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LINWOOD LIBRARY GAZETTE

Vol. 3 No. 8

June, 1938

It is indeed pleasing to note that our membership is again on the increase. A steady decline in the number of subscribers during the past year or so has caused the committee much concern, and many discussions have taken place as to remedial measures that might be taken. During the summer months a falling-off in membership has invariably been the case, but during the whole of last winter the declining membership still persisted much to the perturbation of the Management Committee.

This winter, however, a different story may be told, and we are pleased to say that not only are new members becoming enrolled, but many old subscribers are returning to the fold. We have been told by several that the lure of bright shop windows and gaily covered book-jackets so much in evidence in the commercial book-clubs, were the cause of their forsaking old pastures for new, but experience has brought home to them the truth that our pastures have more body, give more lasting pleasure and cost but a fraction of the money-making concerns.

This is all very gratifying, as our librarians are all voluntary workers, giving their services for the benefit of fellow-citizens. We would earnestly ask our subscribers to make known to their friends the advantages of Linwood Public Library; its wealth of good fiction and non-fiction, its juvenile and magazine sections and its very moderate annual subscription, equivalent to less than 1½d a week. The committee has considered the question of raising the subscription to meet the greatly advanced price of books, but so far has taken no action; instead, last

year our reserve funds were called upon to keep up a generous supply of books. Will readers of this Gazette do their part by inducing their friends to become members of the Linwood Public Library family?

BOOKS RECENTLY PLACED ON NON-FICTION SHELVES

I Search for Truth. By Sir Walter Citrine. This is the 5th Edition of this widely read book, being revised and enlarged.

The truth (?) about Russia seems to possess as many facets as a diamond, and while there may be truth in all of them, the whole truth certainly is not. Sir Walter Citrine has given us a finely balanced book, free from partisanship on the one hand, and from hostile criticism on the other, on one page he will please the ardent conservatives, and on the next will give the most enthusiastic socialist something to make him grin with delight, while from first to last he gives the reader much to think about.

It is thoroughly sincere, and one follows the emotions aroused in the author by what he sees, indignation, humour, pertinacity (realistic), it depicts a drama being played in earnest that affects not only Russia, but the whole wide world.

News of England. By Beverley Nichols. Mr Nichols here arouses our interest at once, and that interest is maintained to the word "finis." In the chapter on "The Goddess of Chance" he draws a vivid picture of England gambling that leaves one aghast, even though one thought one knew something about it. On the football pool £400,000,000 per annum and 30,000,000 letters posted every week are staggering figures. Expenditure on elementary and higher education, hospitals, public libraries, maternity welfare, asylum, police, parks, poor relief, sewerage, tramways, waterworks, baths, cemeteries, fire brigades, electricity, gas, harbour, highways, justice, housing, planning and a few other things, could all be paid out of this huge figure spent on gambling on football. While this is bad enough, worse still is the fact that it is a profession for the purpose of exploitation of the wage-earner. If another Gibbon should ever arise to write "The Rise and Decline of the British Empire" he will surely say that Gambling was a big factor in the decline. The chapter on The Sober Truth is equally alarming, as is also that on The Flock and the Fathers. Mr Nichols is always easy to read and honest in his convictions, and when he is unable to show a way out

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