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### Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the Linwood Public Library

Vol. 2

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No. 8

The Public Library System of Christchurch, of which Linwood Library forms no mean part, is unique in New Zealand. The Canterbury Library is controlled by the Canterbury University College authorities and until quite recently received no financial assistance from the Christchurch City Council. The suburban libraries are controlled by independent bodies of voluntary workers, elected as committees by their respective subscribers, monetary grants being granted by the City Council. Each unit is self-contained and each has its own scale of charges for subscriptions. Rules and regulations are independently framed to suit local needs and each suburban library ploughs a lonely furrow in the vast field of literary wants. Much good work has been done in the past by these libraries and doubtless much will be done in the future, even under the present system; but when the day dawns, as eventually it must, upon a cc-ordinated plan of library administration, then will Christchurch be able to look with pride upon its cultural attainments in the world of books.

Meanwhile, the subscription system of membership is supplying the readers of city and suburbia with literary fare for an absurdly low payment. In the case of

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

Address all correspondence to "The Editor," Linwood Public Library.

members in all parts of Christchurch, the annual subscription is but six shillings a year, or less than three halfpence a week. Were the committee commercially minded and planned to run the library as a business concern, this low fee would of necessity be abandoned and other methods of raising revenue devised. The plan already in operation elsewhere of charging a nominal fee for membership, say one shilling, and thereafter threepence for every book taken out, would bring in a substantial income. But, following precedent, older books and cheap reprints would only be supplied upon payment of threepence. To obtain the newer books, costing seven shillings each and upwards, a fee of sixpence would be imposed, to cover the cost of books and to show a profit to the library.

our own library, which incidentally has

While this would be profitable to the library committee, subscribers would find that their reading matter was costing them considerably more. By taking out two of the newer books each week, the subscriber would find that, instead of paying six shillings a year, as at present, he would find his literary entertainment had cost him two pounds twelve shillings.

More need not be said upon this matter at the moment, but we would urge our members to enrol their friends as subscribers to Linwood Library and so partake of the literary feast available at such a modest charge.

FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

The April meeting of the New Zealand Library Association, Canterbury Branch, was held at the Addington Public Library on the invitation of the Addington Committee, and subsequent meetings will, we hope, be held in other suburban libraries. The object is to stress the importance of something being done along the lines recommended by Messrs Munn and Barr in their report on the survey of New Zealand

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