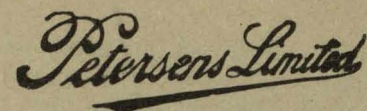


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If we, the suburban librarians, can prove that our method of voluntary workers is giving the best possible results, or the most efficient service, then there is no more to be said, but if the contrary is the fact, viz., that a trained staff can and does give a more efficient service, is it not wise for us to enquire fully into the question before taking a definite antagonistic attitude to the better—as we think—method? We have claimed recognition as workers for the social good and benefit of our community, and rightly so, but is that to prevent us working for a scheme that holds far greater possibilities of social good and greater benefit to our community? If we oppose the wider and larger scheme, are we not making null and void our claim to be benefactors to the community?

On pages 62 and 63 of the Merar-Barr Report we find this:—"The area of the metropolitan system should be enlarged in order that adjacent local bodies can reap the advantages to be gained from alliance with a more fully organised system. There is reason for believing that the urban libraries will improve considerably in the immediate future as they conform to a more enlightened view of their function as cultural institutions. The scheme that has been submitted for approval and adoption is believed to be the best possible for the Dominion, and although there are difficulties to be overcome in applying it, none of these are insurmountable if the will to achieve is evident."

SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED

FICTION

- April Child.....Lewis Cox
- A Delicate Case of Murder.....Sinclair Gluck
- Pedler's Pack.....Elizabeth Goudge
- Alms for Oblivion.....Eileen Bieland
- April Gold.....L. L. Hill
- The Beach of Skulls.....Alroy West
- Beau Rogue.....W. F. Tavlör
- The Case Book of Anthony Slade..L. R. Gribble
- Death on the Board.....John Rhode
- The Decline and Fall of a British Matron
Mary Mitchell
- Derelict Island.....Hilda Bridges
- Double Cross Purposes.....Ronald A. Knox
- Doubting Heart.....Leila S. Mackinlay
- Farce in Three Acts.....Eden Philpotts
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- Matthew Silverman.....Victor Canning
- New Wine at Cockerow.....G. W. Ellis
- No Pasaran.....Upton Sinclair
- Orchid Limited.....Constance M. Evans
- The Sixpenny Man.....W. Riley
- Star Begotten.....H. G. Wells
- Storm at Sunset.....Errol Fitzgerald
- Strange Houses.....Cora Jarrett
- Testament of Stephen Fane.....Neil Bell
- The Texas Tiger.....W. D. Hoffman
- The Theft of the Crown Jewels...Edgar Jepson
- They Found him Dead.....Georgette Heyer
- Whistling Lead.....Eugene Cunningham

NEW NOVELS

By our Reviewer.

Brief Flower of Youth, by Graham Heath, is a first novel, and was awarded the first prize in the Oxford and Cambridge Novel Competition, open to students in residence during 1936. The book is simply, well and interestingly written, and concerns the experiences of Richard, an English boy, who was educated in Germany in the latter part of President Hindenburgh's time. The greater part of the novel may be taken as an essay on the recent history of Germany, the competing political doctrines being personified by types. Richard becomes friendly with a German girl named Erika, who recognises the notions propounded by an old soldier for the proper government of Germany, and it is through her eyes that young Richard saw the romantic and mystical elements in the German character. "Erika's standards of perfection were democratic, in conformity with them at the end of the story she takes an active part with the opponents of Hitler, and in the resulting clash is the climax of the personal drama." The Literary Times speaks well of the book, and ends its criticism with "The reader may gather the impression that the subordination of the individual to the deified State is a Nazi conception brought to birth without the ministrations of German philosophers of former times."

Policeman's Holiday, by Rupert Penny, is a mystery story, the cause being the finding of the body of Bernard Pommery, J.P., hanging on a tree near his country house. It seemed incredible to Chief Inspector Beale, who was called in, that a man of Mr Pommery's standing and popularity should take his own life. An investigation of the dead man's character showed that Pommery made his fortune by a series of swindles, and for many years had led a somewhat dissolute life. There were, therefore, many who might have wished to contrive his death, and the Inspector decided it was a case of murder. How he unravelled the mystery will be for the reader to find out, suffice it to say that the Times Literary Supplement counts it as "an ingenious thriller."