

GIVE THIS JOURNAL TO A FRIEND

# Linwood Library Gazette

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

Vol. 3 No. 6



March 1938

## LINWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

### 29th Annual Report, Year Ending 31/1/38

Your Committee has pleasure in presenting this, the 29th Annual Report. The past year has proved a trying time for libraries the world over, and in common with these, our membership has shown a small decrease. We may consider that the return of more prosperous times has been largely responsible for this, as it was during the depth of the recent depression that our membership reached its highest point. It appears that with a fuller purse the average person seeks his pleasure in other and more expensive ways than by reading.

At the close of the year, January 31, 1938, the total membership was 1543. During the period 535 new subscribers were enrolled, the final figures being: Adults 1302, Old Age Pensioners 73, Juveniles 168. It should be remembered that at this period of the year our membership has always been at its lowest, the figures usually being about 200 higher in the winter months. We may safely look forward to the usual increase taking effect with the advent of longer evenings.

Your Committee has, in spite of less support, followed the policy, during the year, of maintaining a more liberal supply of books, 1991 volumes being placed on the shelves, of these, 1623 were fiction, 170 non-fiction, and 198 juveniles. This course, it is believed, must eventually win back these subscribers who have transferred their patronage to commercial clubs, only to find that the supply of literature is not so up-to-date or generous. It is pleasing to note that the tendency for sub-

scribers to join up again with our Library, after a temporary absence, is becoming marked.

The drain upon the Library's finances has been more severe than usual, owing to the heavy purchase of books as detailed above, but the balance sheet discloses a credit balance. To achieve this result it was found necessary to draw upon the reserve fund created during more prosperous times.

The total income received from subscriptions was £449 and that from extra books £303/10/9. The latter item is still an important factor and represents 24,283 books taken by subscribers at threepence per volume.

The sum of £125 was received from the Christchurch City Council, an increase of £25 on the subsidy of the past few years. Your Committee is deeply grateful for this assistance, but it is hoped that the sum of £150 will again be granted by the Council, as this was the sum received when the Library's membership was less, with consequent lower expenses. At that time, too, books were much lower in price than now.

Owing to restricted shelving space, it has again been found necessary to discard a large number of books, many of which might otherwise have been renovated and rebound. 1076 volumes were reinforced before being put into circulation, many were rebound and large numbers repaired on the premises. The total number of books on the shelves and in circulation is in excess of 16,000.

With the continued widening of Stanmore Road and the erection of a new Post