

Another new magazine not sufficiently known is
"Walkabout." This is another journal of pictorial
appeal, taking the reader into distant corners of the
world and arousing keen interest in "pastures new."

Space forbids mention of other interesting
magazines, many of which are to be found in "Our
Library." A twelve months' course of pleasant and
informative reading, such as is to be found in this
class of literature must result in a broader outlook on
the part of the reader.

NEW NOVELS

By OUR REVIEWER.

The Case of the Caretaker's Cat, by Erle
Stanley Gardner. This is a mystery story of an
unusual kind. Peter Laxter of considerable means is
presumed to be dead on the finding of a charred body
in the ruins of his country home which has been burnt
down and his heirs under the will take charge of his
town house. The will also provides that his old
caretaker is to be kept on for life in his old position.
He however has a cat to which he is greatly attached
but which the heirs wish to destroy, and the caretaker
consults Perry Mason a lawyer. This is the beginning
of an investigation which led to the discovery that
they were none of them their grandfather's heirs as
he was still alive, although in hiding. Plots and
murders are also discovered. The scene is laid in
California, and is an excellent type of clearly
written, quickly moving and ingenious detective story,
the finale of which will come as a surprise to the
reader.

The She Devil, by W. F. Taylor, is a tale of
piracy and adventure in which Lady Dorothy
Cerningham, a ward of Sir George Cranby, is the
central figure. Disagreement with her guardian
leads to her being put on a ship destined for
Barbados. On the same ship is Captain Tew,
erstwhile pirate but now under "King's grace," a
free gentleman travelling on Government service to
the same destination. On the way the ship is taken
by pirates and Tew is recognised by some old
shipmates and to save his life he is forced to join
them and is elected their captain. Meanwhile Lady
Dorothy by his advice has disguised herself in male
attire and joins up with the pirates under the wing
of Captain Tew. From here on the story thrills with
pirate action and blood curdling adventure in all of
which the pseudo Tom Cerningham takes her part. The

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story throughout is on the same lines as "Captain
Blood," but the ending, although very dramatic,
is not so happy as in Sabatini's novel.

Scots Wha Ha'e, by J. Storer Clouston, is a
story of a small and somewhat backward place,
by name Strauchie, and the various attempts put
forward by some of its principal inhabitants to
boom it. These include a local monster rivaling
that of Loch Ness, advertising the place as a spa,
and finally by getting up a "gathering." Mr
Clouston, who has a great sense of humour, has
also a keen insight of character and while con-
tinuously funny, subtly combines fantastic farce
and literal truth. "No one who knows Scotland
can afford to miss anything so shrewd and lively."

The Bat Flies Low, by Sax Rohmer, is a story
of a secret order occupying a hidden monastery
at Sirva, to whose charge is committed a secret
of ancient Egypt for the production of light which
is both archaeologically interesting and of com-
mercial value. The sect is led by a person with
hypnotic powers and who apparently is able to
transform himself into a bat. Thefts of papyri
and ancient relics occur in New York, but the
secret falls into the wrong hands, who in
endeavouring to work out the formula cause a
first-class earthquake and are themselves killed.
There is plenty of thrill in the narrative, which
goes forward to the climax without flagging and
holds the interest of the reader to the end.

South Riding, by Winifred Holtby, is an out-
standing and interesting novel, and should not
be missed by those readers who appreciate some-
thing deeper than the usual run of sentimental
novels. The theme is very simple and centres
round a hypothetical County Council in York-
shire during a time of progress and change. The
characterisation is remarkably keen and straight-
forward of the people themselves, and we are
shown their homes, their innermost lives, their
actions and motives with such realism as to make
her characters vividly alive. There is plenty of
chicanery and sorrow in the story, and plenty of
courage and compassion. "In sketching a world
of change, fear and passion, Miss Holtby has
shown a background of imperishable things that
no human striving or weakness can destroy."

NEW BOOKS FOR THE JUVENILES

The Secret Aeroplane, By D. E. Marsh, is an
exciting story of two schoolboys who are trying
to track down an unscrupulous madman who has
stolen the plans for a robot aeroplane. The
scene is laid first in Ireland, then in France, and
a great deal of the action takes place in the air.
The boys have many thrilling and hazardous
adventures.

The Cockpit—Flying Adventures, edited by
Major C. H. Daniels. These adventures in the
air collected by Major C. H. Daniels, will satisfy
the most exacting of readers of air thrills. Here
are war adventures on the Western Front and
over the North Sea.

Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the
Linwood Public Library

Vol. 1. June 1936 No. 9

Linwood Library has been signally honoured by the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. M. J. Savage, favouring us with a message concerning the national outlook upon library development.

That there is a real need for co-ordination in New Zealand's public libraries has long been recognised by thinking people, and it is indeed pleasant news that the Government fully realises its responsibilities in this direction.

In a young country, such as ours, it may be easily understood that, all over the country, isolated groups of readers, anxious to improve their facilities for wider reading, would band together for the purpose of collective book-buying to the advantage of their respective communities. In many instances very little knowledge on the part of these zealous folk would lead them along uncharted tracks and the result of their well-meaning efforts would not be such as to redound to the credit of any properly organised library system.

Imagine then, in New Zealand, scores of so-called public libraries, without any well-defined plan or organisation, struggl-

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

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Linwood Public Library.

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ing along on amateurish, wasteful lines, with no co-relation between them, and but few points of resemblance to each other. The one feature that probably is common to all is a comparatively plentiful supply of fiction. We have nothing to say against this, but we do believe that books of a higher standard: non-fiction books of educational value, are practically non-existent in many of our smaller libraries.

This is indeed a lamentable state of affairs, but is unfortunately almost unavoidable under existing conditions, for this class of literature is expensive, and probably beyond the reach of many individual libraries.

The time is ripe for a complete overhaul of New Zealand's library system, and the present Government has apparently realised the fact that, to evolve order out of chaos, a policy of incorporating libraries as a part of the national education system is very necessary.

The Right Hon. Mr Savage finishes his message to us on a high note, that of "Co-operation." We are heartily in accord with him in this respect, and we trust that the day is not far distant when other national problems will give way to that of Library Development.

Now that we are assured of the Government's intention to take the matter in hand we may take heart and look forward to the day when our Dominion is as far abreast of the times in matters pertaining to libraries as in other phases of our national existence.

We are confident that when the time arrives for the problem to be seriously faced the spirit of co-operation will be in evidence throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand. We have no hesitation in saying that Linwood will not be found wanting.

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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 PURCHASED

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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The Lawman of Lonesome River... Archie Jocelyn
Love Begins At Forty Pamela Wynne
The Lovely Ghost R. S. McNamara
Mystery At Milford Taffrail
Odds On Love Maysie Grieg
Pole Star S. E. White
A Poor Scholar C. R. Allen
Regency D. L. Murray
The Road To Paradise E. P. Oppenheim
Royal Wedding Florence Riddell
Secret Marriage K. Norris
She Devil W. F. Taylor
The Show Must Go On Oliver Sandys
Silver Zone F. C. Robertson
Spring Comes to Miss Lonely Heart . Berta Ruck
Squatter's Right Geo. M. Johnston
Sweet Ladies Anne Hepple
Too Good To Lose Eliz. Frayne
Venus Over Lannory Martin Armstrong
While of Sound Mind Stephen McKenna

In the course of an article on libraries, stocked for the most part with "Thrillers, western Stories, and Detective Novels," a writer in "Now and Then," Jonathan Capes' House Magazine, maintains that, by and large, a book is of value if it increases and widens the reader's experience.

An individual can himself experience in his span of life only a very limited amount, and from that experience understand his fellow-creatures and his surroundings to a very limited extent. By reading wisely he can extend the range of his knowledge indefinitely and widen his horizon by vicarious or distilled experience.

He may never leave his own country, but by reading he may understand and know better the Chinese and the Indian better than some who have lived for years in Shanghai or Bombay.

The New York publishers, E. P. Dutton and Co., are the possessors of a copy of The Everyman's Library edition of Jules Vernes' book, "The Secret of the Island," signed by fifty-three members of the Byrd expedition. The volume was one of a complete set of Everyman's Library which Admiral Byrd took with him to the Polar regions, and it was, apparently, one of the most popular volumes in the set.

Amounts spent on suburban libraries of London are of interest in view of recent discussions on similar questions in Australia.

London Statistics 1933-34, issued by the London County Council, show that Lambeth seem to take the greatest interest in books, as its 1933 bill for running eight libraries was £22,762.

Stepney, with four libraries, ran close, spending £22,601.

The suburb spending least was Holborn, which for one library spent £4,074.

So we are sure now that we are getting more like London every day!