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It is pleasing to note the growing spirit of co-operation in the library circles of Christchurch. This spirit was in evidence at a recent meeting of the Canterbury branch of the New Zealand Library Association, when representatives from several libraries were present to witness demonstrations of bookbinding and book repairing, given by Mr E. J. Bell, of the Canterbury Public Library, Mr C. W. Collins, of the Canterbury College University Library, and Mr N. A. J. Barker, of the Association for Country Education.

The demonstration proved intensely interesting, and much useful information was gained by all present. The profitable evening proved that co-operation between libraries is conducive to greater efficiency, and this naturally is of much benefit to librarians and subscribers.

At a recent annual meeting of a Christchurch suburban library mention was made of voluntary labour by committees of our suburban library system. It appears that exception was taken to any scheme of central control as taking away the benefits of work voluntarily given. As our own library is one of the most successful in this system of "free labour," we

Our readers' opinions upon any matter relative to Library matters are welcomed. Address all correspondence to "The Editor," Linwood Public Library.

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may be pardoned for expressing our views briefly. We can appreciate the sincerity which our friends of other suburban libraries show in their remarks, but we do think a broader outlook might be given to the question. As we have said in these pages on previous occasions, central control does not necessarily mean the elimination of committees and voluntary workers; in fact the combining of forces should be of great benefit to all concerned. Central control, as we see it, does not mean interference with local bodies, rather does it imply central assistance with the advantage of trained and practical experience.

Another remark made at the annual meeting referred to was to the effect that suburban libraries should cater exclusively for the reader of fiction, leaving books of reference to the central library. We agree that reference books should be left to those libraries possessing the necessary facilities, but we do know from experience that a "Non-fiction" section is a decided acquisition to any suburban library. That books of travel and biography are far more enthralling than novels is the opinion often expressed by our subscribers.

Although the utterances made at this annual meeting do not appear to harmonise with our opening remarks, we do feel that the co-operative spirit is growing in our local library world, and we trust that our fellow librarians from other libraries will lose their mistrust of those professional librarians who are anxious to help us.

FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

It is gratifying to know that our Non-fiction section is being more and more used by our subscribers, but while this is so there is ample material there to satisfy many more. This month the Chair thought the time was opportune to suggest to those who like something that, while being satisfying, yet is sufficiently interesting to appeal to discerning readers. In

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