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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.

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Office in the immediate vicinity, it is hoped that the day is not far distant when the urgent need of a new Library Building will be recognised by the civic authorities, and a Library Building erected, in keeping with the district and its needs.

The number of books issued during the year was 100,175, an average issue of well over 300 each day.

Three delegates were sent to the New Zealand Libraries' Conference, held at Wellington early in the year. The exchange of ideas and general information gained upon that occasion has proved invaluable.

To bring before the public a better idea as to the class of literature provided by the Library, a display case has been placed outside the building, where a constant change of book jackets together with suitable advertising matter is on show.

It was found necessary to provide assistance for the Caretaker. The position was advertised and selected applicants interviewed, with the result that Mrs M. Fox was appointed. The appointment has proved very successful.

The sub-committees—Executive, Magazines, Shelving, Book-culling, Fiction, Juvenile and Non-fiction have again given of their best, making for the successful management of Library affairs. The Book-buyers: Mr E. G. Thomas (Fiction), Mr A. Brettell (Non-fiction), and Mr L. W. Ballan (Juvenile) have exercised their usual sound judgment in the selection of books for their respective sections.

Thanks are again due to the Lady Librarians for their assistance during the afternoon sessions. These are Mesdames Hopkins, Binns and Gilbert, and the Misses Spence, M. K. Bridgman and D. W. Bridgman.

Resignations from the Committee during the year were received from Miss D. L. Good, Messrs M. J. Clark, M. Rolls, Junr., and A. Fowler. New appointments to the Committee were Messrs F. Rainbow, J. C. Fowler, R. A. Campbell and F. A. Boocock.

In conclusion, it is desired to thank all subscribers for their loyal support and it is hoped that the same measure of co-operation will be given to the incoming Committee during the next year.

A. BRETTELL,
President.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year Ending, and Balance Sheet as on 31st January, 1938

Balance from 31/1/37	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
				3	10	1

RECEIPTS						
Subscriptions	449	0	0			
Extra Books	303	10	9			
Sale of Books		9	0			
Fines		1	3			
Rent		13	0			
City Council Grant	125	0	0			
P.O.S. Bank	165	0	0			
Sundry		9	0			
				1,044	3	0
				£1,047	13	1

PAYMENTS						
Books	550	19	7			
Magazines	66	1	8			
Newspapers	11	6	6			
Binding	25	3	9			
Reinforcing	24	3	5			
Delegates to Conference	16	1	5			
Annual Meeting	6	9	10			
Rent		10	0			
Caretaking	133	9	4			
Insurances	7	10	7			
Firing and Lighting	57	2	1			
Repairs & Maintenance	11	11	9			
Fittings	8	5	5			
Printing, Stationery, etc.	23	11	6			
Libraries' Association	1	12	0			
Petty Cash & Sundries	8	19	3			
Secretary	50	0	0			
Treasurer	35	0	0			
Caretaker	5	0	0			
				1,042	18	1

Balance on hand	£4	15	0
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POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

To Balance from 31/1/37	£	s.	d.
	190	2	3
„ Interest added		5	14
	195	16	5
By Withdrawals	165	0	0
Balance on hand	£30	16	5

ASSETS

Cash in P.O. Savings Bank	30	16	5
„ Bank of New Zealand	4	15	0
„ Counter Cash	1	10	0
	37	1	5
Furniture and Fittings	175	0	0
Books on Shelves and in Circulation	1,600	0	0
16,000 at 2/-			
	£1,812	1	5

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H. W. FRIEDMAN
Honorary Auditors.
3/3/38

NON-FICTION BOOKS RECENTLY PLACED ON SHELVES

Inside Europe. By John Gunther. The demand for this work has been steady and consistent. This copy, the third placed on our shelves, is the latest, and 26th impression completely revised and re-set, and contains three new chapters and about 20,000 words of additional material.

My Scottish Youth. By R. H. Bruce Lockhart. The great success of this author's previous works has built up for him a large circle of readers, and in this book they will find that charm and lively interest that holds one from the first page to the end.

Devils, Drugs, and Doctors. By Dr. H. W. Haggard. This is a story of human struggle against nature and man's weak knowledge and carelessness. The author tells of the gradual development of knowledge based upon scientific research and persistent study through the centuries, and tells it in a striking manner.

Westward Bound in the Schooner "Yankee." By Captain and Mrs Irving Johnson. One of the most interesting books on sea travel that we have had for some time. Galapagos, Pitcairn, Singapore, and islands in the East Indies are a few of the places of call. The "Yankee" was originally a North Sea pilot boat, the company that sailed in her were part passengers, and the voyage itself was unique. The captain never forgot his tre-

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SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED

FICTION

Anne Adventures Valentine
Arizona Range Chas. W. Sanders
The Bluff Herbert Andrews
The Brothers H. G. Wells
Brown Honey Lucy Agnes Hancock
Can Ladies Kill Peter Cheyney
Clear as the Sun Muriel Hines
Commander of the Mists D. L. Murray
Dark Horses Eden Philpotts
Dear Lady Disdain Phyllis Waite
A Desperate Remedy Ben Bolt
The Devil and the C.I.D. E. C. R. Lorac
Evidence in Blue E. C. Vivian
The Civil Messenger Sydney Horler
Flanders Spy Captain A. D. Pollard
A Giant in Chains Marjorie Bowen
The Giving of a Ring Elizabeth Carfrae
Gone Away Marporie Moore
Great Argument Phillip Gibbs
The Happy Years A. J. Heritage
The House by the Tree Nora C. James
Its Deep Beyond the Reef Nora K. Strange
Jewelled Heels Barbara Hedsworth
The "K" Code Plan Graham Seton
The Last Generation Paul Trent
Lawless Guns Buck Billings
The Major John Ross
Monkey Business John Butler
Murder by a Maniac Mary Richmond
North-west Passage Kenneth Roberts
One is Beloved Louisa Platt Harick
Pirates of the Range B. M. Bower
The Prodigal Parents Sinclair Lewis
The Riders of Sunset Mesa Chas H. Snow
The Road to Damascus Annie S. Swan
Rule Britannia Rupert Croft Cooke
Run! Patricia Wentworth
A Shot in the Woods Ottwell Binns
The Silver Sickle Case Lynn Brook
Six Ropes for Glory J. G. Sarasin
Sky Rocket Mary Fitt
The Storms of Spring Jean Barre
Son of Spain A. R. & R. K. Weeks
Stormy Petrel Eleanor E. Carroll

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The Stroke of Eight.....J. L. Hardy
Team WorkJane Butler
To Wake the DeadJ. D. Carr
The White BrigandEdison Marshall

NEW NOVELS

Great Argument. By Philip Gibbs. The argument is war, peace, Socialism, youth, democracy, Fascism, the League of Nations, unemployment, re-armament, Communism, pacifism, Italy's war in Abyssinia, sanctions, Spain, idealism, realism, Liberalism, with almost every related topic thrown in. The discussion is uninterrupted and always light and chatty. There is not a great deal more than that, however. The scene moves from the neighbourhood of Guildford to Chelsea and back again. The chief characters are a Labour M.P. named Jesson, the editor of a six-penny weekly, an idealist with the habit of wearing one brown shoe and one black; his Communist undergraduate son; his daughter Faith, a student at the London School of Economics; the stiff, shy, conservative young man who loves her, Roy Charrington, whose body is like Greek sculpture and who is the son of an immensely rich manufacturer of underwear. In the end Jesson, who has lost his seat in the last election is forced to resign the editorship of Tomorrow; the Communist son goes off to fight in Spain; while Roy, after flirting with "pink" sentiments, is being converted to Nazism in Germany and will doubtless pay the penalty of losing Faith. Sir Philip writes easily and in a vein of unmistakable Liberalism. But this hasty and simplified conversation on specialist topics is not intended to hold the interest of the exacting reader.

—"Times" Literary Supplement.

The Road to Damascus. By Annie S. Swan. The Road to Damascus is the title of a symbolical allusion to the conversion of St. Paul; for, although the heroine gets as far as Jerusalem, she does not continue her journey to Damascus, but finds illumination, comfort, and inspiration in a vision at Gethsemane. After having lost her parents in a motoring accident she goes to stay with an uncle, who is a Congregationalist minister in Yorkshire, and is turned into a domestic drudge by an antipathetic aunt, who is no sort of help to her husband in his pastoral duties. The author devotes much care to a skilful delineation of the characters of the minister's family, from which the heroine is rescued by a local benefactress, who plays Fairy Godmother to the orphan. Things, however, go wrong. The heroine's first excursion into the *pays du tendre* ends abruptly with the young man's betrothal to another girl, and her discontented aunt elopes with a layman and takes her daughter with her.

The heroine has to console and control the surviving members of the family; but ultimately is again rescued by the Fairy Godmother, who takes her on a cruise to Greece and Palestine, during which the girl's outlook is greatly widened. She finds peace in Jerusalem and satisfactorily

renews an earlier friendship which had begun in Edinburgh. The author, having settled her heroine happily, very kindly finds space to show that divorce has been the making of the runaway aunt and appropriately allows the once-distracted uncle to marry the Fairy Godmother. Thus a story, which is not in the least old-fashioned in the telling, and is full of thoroughly modern tribulation, ends on a happily-ever-after note which comes as a refreshing surprise.

The K Code Plan. By Graham Seton. The men who were plotting the downfall of the British Empire decided to murder Colonel Grant. For they considered that that redoubtable Secret Service agent would prove to be their most dangerous enemy. Much to the chagrin, however, the assassin's bullet only killed the Secretary of State for War, and Colonel Grant survived to follow a trail which led from London to India, through a tangle of codes and conspiracies, treasons, treacheries and torture. The story is swift, flowing, and well stocked with dramatic episodes, but the characters suffer from over-emphasis of villainy or virtue.

—"Times" Literary Supplement.

The Stroke of Eight. By J. L. Hardy. Although successfully designed and written as a thriller, this book also has the merit of throwing a clear light upon the deeper recesses of ordinary characters. For this reason the story gives the reader an unusual impression of watching events that might befall men and women whom he knows. Gerry Hickman, for example, is just the sort of a sociable fellow to drink a glass too much at a British Legion dinner, and then suffer the tragic misfortune of killing a man with his car. The fear-haunted wastrel who blackmails him belongs to a familiar type. Also the strange way in which Hickman becomes the champion of his persecutor seems to derive from fact rather than fiction.

—"Times" Literary Supplement.

The Evil Messenger. By Sydney Horler. The novelist who wants us to take Satanism seriously can either rely on vagueness to give a thrill of horror or give us a code, valid for the duration of the story, of the laws limiting his devils or vampires (as in "Dracula"). Mr Horler, in this his thirty-second novel, tries the first way, then, with more success, the second, but too near the end. Memory, the chief character (is his name allegoric?), commands more devils than any medieval witch. Against him is Quin, detective of Satanists. Victims are Loring, tea merchant, retired from London to Cornwall to have time to read The Times; young Sinclair, whom Memory bewitched into a villain, and Stella Loring, his fiancée. Memory wanted her but apparently could not bewitch her, perhaps because she bought seven-and-sixpenny detective novels. Some minor characters are amusing.

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The Friends of the National Libraries have now completed the purchase for the British Museum, of 11 pages of an 8th Century Latin Bible. Lord Wakefield contributed £300, and many other large donations were received.

Gone with the Wind.

There must be some of our readers who have wondered why Margaret Mitchell's "Gone with the Wind" received that title. Some librarians in America were interested in that way and wrote to Miss Mitchell asking the question. Here is her reply to them:—

"I am very glad to tell you the source of my title. It came from sheer desperation and Ernest Dowson's "Cynara." I had great difficulty in selecting a title and the book was ready to go to press without one. I knew the idea I wanted to express in the title—that of a civilisation and a way of living that had gone forever—but I could not assemble the phrase. I was reading Dowson just to get my mind off the problem and I came across those words in the third verse. Of course the title of my book has nothing to do with the poem. The idea happened to be what I wanted. These are the lines from Dowson's poem that contain the title:

I have forgot much Cynara! gone with the wind,

Flung roses, roses riotously with the throng,

Dancing, to put thy pale, lost lilies out of mind!

It may not be generally known that Canon H. R. L. Sheppard, universally known as "Dick," who died suddenly on October 31, 1937, was a most prominent Pacifist. It was through his efforts the Peace Pledge Union was formed. In 1914 he took up work at St. Martins in the Fields, London, and in 1929 was made Dean of Canterbury. He was the author of several books.

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