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# Linwood Library Gazette

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

Vol. 3 No. 10



August, 1938

## LIBRARIES IN SUBURBAN CHRISTCHURCH

By THE BROWSER

Spreydon Library is to be congratulated on the fact that it is the first suburban library to hear a councillor, Mr E. Parlane, definitely take his stand in advocating a Library Rate for Christchurch, and another, Mr E. H. Andrews, carefully heading in the same direction, giving figures to prove his opinion that "on the average section the rate would be less than 2/- "and that would not be a serious burden on the ratepayers."

Mr E. Parlane was on right lines in his advocacy when he said, "When the time comes that we have to strike a rate I hope the people will regard it as necessary to improve the social amenities of the city. In the next few years steps would be taken to create a Greater Christchurch, and it was necessary to be prepared for such a move. A Library Rate would be a *step* in the right direction, and he would certainly support the adoption of such a rate if it was sponsored while he was on the Council."

There is not only vision and foresight in the remarks of Councillor Parlane, but some courage also. The idea of a Greater Christchurch with 10 or more suburban libraries, each one independent of the others, entirely lacking co-operation, with no cohesion and no systematic planning as a whole, is one that would not be tolerated in any other city of 120,000 citizens in any English speaking country in the world. It involves a waste of effort and money and it is probably only because hitherto the total amount given by the

City Council has been so insignificant that it has escaped notice. In the last year the amount has been increased and must inevitably increase still more in the very near future. This being so it seems obvious that the question of efficient spending will crop up. Whatever the total sum is, or will be, it is clear that money from the rates is, and has been, spent on libraries, the use of which is rigidly restricted to those who pay a further rate as subscription. So that a few of the people, by paying this subscription reap and enjoy the benefit of money paid by all the citizens of Christchurch, either directly as rates, or indirectly as rent. It remains, therefore, that as soon as the ratepayers realise they are paying for something they are debarred from enjoying—unless they pay a further rate for subscription—they will speedily demand that the whole of the libraries be put upon a sound common sense basis, i.e., to be supported and controlled by the City Council and that the service be enjoyed by all.

Before the dream of a Greater Christchurch is realised it seems logical that the position of the present scattered and dis-united library units should be, with other schemes of town planning, fully considered by the City Council in order that a Library System in and around Christchurch on modern lines regarding buildings, equipment, technique and service should be an accomplished fact, ready to function with the establishment of a Greater Christchurch. Even if the latter be delayed, the matter of library reform is urgent and vital.

The sub-leader in the "Press" of July



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23 is another of the many notable services rendered by this paper in advocating a reorientation of ideas on library affairs in Christchurch, culminating in Civic Control. The reply the Editor makes to Mr E. H. Andrews, who said: "That libraries provide recreation for which as with all other forms of recreation, it is reasonable that a small subscription should be paid" is brief but unanswerable. Mr Andrews must have forgotten the parks and gardens, which are not reserved for subscribers only or even for ratepayers only."

Christchurch has grown up with the present haphazard method of libraries, and now finds it hard to adopt, or even admit, methods proved throughout the world, but with the growth of opinion along progressive lines, it is only a matter of time when Christchurch must fall into step with other centres and establish civic control of all its libraries.

**NON-FICTION RECENTLY PLACED ON THE SHELVES**

**Death in the Air**, by "A Flying Corps Pilot." "The combined text and photographs give us a very vivid first-hand sensation of actual air fighting. . . . The moral grandeur gives beauty to a situation which otherwise would be brutal, inhuman and revolting." A very real, very thrilling, and intensely human story.

**Marsden of Maoriland**, by A. H. Reed. A most interesting story of endeavour, courage, and achievement under difficulties that can hardly be really and fully conceived by those of the present day. A missionary's work is always fraught with danger, but just as he goes forward in faith and confidence, so are the rough places made smooth and the crooked places become straight. The letters of Marsden are a great asset to the history of New Zealand, throwing a clear light on those days over a century ago, and revealing the power and beauty of Marsden in his work.

**Britain and the Dictators**, by Prof. R. W. Seton-Watson. There are few writers better qualified than Professor R. W. Seton-Watson to give us an exposition of present-day affairs and international policies. This book deals with events since the peace treaty. His close connection with many of the most prominent men in Europe enables a wide view of the tremendous issues and the conflicting elements at work, and history is here presented in forceful yet fascinating manner by a writer able to gather the threads together. It is said that "Britain and the Dictators" is more than a work, it is a new element in a momentous situation.

**Spies I Knew**, by Marthe McKenna. Another of this author's interesting books, and one which will appeal to all those interested in espionage, with its thrilling adventures and its grim and dramatic events.

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**The Old Time Maori**, by Makereti, Maggie Papakura. The authoress is well known to many in New Zealand, as the well-known guide of Whakarewarewa, and in this book she gives us the history of the people in its strength and beauty, which will prove in time to come of utmost importance to future historians. Makereti was a chieftainess of the Arawa tribe, and was intensely proud of her people. The book is a pleasure to read by anyone interested in Maori life and manners.

**Royal Road to Romance**, by Richard Halliburton. One of the most enjoyable books written by this author. There is a fine spirit of youthful eagerness for adventure and expressed in vivid words. A glorious story of a search for romance.

This is our second copy of this book.

**Secret Service**, by Sir George Aston. This is another copy of this well-read book, and we feel sure it will be as popular as the first copy we placed on the shelves.

Sir G. Aston was for over forty years acquainted with Secret Service, and held some of the highest appointments in the branch.

According to the "New Yorker," a translation of Dale Carnegie's famous work "How to Win Friends and Influence Them," has sold more than 15,000 copies in Tokyo, Japan.

We have this book on our shelves in the Non-Fiction Section, and subscribers can, with both pleasure and profit, read this excellent book.

**AN IMP OF MISCHIEF.**

Our printer's devil is truly an imp of mischief, with a wry strain of humour. Who else could have conceived the idea of turning plain, common sense into sheer nonsense, and of converting a plain simple fact into a miracle? This is how the grinning rascal did it, he just lost a dot, a point, and this was the result in last month's "Gazette," under "A Busy Day" ". . . We found that we had issued 431 books—an average of 48 books per minute during the usual period" . . . that is the miracle, but, we recovered the dot, or point, he lost, and put it back again in its place so that we got this: ". . . we found that we had issued 431 books—an average of 4.8 books per minute during the usual period.

So there you are you imp, sense shines again, and your miracle is shattered. Now let's have no more of your tricks, or you will go through the printer's press and become just printer's pie, or a decimal fraction.

**Gun Cotton at Blind Man's Hood**, by R. Grayson. Gun Cotton takes a brief holiday in one of the quietest and most secluded spots on the Sussex coast, where he comes in contact with the successors of the old smugglers who plied their trade along those shores, but now the contraband being run is human contraband. A clever plot to infest England with a most virulent and dangerous political disease—a kindly old Professor blackmailed into becoming an enemy to his beloved country—a beautiful girl ruthlessly murdered in a lonely cottage, and bullets flying in the night are some of the constituents of one of the most startling of all Gun Cotton's adventures.



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### LINWOOD LIBRARY GAZETTE

Vol. 3 No. 10

August 1938

#### EDITORIAL

Our magazines committee has recently advised the discontinuance of subscriptions to certain periodicals. The advice has been followed as it has been conclusively proved that these magazines have not met with popular demand. It is regrettable that the higher class informative journal does not appeal to our subscribers to the same extent as motion picture monthly periodicals. But we must bow to the wishes of our members and cater for their expressed desires.

There are two notable examples that are the exception—"The National Geographic Magazine" and "The Geographical Magazine." These two journals are very popular with our readers, and rightly so, since huge sums of money are spent on their production with a view to bringing the world and its people to our arm-chairs.

While on the subject of periodicals we would commend to all garden-lovers the new English gardening journal. Its title is, "Good Gardening," and it is most attractively printed, the profuse illustrations being far more beautifully produced than in the average gardening book. The colour pages are particularly appealing.

#### COMPETITION !

#### FREE SUBSCRIPTION FOR BEST BOOK RHYME.

We print in this issue a collection of Book Rhymes, old and new, and invite our subscribers to send others in similar vein. To the subscriber sending the best Book Rhyme, an additional subscription to our Library for twelve months will be given free. Rhymes may be either grave or gay, original or otherwise, and the Editor's decision as to the merits of entries must be accepted as final. Address your rhymes to The Editor, Linwood Public Library, not later than October 1.

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#### Book Rhymes

One curious observation about rhymes aimed at recalcitrant book borrowers is that they achieve such rapid currency that they soon tend to lose their author and merge with the great mass of anonymous popular literature. They also suffer considerable variation and distortion in the course of their migrations.

Here are some book rhymes received from "Wilson Bulletin" readers:—

If thou art borrowed by a friend,  
Right welcome shall he be  
To read, to study, not to lend.  
But to return to me.  
Not that imparted knowledge doth  
Diminish learning's store;  
But books, I find, if often lent  
Return to me no more.

Here do I put my name for to betraye  
The thief that steals my book away.

They borrow books they will not buy.  
They have no conscience nor religions  
I wish some kind Burbankian guy  
Would cross my books with homing pigeons.

Because so many friends, gol dern 'em  
Who borrow volumes don't return 'em  
"Ex Libris" on my book plate looks  
As if it meant, "My former books."

Anyone may borrow, but a gentleman returns.

Steal not this book, my honest friend  
For fear the gallows should be your end  
And when you die the Lord will say  
And where's that book you stole away?

Remember, Book, my cozy shelves  
From which my friends all help themselves  
And like a dove with wings unloosed  
Return, come back, fly home to roost.

I'm happy indeed to let you borrow  
But this book unreturned will cause me sorrow.

Look ye, my friend,  
If this book I lend,  
Be sure to return  
Or in hell you'll burn.  
Solemnly do you swear  
This same book not to tear

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For your soul I will pray  
If return you delay.

From folk who borrow books, and then  
Forget to give them back again;  
From other folk—not fit to live—  
Who mix the verbs to LEND and GIVE  
And add my volumes to their horde  
O save thy suffering servant, Lord.

True friendship, like a golden ring,  
Will e'er bind me to you  
If back to Celestine King  
This treasured book you'll bring  
When you have read it thru.

Unto your finger I'm a string  
Lest you forget to bring  
Me back to Celestine King.

Don Rose says: "Science should find a way of  
crossing a book with a homing pigeon so it would  
fly away home as soon as the borrower left the  
front door open."

If you should like this little book, commend it,  
But for the love of Michael, do not lend it.

"And please return this book. You may think  
this a strange request, but I find that though  
most of my friends are poor arithmeticians, they  
are nearly all good bookkeepers."

My owner is glad to lend me  
And have you read me too  
But please, oh please, return to me  
As soon as you are through.

If I lend this to any one,  
Pray keep it not too long  
Keep clean and fair and send with care  
To whom it doth belong.

Read slowly, pronounce carefully,  
Pause frequently, think seriously,  
Keep cleanly, return duly,  
With the corners of the leaves not turned down.

Of course borrowers from our library are not  
guilty of forgetfulness; at least, we hope not.

DISPLAY OF ODDITIES LEFT IN LIBRARY  
BOOKS

A display of "Oddities Left in Books"  
attracted considerable attention recently at the  
Dennis Public Library, Newton, N.J., and was  
reported in the Newark "News."

The "oddities" used as book markers repre-  
sented an eight-year collection. They include  
a six-inch ruler, manicure scissors, nail file,  
emery board, greeting cards, letters—love and  
business, pictures, pencils, crayon, crochet  
needles, cigarette butts, report cards, matches,  
paper napkins, ladies' handkerchiefs, remnants  
of cloth, shoe tongue, bills, paper novelties, gum  
wrappers, hair pins, and paper money.

The markers, according to the "News," were  
listed under three headings: Very bad—for pen

and pencils; fair—letters, paper napkins, etc.,  
and approved—paper, thin cardboard. Bulky  
articles in closed books impair binding, A. Eliza-  
beth Case, the librarian, pointed out.

Miss Case's advice to librarians is "do not  
mail addressed and stamped letters found in  
books." Miss Case said she mailed a letter left  
in a book recently and caused a subscriber con-  
siderable embarrassment and brought a scolding  
upon herself. The subscriber wrote the letter  
in a sarcastic tone and had decided not to mail  
it.

SOME NEW FICTION RECENTLY  
PURCHASED

The Affair of the Heavenly Voice . Clifford Knight  
The Ambassadors . . . . . Francis B. Keyes  
Andrew to the Lions . . . . . H. W. Furman  
Autobiography of a Cad . . . . . A. G. Macdonald  
Black Out . . . . . Capt. A. O. Pollar  
Beyond the Locked Door . . . . . Luke Allen  
The Captain's Chair . . . . . Robert Flaherty  
Concealed Identity . . . . . Mary Richmond  
Crippled Splendour . . . . . Evan John  
Everslade (Men and Women Three)

W. B. Manwell  
Gun Cotton at Blind Man's Hood . . . . R. Grayson  
If Sorrow Follows After . . . . . Dorothy Black  
Journeying Wave . . . . . Richard Crompton  
The Leader . . . . . Lloyd Evans  
Mad Doctor in Harley Street . . . . . F. J. Thwaites  
Mr Finch Goes to Paris . . . . . Victor Canning  
Mock Star . . . . . Sinbad  
Motive . . . . . Mr Belloc Lowndes  
No Mean Tartar . . . . . L. F. Hay  
Not to be Taken . . . . . Anthony Berkely  
Operation M.O. . . . . Taffrail  
Promenade . . . . . G. B. Lancaster  
A Pulpit in the Grill Room . . . . . E. P. Oppenheim  
Second Summer . . . . . Marjorie M. Price  
Sleepy Duke . . . . . Martin Gompertz  
Sleepy Horse Range . . . . . Colt Macdonald  
Sparrow Market . . . . . Hazel Adair  
To You Mr Chips . . . . . James Hilton  
When First I Loved . . . . . Joan Tempest  
White Girls Eastward . . . . . Thornton Craig  
Wolves of the Chaparral . . . . . Paul E. Lohman  
You Belong to Me . . . . . Eliz. Hay  
You Have Chosen . . . . . Denise Robins

SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED FICTION

Crippled Splendour, by Evan John, is an his-  
torical novel of the stormy fifteenth century, the  
main figure in which is James I., the third king  
of the original House of Stewart, and is truly an  
interesting and holding book.

The "Times Literary Supplement," comment-  
ing on the book, says:—Captured as a child,  
growing up in prison to the ideal Prince of the  
Renaissance, lettered, a poet-musician of wide  
fame, a chivalrous lover, released at twenty-nine  
and returning to a kingdom removed by five long  
and terrible generations from the ordered pros-  
perity of her thirteenth century—generations that  
had seen her thrice apparently destroyed, thrice  
miraculously beating off her assailants, and had  
left her, though still unconquered, stripped to  
the bone and anarchic from end to end under  
three weak reigns and a feeble regency. The

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gentle artist-prince took up the task of forcing her back to the lost Golden Age, won, by sheer strength, an amazing recovery in a brief twelve years, and was murdered like a cornered rat, in a drain.

Save for one or two small deliberate liberties, none of which vitiates the truth of his picture, Mr John has kept very closely to his facts, developing and interpreting them with a strong and penetrating imagination that gives them flesh and blood. The achievement is the more notable in that the author is an Englishman: he is helped, no doubt, by the fact that for much of the book he sees his hero in an English setting: but by the time he has James restored to his kingdom the king has a life that reflects on all about him. The other characters are for the most part in low relief, and wisely, for the theme is the conflict of James with the web of forces which they represent. But the book has no thinness. It marches through thirty years of vivid life and fuses all its crowded mass of detail into a rich and satisfying whole which lights not only the fierce and tragic beauty of something that happened five hundred years ago but matters that are immediate to all ages: the Stewart conception of the ideal state has never been more relevant than now.

No Mean Tartar, by L. F. Hay, is truly a sinister tale of the Essex Marshes, and readers will recognise many of the characters as having been used by the author in his publications of "It Wasn't a Nightmare" and the "Terrible Hand." Barbanian, a ruthless Armenian and evil genius of finance, spins a web of intrigue and revenge by which the calm of the Marshes is broken by perfervid activity. Archibald Beldrum again crosses swords with the relentless Armenian. Nigel Blair disappears, a murder is committed, and later Blair is blamed for its committal. Grant Douglas, otherwise known as "No mean Tartar," is also one of the cast. A colossal plot of sabotage and treachery to cover the chemical market of Great Britain and turn it inward upon herself is revealed. Thrills and shocks follow each other rapidly, including the capture of Beldrum, Blair, and Douglas by Babanian's minions, and the story is brought to an amazing and thrilling climax by their escape.

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