

owing to the absence of suitable premises in these places. Suitable rooms are, however, available in Headford, Mount Bellew, Portumna, Gort, Aran Island, Spiddal and Clifden.

Galway County Council Archives

Then a Soldier, with This is the Way, a peace-time story of a London suburb from 1919 to 1946. The most attractive parts of the novel The Plough, by Naomi Jacob, are those descriptions of farm life in Yorkshire, where in the hard West Riding soil the hero, Patrick, found his roots at last. The unwelcome return of a missing soldier is the theme of Helen Ashton's The Captain Comes Home. A series of sketches of life on the wilds of Canada in the early days of the century is by Benedict and Nancy Freedman and in which the heroine - Mrs. Mike - tells her own story. The Miracle of the Bells, by Russell Janney, is claimed to be the wildest Phantasmagoria of sentiment, naivete, humour and excitement. Off to Philadelphia in the Morning, by Jack Jones, ~~xxxx~~ is the story of Joseph Parry, a composer, who died at the beginning of the present century, and the long catalogue of his published works includes a hymn-tune, Aberystwyth, which is sung all over the world. Lydia Bailey, by Kenneth Roberts, is a mammoth historical novel, containing something like a quarter of a million words and enough incident for two long historical novels. This year Penn Warren was awarded the Pulitzer Novel Prize for novel, All the King's Men, massive, impressive, yet full of light subtleties and surprising drama. A novel of unusual psychological interest is This Night Called Day, by E.J. Edwards. Other novels by this author are :- White Fire, These Two Hands, and Thy People, My People. The Woman of the Pharisees, by Francois Mauriac - a novelist who is by general consent the greatest living French writer - is translated by Gerald Hopkins. Edward Murphy continues in Road to Olivet the fictionalised life of Mary Magdalen which he began in The Scarlet Lily. Three novels in which the stories are beautifully told and showing knowledge of animals are Green Grass of Wyoming, My Friend Flicka, and Thunderhead, by Mary O'Hara.

SOME BOOKS WORTH READING.

In philosophy the recent issues tend to limit the choice of reading. For those who desire another suitable astringent to the too common philosopher-as-journalist there is Dr. Morris R. Conen's A Preface to Logic.

Everyone who has studied the compendium of Catholic Evidence which was written by F.J. and Mrs. Sheed, a dozen years ago will welcome F.J. Sneed's Theology and Sanity - emphatically the book for the educated adult Catholic, being a synthesis of the Catholic conception of life. The aim of the book, The Veil Upon the Heart, by Rev. G. Byrne, S.J., is to show that to love God is to pray and that we may fill our life with prayer. The author speaks of different methods of prayer, liturgical and vocal. The Voice of a Priest, by Edward Leen, C.S.Sp., is made up of sixteen chapters which with the exception of three are conferences given to religious communities.

Politics and political subjects generally continue to be well represented. Aubrey Jones's The Pendulum of Politics is a book for all interested in a lively and up-to-date Rightist doctrine as put forward by a young man (the son of a Welsh miner). Arnold Marsh in Full Employment in Ireland discusses the vital problems, economic and social, which face Ireland to-day. ECONOMIC REBIRTH, by R.H. Hawtrey advocates a forced loan and a government monopoly of the wholesale trade to right the many ills. The author is President of the Royal Economic Society. Income: An Introduction to Economics is by Professor A.C. Pigou, and consists of seven lectures delivered to engineering students at Cambridge. Among some sociological remains is a remarkable book which is calculated to shock the public conscience: I Did Penal Servitude, by D. 83222. A History of Trinity College, Dublin: 1892-1945, by Kenneth C. Bailey, is a companion volume to Constantia Maxwell's recent work, which brings the history of Trinity from its foundation in 1591 down to the tercentenary celebrations in 1892.

A revised edition of a standard work on Philately is Stamp Collecting by Stanley Phillips.

During the last few years Joan Barlee has devoted all his spare time to the photography of birds in flight. To this end he has travelled all over Ireland. In the text of Birds on the Wing John Barlee tells of some of his personal experiences. Other bird books are: Our Bird Book, by S. Rogerson and C. Tunnicliffe; How to Study Birds, by Stuart Smith; and Hosking's and Newberry's The Swallow, Birds of the Day and Birds of the Night. A.D. Imms introduces the reader to some of the latest discoveries and ideas about insects in his Insect Natural History. The author, until recently Reader in Entomology at Cambridge University, has amassed an immense store of knowledge in the habits, physiology, the structure and classification, and the economic importance of insects.

Two-thirds of the farmers of Great Britain and Ireland are small ones and yet, except for a few personal accounts, there is very little literature about the small farmer. H.J. Massingham's The Small Farmer seeks to remedy that defect. Among other works on agriculture there may be mentioned: Compost Making, by M.E. Bruce; H.E. Bosch's Timber: Its Structure and Properties; Trees in Britain and Their Timbers, by A.L. Howard; E. Vantone's Fertilisers and Manures; and Your Smallholding, by Alan Thompson. In It's My Delight Vesey-Fitzgerald shows us quite another side of country life, the country-side and country people; and a collection of pen portraits of true country dwellers and the land they live in is that of Henry Warren's Adam Was a Ploughman. Books designed to appeal to both expert and beginner are: The Garden in Colour; Alpines in Colour and Cultivation; and The Border in Colour and Cultivation, by t.C. Mansfield.

Cookery recipes for the keen and thrifty are given in Kind Cooking, by Maura Laverty; Kitonen Fugue, by Sheila Kaye-Smith; What's Cooking? by Ruth Lowinsky; The Way to Cook, by Philip Harben; and Cooking a la Ritz, by Louis Deat. In the field of medicine Sir

Alexander Fleming in his Penicillin: Its Practical Application, good reading is provided for those interested in modern medicine, while there is in addition The Conquest of Pain, by George Bankoff, a popular work describing "The Story of Anaesthesia".

Trade and Industry are represented by The Sales Letter and How to Write It, by Noel Brown; by W. Campbell's Modern Business and Its Methods; and by A.W. Judge's Engineering and Workshop Practice. In The Truth About Publishing the fascination lies chiefly in the precise, concrete description of the actual making of a volume. The author, Sir Stanley Unwin, goes elaborately into every smallest circumstance connected with the publishing business. Woodwork in Theory and Practice, by J.A. Walton, although primarily intended for the student is of equal value to the amateur who wants to make something with his own hands.

A series of books on artists, periods and kinds of painting are to be noticed. Discussions on Art; I Wish I Could Paint, by Percy V. Bradshaw; Italian Painting, by Tancred Borenius; Flemish Painting, by Emile Cammaerts; Modern Painting, by Reginald Brill; and British Painting, by William Gaunt. A completely revised and re-written edition of "an elementary guide to the understanding and appreciation of architecture as a whole" is Talbot Hamlin's Architecture: An Art for All Men. Guide to Decorative Art, by John E. Bradley, deals fully with the decorating of household ornaments and personal accessories. Michael Rothenstein's Looking at Paintings is an expert and sensitive commentary and a genuine aid to appreciation. There is nothing more delightful than the prospect of having something explained, particularly when it is something as improbable as the marriage of art and industry. John Gloag in Industrial Art Explained is as astonishing as his optimism is robust. A number of books about the theatre and music include Schubert, a symposium edited by Gerald Abraham; and to those nostalgics who sigh for the tuneful gaieties of the Edwardian musical theatre, and to those numerous ones who still have joy in

Gilbert and Sullivan evergreenery, Ernest Short's Fifty Years of Vaudeville, gives us a book of stage memories and a rich fund of autobiographical excerpts.

Those to whom sport implies games, rather than nature and animals, should note Golf for the Middle-Aged and Others, by George W. Bottome. Cricket is catered for in Between Wickets, by Ray Robinson. Fisherman Naturalist, by Anthony Buxton, possesses a sporting aspect, and leads on to the more purely naturalist by Covert, Field and Marsa, by Noel M. Sedgwick. A volume of fishing reminiscences is Fishing: Fact or Fantasy? by G.D. Laard.

But to return to the subject of sport, there are a number of further items. Major E.F. Lynn-Allen provides Leaves from a Game-book and Jim Corbett gives us Tan-Eaters of Kumaon. There is an inherent sanity about things that human beings do purely for pleasure. Janet Adam Smith in Mountain Holidays makes no attempt to explain why it is a good thing for human beings to go off with heavy rucksacks in the early dawn to climb mountains. Stanislaus Lynch's Echoes of the Hunting Hunting Horn is an unusually attractive book of sporting experiences. Lt. Col. T.E. Lyon has edited a new sportsman's year book with the title of The Horseman's Year.

Among literary remains and memoirs is the story of the personal experiences of a Gaelic League organiser in the early days of the language revival movement described by Peadar O-hAnnrachan in Fe-Bhrat an Chonnarthna. Fionn MacCumhaill's Na Rosa Go Brathach is a vivid picture of life in the Donegal Gaeltacht and contains a glossary explanatory of difficult or unusual words and phrases. A book containing a course of lectures on mediaeval Irish literature given by the late Robin Flower at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1938, has for its title The Irish Tradition. No one was better equipped than Dr. Flower to guide a reader in this attractive but difficult subject:

in historical, palaeographical, and linguistic studies he was at once original and profound; and his scholarship was enhanced by the gift of style. A new edition of The Collective Writings of James Fintan Lalor gives a full and faithful picture of the man and his work. Lalor, patriot and political essayist, one of the most vigorous intellects of his time, owed his strength and his subsequent influence in Irish movements to his intense agrarianism. The play, Trial at Green Street Courthouse, by Roger McHugh, treats of Isaac Butt's defence of a Fenian accused of murdering a police officer. A companionable book of literary musings is The Rose and Bottle, by Seumas O'Sullivan.

Outstanding among the histories of literature and literary biographies is the Oxford History of English Literature which is in course of printing and of which three volumes have already been published: Chaucer and the Fifteenth Century; The Close of the Middle Ages; and The Earlier Seventeenth Century. In an essay of five chapters Dr. W.A.M. Peters, S.J., in Gerard Manley Hopkins: A Critical Essay Towards the Understanding of His Poetry, approaches Hopkins's poetic diction on the basis of the poet's own attitude to language and the world around him. Sheridan, by Lewis Gibbs is a new biography of one of the most attractive figures of the eighteenth century. In a charming collection of biographical essays, Swift and His Circle, by Dr. R. Wyse Jackson, one finds oneself among the personalities who made up that circle of immediate friends in which Swift lived and reigned. Dr. Jackson is a recognised authority on Swift, and has made the subject peculiarly his own. The importance of George Reavey's Soviet Literature Today is that it is the only serious study of Soviet literature in English. Alfred Noyes's Portrait of Horace follows Francis MacManus's brilliant Boccaccio. Finally, there is

a last miscellany by the well-known humorist Stephen Leacock entitled The Boy I Left Behind Me.

Of books on life in different parts of the world there is still a steady stream. Only two, however, owing to lack of space may be mentioned here. On Safari, by Theodore J. Waldeck, is an account of how the author learnt to shoot big game in Africa. When the Going Was Good, by Evelyn Waugh, comprises the author's own selection from four travel books: Labels, Remote People, Ninety-two Days, and Waugh in Abyssinia. Of a miscellaneous type, unique in themselves, are several new volumes of the Britain in Pictures Series: British Clocks and Clockmakers, by K. Ulyett; Roman Britain, by Ian Richmond; British Universities and Nature in Britain, by S.C. Clarke.

Inside U.S.A., by John Guntner, is an encyclopaedia and a guide-book to the United States, interspersed with biographical sketches and learned essays on T.V.A., the raising of the wheat crop, the organisation of the Mormon Church, which are thrown with journalist inconsequence amid anecdote and unselective description. An unnamed woman writer vouched for by Mme. Sikorski has compiled in The Dark Side of the Moon the personal narratives of survivors, tested and controlled in a way that carries unhesitating conviction, the story of the sufferings of innumerable Poles transported forcibly from their homes by the Russian police since 1939.

Recently a small number of poets, fighting what at first seemed a rearguard action and is now recognised as a revival, have been striving to restore to history the beauty and strangeness of which the scientists have robbed it. The poems, autobiographies, and works of scholarship of Miss Sitwell and her brothers, and the work of James Pope-Hennessy, are representative of a tendency which is not mere sentimentality, picturesqueness, or popularising history by leaving out all the hard bits. The study of the background of

Queen Elizabeth's early life: Fanfare for Elizabeth, by Edith Sitwell, has been hailed as a work of art, self-conscious, even arrogant, perfect of its kind, using facts contributed by the scientist, but arranging them deliberately to produce an isolated aspect of truth. Henry the Navigator describes the life of the Infante Dom Henrique of Portugal, who, although not in fact himself a navigator, was in many respects the founder of modern geography. The author is Elaine Sanceau, and she offers some interesting material in a somewhat highly coloured manner. In Lincoln, the Liberal Statesman, Professor J.C. Randall deals with Lincoln as a representative Liberal statesman and discusses his influence on liberal thought and the influence of his policy and ideas on contemporary affairs. Based, as all historical biography is based, on what Metternich was and what he did, not on what he might have been or should have done, Algernon Cecil in Metternich has made a penetrating study of Metternich's ultimate political vision, and explanation of it, and, on the whole, a successful defence.

A reprint of a now famous book, The Regent and His Daughter, the author of which, Dorner Creston, has been chosen for an award by the Council of the Royal Society of Literature, is a psychological study of the interplay of character between those three pungent personalities, the Regent, Caroline and Charlotte, and gives as well a remarkable survey of the social life of the Regency period. The interest of The Browns and Chester: The Portrait of a Shop, by Mass-Observation, edited by H.D. Willcock, is that the history of the shop is also the history of the city and, in some degree, of the country as a whole. Buxton the Liberator, by R.H. Mottram, is the story of Thomas Fowell Buxton, a member of a Norfolk family of that name, who played a great part in the abolition of slavery. These Quaker radicals are an interesting nineteenth-century class.

For those anxious to enquire more fully into the philosophical aspect of history there is The Use of History, by A.L. Rowse

Graces Perkins's The Roosevelt I Knew is frankly biased in his favour, the author having been closely associated with Roosevelt as American Secretary of Labour, a member of his cabinet and an intimate friend of his family. Sumner Welles who resigned his post as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State in 1943, in Whither Are We Going? surveys all the vital political problems that vex the earth to-day, and the American reaction to those problems. It is claimed for Goebbels, the Man Next to Hitler, by Dr. Rudolf Semmler, that it gives substance to Goebbels's boast that the "Führer myth" was of his making. One of the most, if not the crucial biography of the year is Stalin, by Leon Trotsky. James F. Byres's Speaking Frankly, is the inside story of the conferences from Yalta onwards, told by a statesman who sat beside Churchill, Stalin, Roosevelt, and is the first of them to speak and to speak frankly.

For those who feel more drawn to sober and technical accounts of a surgeon's work there is Sir W. Arbuthnot-Lane, His Life and Work. The Sirens Wake is a companion volume to Lord Dunsany's While the Sirens Slept.

The last book of Irish interest from the Oxford Press was Robin Flower's account of the Blaskets: The Western Island. A well-conceived book on farming in the North of Ireland: Rural Life in Northern Ireland, written by John M. Fogey, has been issued from the same Press. R.A.S. Macalister's Monasterboice is an addition to his former work, Muireadach, Abbot of Monasterboice. The book is written in an easy style which enables it to be read with ease not only by the archaeologist but by the ordinary reader. A life of the Irish priest, The Abbe Edgeworth, who played a solemn part in the tragic last days of the Court of Versailles is told by M.W. Woodgate. Told

in the third person, The Rocky Road to Dublin is a master storyteller's own story of his boyhood and young manhood, by Seumas MacManus.

An experiment in collective biography dealing with the early lives of Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Southey by Malcolm Elwin is entitled The First Romantics. The main interest is the treatment of the characters of the three men in relation to each other. Neville Cardus occupies a unique position in present-day letters. How he achieved his eminent position on the "Manchester Guardian" is described in his Autobiography. Leon Bloy: A Study in Impatience, by Albert Beguin is the work of a Catholic journalist and may be described as apocalyptic. The book covers four parts: 1. His initiation into suffering. 2. His gospel of Poverty and Money. 3. History symbolised in Napoleon. 4. The prophecy of our present ruins. In Gerard Manley Hopkins, by Eleanor Ruggles, we are given an authoritative life of the Victorian priest-poet. A group of tributes to John Buchan, by his wife and friends is a fitting supplement to his wonderful autobiography, Memory the Floor. George Eliot, by Gerald Bullett is fresh assessment, based on much new material, of the great Victorian figure. Francis Steegmuller in Flaubert and Madame Bovary has achieved that rare thing in biography, simultaneous illumination of the man by his work and of his work by his character. Athur Weigall, late Inspector-General of Antiquities to the Egyptian Government and author of numerous historical works gives in his study of Alexander the Great a truthful and fair portrait of one of the most widely discussed men in history. Newman Flower's George Frideric Handel has been known for many years as the standard work in English. Much new matter has been incorporated in this entirely redesigned edition.

In wartime much has to be concealed, but when the fighting is over the public has every right to a full account of its leaders'

actions. Col. Dick Malone in Missing from the Record has turned the spotlight on Army leaders; and Assult Division, by Norman Scarfe, has the authority of being based on official records throughout.

There remains the difficult task of giving some picture of the multifarious work in fiction published during the year. The following have won some critical acclaim or popular approval or both:

My Bonny's Away, by Temple Lane tells the story of an attractive French girl student interested in languages, running away from an unhappy love affair at home, is stranded in Ireland and unable to return to France. A brilliant first novel, Who Goes Home? by Katherine Keane tells of Hugh Donnellan who succeeds his father, the owner of Droone Linen Mills, as M.P. for Droone constituency, and becomes a member of Parnell's party. Frances Parkinson Keyes is an author who has the knack of describing people and scenes so vividly that she makes one see with her eyes and hear with her ears. Some of her novels are: Vail D'Alvery, Also the Hills, Fieldings, Folly, All That Glitters, and Christian Marlowe's Daughter.

Fair City, by William Hand is novel of life among the poor of Dublin written with sympathy and understanding. The reviewers call When Paths Divide, by Liam Skinner an exciting novel of the Irish struggle for independence. John D. Sheridan's humour grows out of subjects in a delightful if unquotable way in It Stance to Reason. The Irish popular novelist, Philip Rooney in his story, The Golden Coast, has for his theme the "Ouzel", a galley built and rigged in the Ringsend shipyards, which towards the end of the seventeenth century sailed from the port of Dub' n bound for the Levant. An eventful story that Stevenson himself might have conceived. Vera Caspary shows a psychological insight and a technical cunning which puts her on the highest plane among crime novelists. Laura, Bedelia, and Stranger Than Truth, grip the imagination from the beginning. Geoffrey Cotterell follows his successful first novel

COMAIRTE CONNDAE NA GALWAY
LEABARLAINNA CONNDAE NA GALWAY
COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES

COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS,
GALWAY,

29th November, 1947.

A CHARA,

A meeting of the County Libraries Committee will be held on Saturday next, the 6th day of December, 1947, in the County Library Headquarters, the County Court-house, Galway, commencing at the hour of twelve-thirty o'clock in the afternoon, when the following business will be dealt with:—

1. Minutes of the last Meeting.
2. Donations.
3. Reports to date.
4. Centres.
5. General.

Mise, le meas,

S. J. MAGUIRE,

County Librarian.

To each Member of the Committee.

To the County Manager,

To the Editors of Newspapers
published in the County. ftc

A.P.W. CO. LTD.

Galway County Council
 (CO. LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT)

MINUTES
OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF A

QUARTERLY MEETING

HELD ON

Saturday, the 6th day of Dec.,
1947

Athlone Printing Works Co. Ltd.

Printed by Athlone Printing Works Co. Ltd. 7/11/1948

Printed by Athlone Printing Works Co. Ltd. 7/11/1948

Teabarlanna Connóae na Saitlime
 COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES

All communications should be addressed:

S. J. MAGUIRE
 SECRETARY AND COUNTY LIBRARIAN

COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS,
 GALWAY.

24th Jan., 1948.

A Chara,

A meeting of the County Libraries Committee will be held on Saturday next, the 31st day of Jan., 1948, in the County Library Headquarters, the County Court-house, Galway, commencing at the hour of twelve-thirty o'clock in the afternoon, when the following business will be dealt with :-

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting.
2. Donations.
3. Estimates for the year 1948/49.
4. Department of Education -Memorandum on School Libraries.
5. Proposed New Branch Libraries.
6. General.

Mise, le meas,

S. J. Maguire,
 County Librarian.

To Each Member of the Committee.
 To the County Manager.
 To the Editors of Newspapers published in the County.

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING
OF THE COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES COMMITTEE, HELD
SATURDAY, THE 6th DAY OF DECEMBER, 1947.**

Present : County Councillor James Brennan, Councillor John Burke, Councillor W. Carrick, County Councillor P. J. Colleran, County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, Urban Councillor M. Keane, County Councillor T. King, County Councillor M. Kitt, County Councillor H. O'Donnell, T. O'Shea, N.T., and County Councillor M. Quinn.

In Attendance.—C. I. O'Flynn, Esq., F.L.A.A., County Manager.

Chairman of the Meeting.—Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T., Vice-Chairman.

Apologies.—Intimation of his inability to attend was received from the Very Rev. P. Canon Glynn, B.A., Chairman of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Keane and seconded by Councillor Brennan and Resolved:—

“That the sympathy of the Committee be tendered Deputy P. Beegan on the death of his sister.

120.—Minutes of the Last Meeting.—Resolved:—

“That the Minutes of the last meeting, circulated each member, be taken as read, and that they be signed.”

121. Donations.—Resolved:—

“That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors of Reports and Bulletins: Kilkenny County Library—Report; City and County Borough of Belfast—Report; Cork City Public Library, Corporation of Portsmouth, Waterford County Library; Cork County Library; General Nursing Council—Register, 1947.”

122. The following Memorandum—Reports and Statistics— was submitted by the County Librarian:—
Reports and Statistics.

Figures tell little or nothing about the people who carry home the books and the influence that these books have on their lives. Figures do not reveal the satisfaction of a reader who has discovered the answer to a puzzling question through the help of the library, the delight of a child who has found a good book to read. There is the quality of the book collection, the personality of the staff and the various services offered by the County Libraries

that cannot be reduced to numerical terms. To provide information, to know their books, and to invite readers to seek their guidance, the County Libraries staff always regard as their duty; indeed, assisting readers at Headquarters, at Branches and by post is the most pleasureable part of their work. They endeavour to link every praiseworthy society in the county with the County Libraries, and they try to make the library service the centre of all cultural activities, especially in those of a non-formal kind. Art groups, drama leagues, musical societies, and every form of cultural activity are sure of their support and help.

The sum of £48 11s. 9d. was received in respect of Subscriptions, Fines and replacements made up: Headquarters, £27 14s. 4d.; Ballinasloe, £7 9s. 10d.; Tuam, £12 16s. 7d.; and Loughrea, 11/-.

1,621 volumes were dispatched to centres and branches during the past quarter; and the issues direct to readers from centres and branches amounted to 116,712 volumes.

At Headquarters, 20,857 books were issued to readers during the past 13 weeks. These figures do not include works consulted in the library, nor do they include books supplied readers through the Central Library for Students and through other Outlying Libraries.

Resolved:—

“That the Memorandum be approved.”

122. Department of Education.—Resolved:—

“That the following report submitted by the County Librarian be adjourned until the next meeting.”

In 1928 the British Board of Education published “The Report of the Consultative Committee on Books in Public Elementary Schools,” in which many recommendations were made for the extension and improvement of the provision of books in Elementary Schools, both for general reading and for School use. This report points out the responsibility of the Local Education Authority to provide the funds for School Libraries, when these are supplied through the County Library.

There being no Authority in Eiré, analogues to the Local Education Authority, it would seem that this responsibility to provide the funds for School Libraries should devolve on the Department of Education. Taking the number of children of 8 years and over as approximately 8% of the total population, though this is likely to vary in different districts, it will serve as a general guide. 50 books is regarded as a minimum supply however small the school may be and this for County Galway would represent a stock of 4,000 including a reserve stock of 25% at the County Headquarters.

Cost.—Before giving an estimate of the cost of the service some mention should be made of the standard of the books to be

provided. The need for good books of the right kind, attractively produced and well printed, cannot be too strongly emphasised.

The length of Library Service of children's books varies considerably. With the war economy book production methods (still in force) the average life of such books is found to be a year.

The average cost of a children's book is estimated to be 6s. 0d. and the cost of rebinding 4s. 0d. The annual cost of maintenance of 4,000 children's books would therefore be £450. This represents a figure of £12 10s. 0d. for every 100 books in stock.

The cost of building up the stock of books to a recommended standard will vary according to the provision already made in each County. It should also be pointed out that the expenditure on salaries and administration incurred in connection with the organisation of the School Library Service through the County Library has not been included in the estimates of maintenance cost. This expenditure must not be overlooked, however, in reckoning the total annual cost of maintaining a stock of children's books in accordance with a recommended standard.

Grants from the Department of Education.—In Great Britain County Education Authorities make annual grants to the County Libraries for the supply of books to schools. These grants vary from £300 to £2,000, but they are not given according to any recognised standard. It is recognised that a proportion of the Library Service in Elementary Schools should be provided at a cost to the County Library rate; but it should be equally recognised that the Eire Department of Education should also have a responsibility in the matter. It is, therefore, suggested that not less than 50% of the cost of supplying the books should be defrayed from the Elementary Education funds. The minimum grant, which, under this arrangement, should be paid from Elementary Education funds by the Department of Education towards the cost of providing books in schools in the County Library Area is £6 5s. 0d. per 100 volumes.

The chief points in this proposal are now briefly summarised.

1. The County Library should provide to each Elementary School in the County a minimum of 50 books.
2. The cost of maintaining such a service would be £12 10s. 0d. for each 100 volumes supplied.
3. A grant of at least 50% of this cost should be provided by the Department of Education from the Elementary Education Vote.

123. Proposed New Branch Libraries.—The following Report: **Branch Libraries** was adjourned for further consideration. The County Librarian was instructed to find out if voluntary help could be obtained in the Centres referred to in the Report.

BRANCH LIBRARIES.

Branch library provision for places exceeding 10,000 population, is, in most counties, recognised as essential and is proceeding in fairly clearly defined principles resulting from an unbroken series of successes in this sphere.

Library provisions at places ranging from 2,000 to 10,000 population is still in an experimental stage. In some small towns three or four indeterminate service-points struggle from the chrysalis stage of over-grown centres, insufficient to satisfy the demands of the towns and their surrounding districts. At the moment, in most places in the county a "rota"—which tends to degenerate into a "gaggle"—of voluntary workers struggle with a stock exceeding its capacity in cramped accommodation congested beyond the endurance of borrowers and voluntary helpers.

Voluntary workers have done and are doing yeoman service. If some people laugh, it is not at those who have done such valiant work under bad conditions but at the short-comings of the Library Authority.

There are at the moment four good branch libraries serving small populations both urban and rural (rural embracing a radius of 5-10 miles) in Athenry, Loughrea, Tuam and Ballinasloe. These prove that such service is practical as well as desirable.

Perhaps at the present stage in County Library evolution the medium-sized and smaller counties enjoy special opportunities in the field of small branch libraries. In such counties the number of places coming within the scope of 2,000 to 10,000 populations is relatively high and easily accessible. In larger counties, such as Galway, there are fewer towns to be served but there are larger rural pockets of population. It is time to regard such places as opportunities rather than problems or liabilities. Such places in East Galway are: Headford, and district, Mount Bellew and district, Glenamaddy and district, Portumna and district, and Gort and district. In West Galway are: the Aran Islands (which could be served by a branch library in Kilronan on the main island), Spiddal and district, Carraroe and district, and Oughterard and district.

Each branch should have a minimum stock of 1,500 volumes. It is assumed that each branch will provide a hundred per cent. service to the residents of the town and a probable 75 per cent. service within a radius of one to two miles; 50 per cent. to the population within 3-5 miles of the branch; and 25 per cent. to the population within 6-10 miles of the branch. This is probably a conservative estimate and further experience may indicate the need for revision. This scheme, if chosen, would provide more than half the total population of the County Library area with eight hour weekly branch library service.

For the first year there will be the capital expenditure for shelving, fittings and furniture amounting to approximately

£75. The minimum equipment in each branch would consist of the necessary shelving, a small staff enclosure and a table and chairs for reading and for meetings of the local Library Committee. The estimated annual cost of each branch suggested would be made up thus: Rent, heating, lighting and cleaning, £20; Salary of Branch Librarian, £20; Transport, £10; Books (proportion of new additions) £50; and Stationery (proportion of....., £5; Total estimated annual cost of each branch, £105.

It is submitted that this vision is practicable and economic in the true sense and that it would provide, within the present financial limits, a most efficient and thorough form of library service. It will not be possible, however, to establish branch libraries in Carraroe, Oughterard and Glenamaddy in the coming year owing to the absence of suitable premises in these places. Suitable rooms are, however, available in Headford, Mount Bellew, Portumna, Gort, Aran Island, Spiddal and Clifden.

124. Some Books Worth Reading.—Resolved:—

"That the County Librarian's review on current literature, and list of books recommended be approved."

SOME BOOKS WORTH READING.

In philosophy the recent issues tend to limit the choice of reading. For those who desire another suitable astringent to the too common philosopher-as-journalist there is Dr. Morris R. Cohen's *A Preface to Logic*.

Everyone who has studied the compendium of Catholic Evidence which was written by F. J. and Mrs. Sheed, a dozen years ago, will welcome F. J. Sheed's *Theology and Sanity*—emphatically the book for the educated adult Catholic, being a synthesis of the Catholic conception of life. The aim of the book, *The Veil Upon the Heart*, by Rev. G. Byrne, S.J., is to show that to love God is to pray and that we may fill our life with prayer. The author speaks of different methods of prayer, liturgical and vocal. *The Voice of a Priest*, by Edward Leen, C.S.Sp., is made up of sixteen chapters which, with the exception of three, are conferences given to religious communities.

Politics and political subjects generally continue to be well represented. Aubrey Jones's *The Pendulum of Politics* is a book for all interested in a lively and up-to-date Rightist doctrine as put forward by a young man (the son of a Welsh miner). Arnold Marsh in *Full Employment in Ireland* discusses the vital problems, economic and social, which face Ireland to-day. *Economic Rebirth*, by R. H. Hawtrey, advocates a forced loan and a government monopoly of the wholesale trade to right the many ills. The author is President of the Royal Economic Society. *Income: An Introduction to Economics* is by Professor A. C. Pigou, and consists of seven lectures delivered to engineering students at Cambridge. Among some sociological remains is a remarkable book which is