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financial structure on which the Linwood Library is built, to alter the existing foundations, but the conditions of library service are undergoing a radical change. Yet, despite an altered viewpoint, the main spring of a successful library will ever rest on the enthusiastic work of a few, and never will individual effort be at a discount. A unit in a larger scheme will, I think, retain its individuality in as marked a degree as at present obtains, and it will operate with the additional advantage of a wider field for its activities. The committees of smaller libraries should cultivate a bias in the direction favourable to co-operation with kindred institutions in anticipation of changes which cannot be long delayed. Although I am ignorant of local conditions at Christchurch, the proposed transfer of control of the Christchurch Public Library from Canterbury College to the City Council may present the opportunity for Linwood to co-operate in the distribution of books to the citizens of Christchurch. If some measure of co-operation has been already arranged the Linwood Library can congratulate itself on having progressed in the right direction and if nothing has been mooted, I would in all earnestness suggest that the Linwood Library should make an attempt to arrange some scheme of co-operation with the city library. From this distance, there does not appear to be any insuperable obstacle to such an arrangement provided that the unique individuality of the Linwood Library is preserved, and that the service which you have hitherto given to your subscribers so competently and satisfactorily be maintained and provided that the experience of the present directorate be available to conduct the library with the same high standard of idealism and enthusiasm as has brought it to the praiseworthy position it occupies among the libraries of New Zealand.

NEW NOVELS

New Moon Through a Window by Maysie Greig is a novel based on the old superstition that to see the new moon through glass brings bad luck and certainly the principal characters, Leila and Jerry, have their full measure of troubles from having done this at the very commencement of their honeymoon. There is a car smash in which Leila is crippled; money runs short and Jerry has no job and despite all their

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endeavours life seems utterly hopeless. At this juncture chance brings Susan Lafrey, a spoilt out lovely and wilful young lady, who has everything she wants except Jerry with whom she has fallen in love. The two women make a fantastic bargain which with its results will intrigue the reader; the characters bring good portraits of feeling people who love and hate as normal people do. Anticipation, humour, pathos and drama make it one of the most appealing of this author's books.

A *Minor Operation* by J. J. Connington. The author is well known for his clever detective mystery stories and this one is in no way behind his others. Early one morning the police found the house occupied by Mrs Lethbridge apparently ransacked, blood on the floor of one room and Mrs Lethbridge herself had disappeared and no trace of a large sum of money, which investigations showed had been in her possession, could be found. Enquiries also showed that she was living under an assumed name and that two of her relatives had been imprisoned for fraud. In searching the premises the inspector found a curious little machine which was unknown to him but which later proved a clue from which Sir Clinton Driffield and his friend Wendover find a second trail. A motor accident proves a third trail and from the converging evidence of these three lines they solve the mystery.

The Man of a Ghost by P. C. Wren. This popular author has here given us another thriller which will claim the attention of his readers. The theme is good although somewhat improbable and deals with heroics on a scale more incredible than impressive.

Captain Wendover is in charge of a fort which he heroically defends against heavy odds until relief arrives. At the very moment the fort is relieved, however, this gallant officer is found inexplicably drunk and incapable of duty with disastrous results to his reputation. By a ruse a confession which clears Wendover is obtained from Captain Breckinge and some treacherous sepoy. Breckinge dies to save Wendover's life, the sepoy dies performing deeds of devotional valour and Wendover refuses to use the confession fearing that his own rehabilitation would damage Breckinge's memory.

**EXTRACT FROM THE N.Z. LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION BULLETIN FOR APRIL**

Just too late to be read at the recent Conference, arrived a letter from Mr Ralph Munn, one of the Association's first Life Members, one of the surveyors and compilers of the Munn-Barr Report, containing these heartening words:—"Progress may seem slow to those of you who are at the scene; from my detached viewpoint I can see a healthy development in public opinion as evidenced in the first municipal grant at Christchurch in material improvement as shown by Wellington's new building and in many other ways."