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LINWOOD LIBRARY GAZETTE

Vol. 3 No. 9

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EDITORIAL

We have to thank the subscriber who wrote to us a kindly letter of appreciation of the committee's efforts. We appreciated the constructive criticism embodied in the suggestion that not sufficient money was being allocated towards the purchase of non-fiction. The committee welcomed the suggestion and resolved to act in the direction indicated.

We would, however, point out that the major portion of money spent on books must of necessity be devoted to fiction, since in our library by far the greater number of subscribers demand novels to read. Then again, good non-fiction books cost considerably more than novels and the sum of five pounds does not go very far in this section.

It has been very pleasing to hear the many appreciative remarks from subscribers concerning the wealth of interesting matter in our non-fiction section. It is the occasional pat on the back that helps the book-buyers and committee to persevere in their efforts on behalf of subscribers. We would again remind readers that the pages of this Gazette are open to all members of the library whose views on library matters are always welcome.

We wish to express our thanks to Mr E. J. Bell, chief librarian of the Canterbury Public Library, for his unfailing interest in Linwood Library. His wide experience in all library affairs has, during many years past, been available to us and we have ever been made to feel that his goodwill and sound advice are ours at all times. Quite recently Mr Bell devoted an

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evening of his valuable time in visiting our library and demonstrating to a special sub-committee the secrets of book repairing and reinforcing, as practised in other libraries. The knowledge thus obtained will doubtless prove invaluable to the committee and if the interest shown during Mr Bell's visit counts for anything, then our shelves should soon present a cleaner and neater appearance. Again—thanks, Mr Bell.

RECENT NOVELS

Carmen of the Rancho. By Frank H. Spearman. Beginning with an Indian raid on a Californian ranch and ending with a marriage between Texan ranger and Spanish senorita, this, its author's last novel, contains all the elements made familiar by the steady importation of Western film from Hollywood. But whereas the Hollywood product tends to be indeterminate as to place and time, Mr Spearman's tale is set in old California at the period of the Mexican war, and he fills in that background with the assurance of a practised writer who knows his subject well. (Times Literary Supplement).

The End of Andrew Harrison. By Freeman Wills Crofts, is another episode from Chief Inspector French's case book and is largely a question of mechanism—an extremely able excursion into the "sealed room" field of which Mr Carter Dickson has recently made such a speciality. This time a millionaire apparently commits suicide on his river boat. But is it suicide, inquires the Chief Constable, and down comes French to Henley. The characters barely ring true or are allowed time to establish themselves fully on the reader's mind. And nothing in the murderer's character or in the material clues made available will yield the solution to his identity. Those who like a detective story in which the method of committing the crime and the conscientious unravelling of the mechanics by the detective is the chief matter of importance will enjoy the story. (Times Literary Supplement).

Black Dragon. By J. M. Walsh. A Japanese lugger was wrecked during a hurricane on a South Pacific island, and the evidence which they found aboard her was enough to send Oliver Keene and the half-Chinese Peter Chun rushing off to Macao to frustrate, after many adventures a far-reaching plot which was to make Japan mistress of the Southern Seas. This is a very

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