

Galway County Council
(COUNTY LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT)

REPORT

OF THE

COUNTY LIBRARIAN

FOR THE

Year ended 31st March, 1948

Athlone Printing Works Co. Ltd.

Galway County Council
(COUNTY LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT)

**IRISH MANUSCRIPTS
COMMISSION**

**Correspondence, Reports,
Etc.**

Athlone Printing Works Co. Ltd.

ANNUAL REPORT

The County Librarian submitted his report for the year ended 31st March, 1948, as follows:—

This report summaries the work of the County Libraries Department during the year ended 31st March, 1948. It is prepared not only for the County Manager and the Local Authorities of the county but also as a memorandum on public relations generally for the ordinary citizens in the scope and resources of their public library system and the services which it is capable of providing.

Object.

The main object of the public library system is to promote the habit of reading and the wider distribution of books, and it is to be recorded that our readers are now keeping us busier than before. With the spread of education and opportunity and the quickening of public interests, there is no difference whatever between the literary needs of one community and another or between urban and rural. In every locality nowadays there are young people studying for professional, technical and other examinations and entrances; and people of all ages with an infinite variety of tastes and interests, and the following table shows, in classes, the number of books which were available:—

Class.	Head- quarters and Centres.	Ballina- sloe.	Loughrea.	Tuam.
General Works ...	1,191	2	1	2
Philosophy ...	222	6		3
Religion ...	953	137	41	150
Social Science ...	939	85	11	160
Languages ...	373	7	4	4
Natural Science ...	471	62	12	112
Useful Arts ...	1,325	75	81	137
Fine Arts ...	889	80	24	146
Literature ...	5,885	677	418	685
History, Travels, Biography ...	5,351	863	390	451
Adult Fiction ...	7,523	1,976	1,515	1,338
Juvenile Books ...	3,273	336	214	379
TOTALS ...	28,395	4,306	2,711	3,567
Total books available—38,979.				

Information.

Through our book information section the system provides readers with a valuable service. Many enquiries—by letter and telephone—are answered each week. Most of them are requests for lists of books on special subjects. There are many enquiries

about titles, authors and publishers of out-of-the-way books, translations, and books that are out of print. As an aid to authors, journalists, teachers, students, and anyone engaged in business or scientific work, that service can be of great value, though research in the academic sense cannot be provided.

Books for All.

Just as no individual can acquire all the books that he needs, neither can every public library acquire every book which its community members need or might possibly require in the future. But, if Galway, let us say, has not the book required, the Irish Central Library for Students might have it, or the National Central Library, London, or the Scottish Central Library for Students. Thus, there has been evolved a system of inter-library exchange. Add to this the close contact with the English and Scottish public libraries throughout Great Britain, therefore, in actual fact, there is to-day for a person living in the most remote village in the county access to the combined libraries of Great Britain and Ireland.

Through this system of inter-library exchange 496 volumes were obtained for Galway readers during the year.

Reading Lists.

Annotated lists of books have been published quarterly covering city and county history, literary history and present trends, the relationship of books to education and politics, and the pleasures and problems of book-selection and book-collecting. A reference collection of "books about books," Irish and general history, agriculture, art, bibliographies of many subjects, works relating to authorship, printing and publishing, and a varied section of literary history, biography and criticism is available.

Home-reading.

The popular life of most new books is short and a public library does not exist just to satisfy a temporary demand for best sellers. The libraries simply cannot afford to provide unlimited numbers of copies of any one book, because that would mean not buying many other books of more lasting value. Every effort is made to keep a reasonable balance between the demand for a book and the number of copies provided. Also, some form of co-operation between publishers might eliminate duplication of certain minor English classics and so help provide a better representation of classics generally and of other essential works.

The following table shows the books added to the libraries during the year, and arranged by classes:—

General Works	...	...	...	...	...	147
Philosophy	...	...	...	...	...	41
Religion	...	...	...	...	...	87

Social Science	...	...	...	...	...	71
Languages	...	...	...	...	...	26
Natural Science	...	...	...	...	...	69
Useful Arts	...	...	...	...	...	229
Fine Arts	...	...	...	...	...	225
Literature	...	...	...	...	...	242
History, Geography, Travels and Biography	...	...	...	...	...	1,091
Adult Fiction	...	...	...	...	...	4,377
Juvenile Books	...	...	...	...	...	830
Total						7,435

Tables showing (a) total number of books lent for home use, and (b) the same figures in more detail:—

TABLE (A).

	Head- quarters.	Branches and Centres.	Total.
Adults	65,808	98,683	164,491
Children	15,928	27,495	43,423
Total	81,736	126,178	207,914

TABLE (B).

	Non- Fiction.	Fiction.	Juvenile.	Total.
Headquarters	20,121	45,687	15,928	81,736
Ballinasloe	6,168	16,172	3,328	25,668
Loughrea	4,935	16,120	1,001	22,056
Tuam	3,942	17,402	4,740	26,084
Schools and Village Centres	9,463	24,481	18,426	52,370
Totals	44,629	119,862	43,423	207,914

Junior Library.

In all libraries the children's book stocks have suffered more than any other owing to the difficulties of obtaining sufficient replacements. While the supply position tends to improve, there is a dearth of non-fiction books for children.

As already reported, the facilities for children at the County Library Headquarters are being severely taxed and are the cause of great inconvenience to adult readers. At the request of parents and teachers the Juvenile Room is open only on each Friday afternoon. The absence of proper accommodation prevents the system from giving the many extra services that should be characteristic of a Junior Library.

The following table shows the number of books lent to children for home reading :—

Headquarters	...	...	15,928
Ballinasloe	...	...	3,328
Loughrea	...	...	1,001
Tuam	...	...	4,740
Schools	...	...	18,426
Total	...	...	43,423

There is no point in raising the school leaving age if the Department of Education fails to provide for the study requirements of pupils through additional library facilities. In Great Britain, while it is recognised that a proportion of the Library Service in elementary and secondary schools should be provided at a cost to the County Library rate, it is equally recognised that the Department of Education also has a responsibility. It is to be hoped that the Eire Department of Education will follow the British example of defraying not less than 50 per cent. of the cost of supplying books to elementary and secondary schools.

Since the inception of the County Library Service twenty-four years ago there has been close co-operation with the city and county schools with invaluable results. Most of this mutual effort is directed along fairly well-defined channels. Progress has been much helped during the year by the whole-hearted sympathy and co-operation of the teachers.

Book Exhibitions.

Several exhibitions of books and periodicals have been presented during the year in the city and throughout the county. Among these were: (1) works of Galway and Connemara writers and translators presented in An Arus, Dominick Street, Galway; (2) works on art, reproductions of paintings and facsimiles of Irish MSS., in connection with the Tuam Art Gallery, in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam; (3) books and pamphlets on agriculture, poultry-keeping, bee-keeping, knitting and domestic handicrafts, at the Irish Country Women's Association Summer School in the Galway Grammar School; and (4) books on films, cinematography and photography at the Irish Film Institute classes throughout the country.

Special Collections.

The collections of books, pamphlets, maps, prints, etc., which illustrate all phases of the past and present history of Ireland, the scarce works dealing with the Irish Language and Philology, are a special pride of the libraries. They aim at completeness as far as possible.

Educational, Social and Religious Societies.

The principle of voluntary service in co-operation with the public educational services; primary, secondary, vocational and university education; and with the various bodies of social workers: the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Catholic Young Men's Society, the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, etc., continues. In addition to the mutual help in the lending and borrowing of books, pamphlets, scientific and philological journals, small libraries have been continued in Temperance Societies, Clubs, in Parochial and Village Halls, Sodality Clubs, etc., throughout the county.

Statistical Abstract.

The following brief explanation is necessary for the proper understanding of the information supplied by the Abstract :—

First of all, the figures represent the number of books issued for home reading only. They do not include the encyclopædias, guide books, dictionaries, almanacs, etc., consulted in the Headquarters and Branches. Again, the figures shown are those compiled from the issues kept at the Headquarters, Branches and Centres, and do not include the issues at the Centres where the records are not properly kept or not kept at all. And lastly, since the inception of the scheme the Abstract has been compiled on exactly the same lines, so that it provides the only satisfactory basis available for comparing one year with another.

1. Finance.

INCOME.			
From Rates	...	...	£3,880 0 0
Subscriptions	...	£161 13 10	
Fines	...	10 17 6	
Replacements	...	7 2 6	
Other Receipts	...	13 11 10	
			193 5 8
Total Receipts	...		£4,073 5 8

EXPENDITURE.			
Salaries and Wages	...	...	£1,397 19 10
Books, Binding and Periodicals	...	...	1,820 18 11
Transport and Travelling	...	...	249 10 11
Rent, Maintenance and Repairs	...	...	374 7 1
Other Expenditure	...	...	177 17 0
Total Expenditure	...	...	£4,020 13 9

Amount of Rate levied for Library Purposes: 2.075d.

2. Library Centres.

Total number of Centres in operation 40

3. Book Stock.

Total Adult Fiction	...	...	...	...	12,352
Total Adult Non-Fiction	...	...	...	...	22,425
Total Juvenile Fiction and Non-Fiction	...	...	...	...	4,202
Total Stock	...	...	...	...	<u>38,979</u>

Number of books available per 100 of the population served : 23.11.

4. Book Issues.

Issued from Headquarters direct to readers	...	...	...	...	81,736
Issued from Branches and Centres direct to readers	...	...	...	...	126,178
Total Issues	...	...	...	...	<u>207,914</u>

5. Borrowers.

Estimated number of registered borrowers	...	...	...	...	34,011
Estimated number actually borrowing per 100 of the population	...	...	...	...	20.2

Galway County Council

(COUNTY LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT)

**IRISH MANUSCRIPTS
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**Correspondence, Reports,
Etc.**

Athlone Printing Works Co. Ltd.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORT—HISTORICAL
MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.**

COIMISIUN LAIMHSCRIBHINNI NA HEIREANN,
(Irish Manuscripts Commission)

5 ELY PLACE, I.R.,

BAILE ATHA CLIATH,

(Dublin)

28th April, 1948.

S. J. MAGUIRE, Esq.,
Librarian,
City of Galway Library,
Courthouse,
Galway.

A CHARA,

The Commission would be glad to have any observations you may desire to make on the enclosed Notes, received from Dr. D. A. Chart, on the forming of the National Register of Archives in England by the Historical Manuscripts Commission and account of a Conference held on 17 November, 1947.

Mise, le meas,

EILEEN BRERETON,
Runai.

**Notes on the Forming of the National Register of Archives in
England by the Historical Manuscripts Commission, and Account
of Conference of 17 November, 1947.**

(1). A small directorate has been formed for the purpose. It acts in concert with the Public Record Office, is housed in the same building and contains representatives of the Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission and British Records Association. The whole-time working head is a Registrar at present Colonel Malet.

(2). His first method of approach is to form an organizing body in a local area, usually a county. This can be either an already existing body, such as an Archæological Society or Records Committee of a County Council or a specially formed *ad hoc* Committee with power to co-opt. The latter form is usually preferable in view of the large number of interests involved requiring representation. Twenty-four to thirty members may normally be necessary. These should include two or three from the county council, one, if possible, to represent the educational authority, one or two each from county and municipal boroughs, representatives of churches, universities, local learned societies, schools, landowners, solicitors, medical profession, commerce, industry, employers' associations and trade unions.

(3). The function of these committees would be, amongst other things, to plan the campaign geographically, to enlist helpers,

interest owners, give speedy advice where there is danger of loss or damage, report movements of archives or actual destruction, and advise owners as to suitable repositories for the reception of gifts or loans. Where counties are large or areas are isolated, area committees would be necessary.

(4). Investigation should be directed to the following: Known accumulations, those of hitherto unknown owners, smaller landowners, service and professional families, merchant families, families who have sold their land but have retained some of their records.

The helpers could be of four kinds:—

- (1) pure amateurs with local contacts suitable for discovering collections and working in small areas;
- (2) keen amateurs without Latin capable of inspecting modern archives;
- (3) very keen amateurs with a knowledge of Latin and willing to learn palæography and diplomatic;
- (4) archivists with knowledge of Latin and diplomatic.

These experts of Class (4) could be called upon to inspect mediæval matter reported by the amateurs.

(5). The recruiting of owners and helpers can be done by Press campaign, by stressing to owners the voluntary nature and historical value of the scheme and the importance of apparently dull papers, such as deeds and accounts, the importance of modern records and of not destroying without advice; by stressing for helpers the immense value of local knowledge, that ordinary daily contacts have often provided useful information and drawing public attention to any specially interesting and important discoveries.

(6). Reports are in three stages; the first does not do much more than give the ownership and location of an accumulation, its rough covering dates and easily discoverable classes. The second stage gives an accurate list of classes with their quantities and covering dates. The third is a detailed list of documents by classes.

(7). Documents may be reported on either *in situ* or by deposit for examination at a suitable local repository.

(8). Colonel Malet opens operations generally by writing to the Secretary of the County Council and asking him for suggestions as to persons likely to be interested. He gets some person universally known and respected in the county to act as the chairman of a public meeting to be called. This is usually the Lord Lieutenant of the county. To this meeting are invited the leading county officers or their representatives, the chiefs and heads of local government, professors of history, theology, economics, education, law, statistics, heads of colleges and universities, learned societies, headmasters, owners, professional persons, librarians, local editors, teachers' organizations, chambers of commerce, employers' associations, trade unions, friendly societies, women's institutes, social clubs, rotary, women's voluntary service, workers' educational

association, young farmers' clubs, etc. With each invitation that goes out a personal letter signed by the Registrar is attached. The meeting constitutes itself as an archive committee, or appoints some of its members to act as such.

(9). A conference was held at Stationers' Hall, London, on 17 November, 1947, by invitation from the Historical Manuscripts Commission to the county and local committees co-operating in the work. There was a certain amount of hospitality and papers dealing with points that had arisen were discussed. The first of these was Professor Jacob on the organization of a committee. He emphasised the difficulty in getting trained helpers and suggested that county archives departments could do some training. The central county committee should include both "bigwigs" and actual workers and have local committees under it for areas. The area convenor is the key man. If possible he should be a scholar and a trained person with access to experts when he required it. The area committee should be as small as possible, but could have power to co-opt suitable persons. The size of the county committee would depend on the nature of the area and the local government element should not overbalance the private interest. Amateurs should not be excluded. Area convenors should meet the county chairman at least twice a year. There should be visits of exploration and for detailed reports. The convenor should know of all intended visits and should do the detailed report himself. Publicity was essential, also periodical reports of local results achieved. Reference was made to the new departure in the form of a local record exhibition at Basingstoke.

(10). Mr. Brett James of Middlesex suggested that the young should be brought in and libraries used. Miss Wake asked about the records of local war committees. Mr. Stephens of Warwickshire raised the question of finance and petrol. Colonel Malet said petrol would be provided. The Voluntary Committee of Social Service expressed a desire to help. Birmingham enquired as to co-operation with the Council of Business Archives. A Buckinghamshire representative said his committee was just starting, but did not intend to appoint area committees, only area representatives. He asked if reports were to go through the county committees. Professor Jacob said "Yes."

(11). Mr. Atkinson, Secretary of the Historical Manuscripts Commission said expenses could be refunded. To an enquiry whether an area commission would need a constitution and should put up posters, Colonel Malet said the constitution was their own affair. As to publicity he thought the real work was done by interesting local persons. Miss Wake, Northamptonshire, enquired as to the availability of suitable repositories. Another speaker suggested that mansions in charge of the National Trust might be used. Mr. Jenkinson, Deputy Keeper of the Records, London, said no offer of documents should be rejected on the grounds of lack of accommodation. The county authorities accepted this view.

(12). The second paper was by Colonel Malet on the general procedure in reporting (with special reference to approaching owners and treatment of non-local material). He emphasised the chief factors in the situation: the owner, the helper, the register, the historian, money and time. Owners were very helpful generally and this fact should be recognised in some tangible form. The helpers might be allowed to follow their natural bent, but uniformity is required for the register, hence a set form of report is necessary. He would ask his helpers only for types in their first report, for classes in the second. Only the first stage reports were required at present. There might be a fourth stage. The marking of documents to be avoided, and if done should be only in pencil so that it could be removed.

(13). Colonel Le Hardy asked for a moratorium for the County Archivists to complete the work already begun by some of them, as in the case of Hertford. He was speaking, however, only of records already in the county archives. Mr. Holt of Liverpool asked if there was any date limit and was told none. Mr. Richards of Cheshire asked for a tag to be attached to examined documents with the inscription "registered in National Archives." He was told that this step was under consideration. Mr. Salzmann of Sussex suggested the noting of seals. Mr. Jenkinson suggested the issue of a booklet with hints to helpers. Another speaker suggested an approach to local archaeological societies. To a suggestion of a moratorium for archaeological societies' documents, the answer was made that as these were already in responsible hands urgency did not arise in their case.

(14). Mr. F. W. Brooks, Hull, spoke on the recruiting and training of helpers. He followed the line already indicated by Professor Jacob and emphasised that those seeking subjects of investigation for the register must talk to all societies, enlist schoolmasters, workers' educational associations, women's institutes, churches, etc., approach the universities through some university man (not necessarily of the history school). He suggested that as two people can list documents twice as fast as one, the investigators might work in pairs and the less trained pick up knowledge from the more experienced. He suggested a pamphlet to explain types of 18th century deeds. Miss Major said that Professor Plucknett's Concise History of the Common Law (Butterworth Press) was very good for conveyancing. Mr. Brooks went on to suggest that talks on palaeography might be given.

(15). Colonel Le Hardy asked if archives work could be learned by correspondence. Mr. Jenkinson was understood to disagree, but to say that the facsimiles in his book might be useful. Inscriptions on stone were said by Mr. Jenkinson not to be the concern of the register. Colonel Malet said that the war local committees' records were at present "nobody's child"; responsibility for them had been disclaimed by the Home Office.

COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS,
GALWAY.

20th May, 1948.

MISS EILEEN BRERETON,
Runai,
Irish Manuscripts Commission,
5, Ely Place, Lt.,
Dublin.

A CHARA,

I have to thank you for a copy of Dr. D. A. Chart's notes on the formation of the National Register of Archives in England. Please accept my apologies for not replying sooner.

Is mise, le meas,

S. J. MAGUIRE,
County Librarian.

Observations on the Forming of the National Register of Archives in England.

Par. 2. I would agree with the Registrar—Col. Malet—that an organising body should be formed in each county. For many years I have endeavoured to locate public records of all kinds, charters, deeds, etc., in the various counties in which I organised county libraries. I have circularised solicitors, estate agents and land-owners, interviewed them personally and pointed out the importance of preserving material. Accompanied by a Galway solicitor I visited a sixteenth century house and on examining the library I discovered a charter of Charles II. granting the then proprietor, a Catholic, immunity not only to himself and family, but also to his descendants. The existence of this document was not known to the family and on my suggestion the solicitor had it lodged in the bank. I have found by experience that without an organisation nothing can be done. I would also point out that I have succeeded, thanks to the co-operation of the County Manager, in saving the bulk of the Minute Books and other material of the various Boards of Guardians and Rural District Councils in Galway. Also, on his instructions, the Minute Books of the old Galway Corporation have been lodged in the care of the University College here.

Not every county has an Archaeological Society, and in view of my experiences of County Council Ancient Monuments Committees I would not suggest anything on the lines of a County Council Records Society. I would be in favour of a body nominated by your Commission, consisting of three members of each County Council, one member of each Corporation, Urban District Council or Town Commissioners; one representative of a County or Municipal Vocational Education Committee; one member of the County Branch of the I.N.T.O., and of the Secondary Teachers' Association; two members of each County Bar Association—this body, representative of barristers and solicitors, usually meets at

Circuit Courts; representatives of churches, archaeological societies, universities, doctors and labour unions.

Par. 3. I favour the functions of the committee as given in the notes. The question of suitable repositories in Ireland is and will be for quite a long time a problem. County buildings, municipal halls, county library headquarters, and so on, are practically everywhere cramped and lack space for suitable storage. I know that a number of county courthouses could be equipped at a small cost, but generally suitable repositories are scarce.

Par. 4. Before considering the question of storage I would suggest a survey on the lines as set out in paragraph 4.

Par. 5. On the subject of recruiting helpers Ireland could not do better than follow on the lines of Dr. Seumas Delargy's system of organisation in the early days of the Folklore Institute.

Par. 8. So far as I am aware, no County Council possesses an Archivist—any such work where carried out devolves on the County Librarian—therefore, the preliminary work of organisation would in the first place fall on your Commission so far as getting each county body together, and further work would then be undertaken by the local committee as nominated by you through the County Librarian.

The details of problems as raised in the subsequent paragraphs of the Notes need not, I should think, concern us at the outset. The fact is that there is a huge amount of material available throughout the country and something must be done about its collection and preservation before it is too late.

Incidentally, I overlooked including a representative of the Gaelic League in the scheme of county committees.

Is mise, le meas,

S. J. MAGUIRE,
County Librarian.

COIMISIUN LAIMHSCRIBHINNI NA HEIREANN,
(Irish Manuscripts Commission)
5 ELY PLACE LR.,
BAILE ATHA CLIATH
(Dublin)
24th May, 1948.

S. J. MAGUIRE, ESQ.,
County Librarian,
Galway.

A CHARA,

I acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your memorandum, dated 20th inst., on the forming of the National Register of Archives in England, which has been read with interest by the Chairman and will be brought to the notice of the Commission as a whole at its June meeting.

Mise, le meas,

EILEEN BRERETON,
Runai.

COIMISIUN LAIMHSCRIBHINNI NA HEIREANN,
(Irish Manuscripts Commission)

5 ELY PLACE LR.,

BAILE ATHA CLIATH,
(Dublin)

28th May, 1948.

S. J. MAGUIRE, ESQ.,

County Librarian,

County Library Headquarters,

Galway.

A CHARA,

Thank you for your letter of 20th inst., and for the trouble you have taken to prepare the memorandum on the forming of the National Register of Archives in England. This will be communicated to the Commission at its June meeting.

Mise, le meas,

EILEEN BRERETON,
Runai.

Galway County Council
(COUNTY LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT)

MINUTES
OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Twenty-fifth Annual Meeting

HELD ON

Saturday, 25th day of September,

1948.

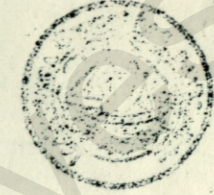
Athlone Printing Works Co. Ltd.

J.H. [Signature]
4.12.48

LEADARLAINNA COMNDAE NA GALWAY
COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES

All communications should be addressed to:

S. J. MAGUIRE
SECRETARY AND COUNTY LIBRARIAN
(and the following number quoted)



COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS
GALWAY

27th November, 1948.

A Chara,

A Quarterly Meeting of the County Libraries Committee will be held on Saturday next, the 4th day of December, 1948, in the County Library Headquarters, the County Court-house, Galway, 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. Review by the County Librarian.
4. General.

Is 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 THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 25th DAY SEPTEMBER, 1948.

Present : Councillor J. Brennan, Councillor J. Burke, County Councillor M. Carty, County Councillor N. J. Colleran, County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T.; County Councillor Sean Glynn, Councillor M. Keane, County Councillor T. King, County Councillor M. Kitt, N.T., T.D.; County Councillor T. O'Shea, N.T.; County Councillor M. Quinn and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

Apologies—Intimation of their inability to attend were received from the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A., Chairman, and from J. Moroney, N.T.

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

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

150. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 1948-'49.:

It was proposed by County Councillor M. Quinn, seconded by County Councillor T. King, and

Resolved—That the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A., be elected Chairman of the Committee for the year 1948/'49.

151. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 1948-'49 :

It was proposed by County Councillor M. Quinn, seconded by County Councillor J. Brennan, and

Resolved—That County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T., be elected Vice-Chairman for the year 1948/'49.

152. 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.

153. ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1948 :

It was proposed by County Councillor J. Brennan, seconded by County Councillor M. Quinn, and

Resolved—That the Annual Report of the County Librarian for the year ended 31st March, 1948, be adopted.

154. COUNTY LIBRARY WORK WITH CHILDREN :

It was proposed by County Councillor J. Brennan, seconded by Councillor M. Keane, and

Resolved—That the following survey of County Library Work with Children submitted by the County Librarian be approved :—

The service began some twenty-five years ago with a box of books—or sometimes, two boxes of books in the various schools—

exchanged at three months intervals. In those twenty-five years the service has expanded and developed to include not only the rural areas, but also those urban areas where no library service had been established prior to the introduction of the County Library Movement; and, moreover, the whole conception of the service has broadened.

Library service to children must go much further than the mere provision of "something to read" if we are to avoid in future generations, the present vast numbers of people whose reading is confined to the headlines of the daily paper and the local gossip of the weekly press. The aims of the service have now become three-fold: (a) the ample provision of books of a high standard for all children from the time they can use them, in the most accessible places, (b) education in the use of books as tools, and (c) the development of literary taste and critical ability; and the more rural the population the greater is the need for generous public library provision, since there is rarely any other source of book supply, except in a limited number of homes.

It was natural from the first that the school should most frequently be the chosen place of distribution and that the school teacher should act as librarian. From the first emphasis was on book supply, with premises as a secondary consideration. The immediate recognition of the importance of work with children, enabled more rapid progress to be made in its development. Results show that the local school is not always the best point of service for the adult population, the service is too often associated with education, and its scope not realised. On the other hand, experience has shown that the school is at least the most successful centre for the children, since they could exchange their books during their normal visit to school. Though this tends to result in some cases in segregating the two centres, it also results in a higher proportion of children being reached. The guidance in choice of reading, too, if not entirely satisfactory, is better than they would usually receive from the non-teacher voluntary librarians in the general centres. Exchanges are effected four times a year; and visits by the County Librarian ensures that better contact is maintained with headquarters, and an opportunity given for suggestions to be made, difficulties discussed and help given in the running of the centre. The visit of the County Librarian also creates an opportunity for ensuring that the children are aware that the service is part of a much wider one, and not just the receipt of a collection of books "out of the blue."

The practice of maintaining the service to rural children through the schools, and to children in urban areas through branches is now well established.

Whatever may be the opinion regarding the advantages of school or public library service, everyone must realise the necessity of books in schools—other than those used directly in connection

with lessons. If the maximum benefit is to be derived from what is taught, further material on the subject should be readily available; and if all children are to receive adequate instruction in the use of books as tools, a collection of reference books in the school should be a necessity. Attempts are being made to carry out this latter instruction but inadequate accommodation and insufficient staff limit this, so that only a small percentage of children benefit.

The uses of the school library have been summed up in the School Library Associations Draft Report on School Libraries in post-war reconstruction as follows:—

"To make children familiar with the sight and use of a collection of books, to help them grow to love and care for them, to provide material for the child's own recreational reading and exploration, to supply additional reading material illustrating the subjects taught in class, to give opportunities for elementary instruction in the use of books and for carrying out individual and group projects; to give scope for the exercise of simple responsibilities, and finally, to prepare the way for the use of larger libraries, including the public library in adult life."

The teacher can reciprocate in the training of children, both as the present junior and the future adult borrowers of the public library, by co-operation in the arranging of the library periods, by making himself familiar with the larger stock at the headquarters, so that constant reference may be made to it and unnecessary duplication avoided.

When the whole county area is covered by this service, and close contact maintained with all schools to ensure that all children are introduced to the junior library as soon as they are able to read, and to the adult department at the age of fourteen, we may look forward to an intelligent reading public for the future.

155. DONATIONS:

It was proposed by Councillor J. Burke, seconded by Councillor Keane, and

Resolved—That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors: (1) Carlow County Library for a copy of the Annual Report; (2) Anonymous per Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton for a copy of "A Letter from Grosvenor Square," by the late John Gilbert Winant, American Ambassador to London; (3) Cork City Public Library for a copy of the Annual Report; (4) G.B. Instructional, Ltd., London (Children's Entertainment Films) for a copy of "Entertainment Films for Children" and a copy of the "Annual Report of the Advisory Council on Children's Entertainment Films"; (5) Captain and Mrs. Power, Ballinacorney, for the gift of 17 volumes; (6) Belfast Public Libraries for a copy of the Annual Report; (7) The Electricity Supply Board, Dublin, for a copy of the Annual Report; (8) The Electricity Supply Board, Dublin, for a copy of the Annual Report; (9) Cork County Library for a copy

of the Annual Report ; and (10) Mr. Jerome P. Drennan, B.S., M.E., Brooklyn, N.Y., for a copy of his thesis entitled " Geometry of Space."

156. HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS :

The County Librarian submitted correspondence between the Historical Manuscript Commission and himself.

It was proposed by County Councillor Quinn, seconded by County Councillor Cunningham, and

Resolved—That the County Librarian be authorised to prepare a questionnaire on the lines suggested in the report of the conference in London held on 17th November, 1947, between the British Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission and British Records Association ; and that the County Librarian be also authorised to circulate branches, centres, teachers and others interested in local history, records, newspapers, archives, etc. ; to offer speedy advice where there is danger of loss of such material ; to ask those interested to report movements of archives or actual destruction ; and to advise owners as to suitable repositories for the reception of gifts or loans.

(Minutes Nos. 150 to 156 inclusive).

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 4th DAY OF DECEMBER, 1948.**

Present : County Councillor J. Brennan; County Councillor M. Carty, N.T.; County Councillor P. J. Collieran; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T. (Vice-Chairman); County Councillor Sean Glynn; Urban Councillor M. Keane; County Councillor T. King; John Moroney, N.T.; County Councillor Tadg O'Shea, N.T.; County Councillor M. Quinn; and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

Apologies. — Intimation of their inability to attend were received from the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A. (Chairman) and from County Councillor M. Kitt, N.T., T.D.

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

157. 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.

158. DONATIONS :

It was proposed by County Councillor J. Brennan, seconded by J. Moroney, N.T., and

Resolved—That the thanks of the Committee be tendered the following donors: (a) The Editor of "The Irish Import-Export Journal," for Nos. 4, 5 and 6 (September, October and November, 1948) of the Journal; (2) The American Embassy, London, for a cyclostyle copy of the "List of Recent Additions to the American Library, October, 1948," in the United States Information Service at the Embassy; (3) The Tourist Information Bureau, States of Jersey, for a copy of "Jersey in Pictures and Supplement"; (4) The Secretary and Registrar, University College, Galway, for a copy of the "College Calendar and Syllabus, 1948/49"; (5) The Editor of the "Woman Engineer," for a copy of the periodical No. 12, September, 1948; (6) Robert Herbert, Esq., City Librarian, Limerick, for a copy of the "North Munster Antiquarian Journal," Vol. 5, No. 4; (7) Zine Development Association, London, for copies of "Z. D. A. Abstracts," "Catalogue of Current Publications," and "Report for 1947." (8) John S. Quoye, Esq., Galway, for a copy of Vol. 1 of the "Cambridge History of American Literature." (9) Philip O'Gorman, Esq., Galway, for a copy of (a) "Rotulorum Patentium et Clausorum Cancellariae Hiberniae Calendarium, Vol. 1, Pars. I., Hen. II.—Hen. VII.," 1828; and (b) "Inquisitionum in Officio Rotulorum Cancellariae Hiberniae Aservatarum, Repentorium, Vol. 1, 1826." Both volumes bear the imprint: "This Book is to be perpetually Preserved in and for the use of the Peace Officer of the County of the Town of Galway by the Special Order of His Majesty's Commissioners on the Public Records of Ireland, 1828."

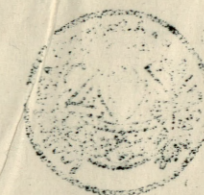
5/3/49

**LEABARLAINNA COMMOSE NA SAILLIENE
COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES**

All communications should be addressed:

S. J. MAGUIRE

SECRETARY AND COUNTY LIBRARIAN
(and the following number quoted)



COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS
GALWAY

26th. Feb. 1949.

A Chara,

A Quarterly Meeting of the County Libraries Committee will be held on Saturday next, the 5th day of March, 1949, in the County Library Headquarters, Galway, 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. Review by the County Librarian.
4. General.

Is mise le meas,
S. J. Maguire,
County Librarian.

To each member of the Committee.

To the County Manager.

To the County Secretary.

To the Editors of Newspapers published in the County.

The County Librarian submitted the following description of the respective books :—

(a) **THE PATENT AND CLOSE ROLLS.**

The Patent and Close Rolls of the Chancery contain grants or lands in fee or otherwise, Creation of Honours, Charters of Incorporation, Grants of Offices, Presentations, Denizations, Wardships, Pardons, Ancient Statutes, Kings' Letters, and other State Documents, with several Inquisitions, and many Deeds, Conveyances, Letters of Attorney and Chancery Proceedings.

The volume commences with a few Inrolments of the Reigns of Henry the Second, John, Henry the Third, and Edward the First, the earliest extant in the Offices, and ends with those of the Reign of Henry the Seventh.

(b) **THE INQUISITIONS.**

The Inquisitions preserved in the Rolls Office of the Court of Chancery of Ireland, are records of the highest authority and value. They may be classed under two distinct heads, viz. : Inquisitions Post Mortem, which are the most numerous, and Inquisitions on Attainder. They are divided, according to the four provinces and the several counties of Ireland, into Reigns, and generally commence in the time of Queen Elizabeth, few being prior to that period. The former class (Inquisitions Post Mortem) ceases soon after the Restoration of Charles II., when the feudal tenures were abolished. The latter (Inquisitions in Attainder) extends to the Reign of William III.

The Inquisitions Post Mortem were taken under Commissions directed to the Escheators of each province, and others joined with them; and find, by the oath of a jury, what lands any person died seized of, by what rents and services they were held, and who was the next heir and his age, by which the right of the Crown to escheat or wardship was ascertained. On them were founded all grants of Wardships of Body and Marriage, Liveries of Lands—Pardons of Intrusion—Pardons of Licences of Alienation, etc., in virtue of the tenures in Capite. They are the best evidences of the descent of families and of the transfer and possession of property during the period they embrace. Numerous family settlements, deeds, wills, leases and other instruments relating to property in Ireland, are set out in full, or copiously recited; and of the greater number of these there are, at present, no other traces to be found.

The Inquisitions on Attainder were generally taken under Commissions directed to Commissioners in the several counties, and show whether any person was attainted, in which case his lands and other property, which were also found, were seized into the King's Lands. The present volume deals only with the province of Leinster.

159. REVIEWS SUBMITTED BY THE COUNTY LIBRARIAN :

Before presenting my review of the work of the Libraries to date it is with disgust I have to report the wanton destruction of books, particularly works on art, illustrated travel books and illustrated books on the war. Recently two works—(a) "Gist of Art," by John Sloan, valued at 21/-, has had every illustration cut out, rendering the book useless; and (b) "Russian Illustrated," has had many portraits removed, pages cut and generally defaced. As a result I have had to remove every work on art, and books containing plates, black and white and coloured, from the public shelves. In addition, the marking of books in pencil—black and indelible—the trenchant views of quasi-illiterates, written on the margins of books, the underlining of lines and whole paragraphs and the cutting out of lines and sections, make one think of the reincarnation of Attila. This violation of civic sense, apart from the breaking of the Commandments, cannot be attributed to children but is obviously the work of "maronic paranoiacs" whose natural and permanent home ought to be the Mental Hospital.

Periodically there appears a good deal in the Press about the popularity of libraries. Pessimists have drawn up a gloomy list of "Rivals to Libraries," composed much on these lines: (a) apathy; (b) better newspapers; (c) cinemas; (d) dancing. It would be possible to go through the alphabet in this pessimistic fashion, adding wireless. Are these "rivals" to be taken seriously? Even in this swiftly-moving age we have time for both reading and dancing. Do the necessities of conversation and the perusal of newspapers and film captions exhaust our interest? The newspaper, cinema, and wireless may, and often do, contribute to our knowledge, but books enshrine the means of expressing our knowledge; and our delight in that knowledge. Knowledge may be the root of the matter, but expression is the flower. The information which is gained from these "rivals to books," is a graceless thing divorced from literature. Writers cannot exist without readers, and literature, therefore, must always hold its place in spite of the pessimists. The idea of the reader as a passive recipient of information or recreation handed out by the librarian in the form of books is, however, slowly dying out and activities by the readers themselves must inevitably, with the necessary encouragement, assume greater importance. The public library plays a vital part in the educational system, and no school can be regarded as properly equipped unless it has a school library, and no child ought to leave school without some knowledge of how to use a public library, and of the unlimited stores of knowledge, interest and enjoyment which are available for the asking. As a prelude to an analysis of the public library situation to-day, it is important to ask what is the purpose behind it all, for without a common aim educators shall achieve little.

It is often said that reading has sufficient value in itself to warrant the aim of "reading for reading's sake," but it is to be doubted whether one can be satisfied with that. The community cannot afford to work to such a vague formula; nor is it satisfactory to the reader. The would-be mechanic will apply himself more readily to mathematics, the sailor to geography or the nurse to biology because they realise the usefulness of those subjects in their chosen careers. Thus the public library satisfies the aspirations of the reader by giving him the tools to do a creditable job and satisfies the needs of the nation by producing useful citizens.

But the purpose of the library should be more than appears in this utilitarian aim. The main object should be the development of the reader himself as an individual, keeping in mind the qualities that are most needed to-day. He should be led to appreciate and enjoy great literature, music and art to enrich his life and to make it more complete. His outlook should be closely related to the needs of a democratic community. A democracy requires active and enlightened citizens; the reader should, therefore, develop into a thinking being, aware of and interested in political and economic facts which, whatever their merits, are of supreme importance in shaping his life. A good library will help to explain true democracy by the supply of good and adequate books, and by supplies through schools and similar institutions run on democratic principles.

An analysis of books taken for home reading shows an increase but little variation in the type of books in demand. Fiction, as is natural, heads the figures throughout the Branches, Centres and Headquarters. The following summary illustrates the use made of the service:—

	Non-			
	Fiction.	Fiction.	Juvenile.	Total.
Issued at Headquarters ...	33,880	41,192	7,720	82,792
Issued at Ballinasloe Branch	9,326	18,120	1,452	28,896
Issued at Tuam Branch ...	8,775	17,213	1,227	27,215
Issued at Loughrea Branch...	2,232	6,456	2,848	11,536
Issued at Centres ...	42,396	60,548	18,112	121,056
Total ...	96,607	143,529	31,359	271,495

It was proposed by County Councillor T. King, seconded by County Councillor Brennan, and

Resolved—That the action of the County Librarian in withdrawing all illustrated books on art and travel from the public shelves be approved.

Resolved also—That pending an addition to the staff the County Librarian's suggestion to segregate such books under his

immediate control be approved; and that he report to the next meeting on the subject.

Resolved further—That the Statistical Report be approved.

160. IRISH MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.

Noted—Correspondence between the Irish Manuscripts Commission and the County Librarian.

161. REMUNERATION OF BRANCH LIBRARIANS.

It was proposed by County Councillor J. Brennan, seconded by County Councillor T. King, and

Resolved—That the County Librarian be authorised to request the County Manager to consider: (a) payment by hours of attendance at the Branch Libraries by Branch Librarians as a basis of a more equitable method of remuneration than basing the remuneration on stock and population. It is the opinion of the members that their suggestion would be an inducement to the Branch Librarian to develop his or her Branch more effectively.

Resolved also—That the County Manager consider the payment to Branch Librarians of the eleven shillings a week as paid other public officers.

162. ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1949/59 :

The County Librarian submitted the following Estimated Receipts and Expenditure for the year 1949/'50:—

BOOKS AND BINDING :

Basing calculations on the current year's figures: Books, £2,010, Binding, £290 (total, £2,300) and adding the proposed increase of 5% to be imposed by the publishers on the coming Spring publications, the figure of £2,110 is arrived at, representing the purchase of approximately 5,300 volumes. Add to this the sum of £450 for the binding and rebinding of 1,700 volumes at approximately 5/3d. per volume, the gross amount required under this head is £2,560.

SALARIES AND WAGES :

A sum of £1,896 is estimated under this classification.

ADMINISTRATION CHARGES :

In the current estimate provision had been made for expenditure necessary for the establishing of 7 additional Branch Libraries at £105 per Branch, representing a total sum of £735. For several reasons it has not been possible to get all seven in operation in the course of the current year but it is possible to have those at Clifden, Spiddal, Portumna, and Mount Bellew in use by the 31st March next. The increase in the price of timber, furniture and fittings will require a modification of the figure, say, £120 each. Comparing this figure with £197 10s. 0d., the cost

of equipping the Tuam Branch—it may be seen that it is not intended to outfit these Branches on such a comparable scale. Taking, however, the relative prices then, as compared with now the sum of £120 is reasonable.

Hence, this classification is subject to a deduction of £360 and the figures in detail are:—

4 Branch Libraries at £120 each	...	...	£480	0	0
General Transport	...	...	20	0	0
Members' and other Travelling Expenses	...	...	260	0	0
Advertising and Stationery	...	...	50	0	0
Heating, Lighting, Cleaning and Repairs	...	...	300	0	0
Total	...	...	£1,110	0	0

No provision has been made for the painting of the County Headquarters.

OTHER CHARGES :

In the current estimate provision had been made for the purchase of a vacuum cleaner at a cost of from £150 to £179. Such an apparatus at the price has so far not been on the market. It is recommended, however that this sum be allowed to stand in the hope that a suitable machine may be available during the year:

The figures under this head are:—

Vacuum Cleaner	...	...	£170	0	0
Fire and other Insurances	...	...	20	0	0
National and Unemployment Insurance	...	...	20	0	0
Telephone	...	...	20	0	0
Postages	...	...	20	0	0
Sundries	...	...	15	0	0
Total	...	...	£265	0	0

ESTIMATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR, 1949/'50 :

Estimated Expenditure :

	1948/'49.	1949/'50.
Books and Binding	£2,300 0 0	£2,560 0 0
Salaries and Wages	1,967 0 0	1,896 0 0
Administration	1,260 0 0	1,110 0 0
Other Charges	180 0 0	265 0 0
	£5,707 0 0	£5,831 0 0

Estimated Income.

	1948/'49.	1949/'50.
From Rates	£5,337 0 0	£5,461 0 0
„ Subscriptions, Fares and Other Sources	370 0 0	370 0 0
	£5,707 0 0	£5,831 0 0

It was proposed by County Councillor J. Brennan, seconded by Urban Councillor M. Keane, and

Resolved—That the Estimated Receipts and Expenditure for the year 1949/'50 be passed.

163. VOTES OF CONDOLENCE :

It was proposed by County Councillor M. Quinn, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Ruffane, and

Resolved—That the sympathy of the members be tendered the relations of the late Mr. Kyne, Gurteen, and Mr. J. Sarsfield.

164. BALLYGAR PREMISES :

It was proposed by County Councillor P. J. Colleran, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and

Resolved—That the County Librarian inspect premises offered at Ballygar for use as a Branch Library.

(Minutes Nos. 157 to 164 inclusive).

Galway County Council
(COUNTY LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT)

MINUTES
OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF A

Quarterly Meeting

HELD ON

Saturday, the 5th day of March,

1949.

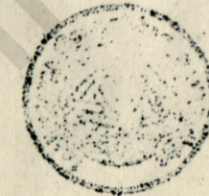
Athlone Printing Works Co. Ltd.

Patrick Flynn
2/12/49

leabarlanna comhóae na gailíne
COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES

All communications should be addressed:

S. J. MAGUIRE
SECRETARY AND COUNTY LIBRARIAN
(and the following number quoted)



COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS
GALWAY

25th. June 1949.

To each member of the Committee.
To the County Manager.
To the Secretary, County Council.
To the Editors of newspapers published in the County.

A Chara,
The Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Galway County Council
Libraries Committee will be held on Saturday next, the 2nd day of July,
1949, in the County Library Headquarters, the County Courthouse, Galway,
at the hour of twelve-thirty o'clock in the afternoon, when the follow-
ing business will be dealt with:-

1. Election of Chairman for the year 1949-1950.
2. Election of Vice-Chairman for the year 1949-1950.
3. Donations.
4. Annual Report for the year 1948-1949.
5. General.

Is mise, le meac,
S. J. MAGUIRE,
County Librarian.

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 5th DAY OF MARCH, 1949.**

Present :

County Councillor James Brennan ; County Councillor Michael Carty, N.T. ; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T. ; County Councillor Sean Glynn ; Urban Councillor Michael Keane ; County Councillor Thomas King ; County Councillor Michael Kitt, T.D. ; John Moroney, N.T. ; County Councillor Tadg O'Shea, N.T. ; County Councillor Martin Quinn ; and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

Apology :

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

Chairman of the Meeting :

County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T. Vice-Chairman.

165. 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.

166. DONATIONS :

RESOLVED—That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors of pamphlets, etc. : Dominick Kearns, Esq., Solicitor, Portumna, for a copy of the "Portumna Review" ; the Iodine Educational Bureau, London, for copies of "Iodine for Animal Nutrition," "Iodine Information," Nos. 18, 19 and 20, and "Z.D.A. Abstracts," Vol. 7, No. 1 ; The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, Syllabus and Calendar of Examinations, 1949 ; the Oxford University Press, Oxford, Complete Catalogue ; the Registrar, General Nursing Council for Ireland, Register for 1949 ; and the Bournemouth and Southampton Corporations, Holiday Publications.

167. REVIEW BY THE COUNTY LIBRARIAN :

GENTLEMEN,

You will find that one fact emerges very clearly from a study of the figures for the expenditure on books during the financial year now coming to a close : books are costing more, which in turn affects all public libraries. The rise in price during even the past twelve months is high and, taking the period 1939 to date, is in some instances phenomenal. Nor is this upward tendency confined to any particular branch of literary output. One may safely

say that in nearly every case the money value of books is greater today than it was twelve months ago. This month paper for books comes off the ration. On March 6th publishers of books, for the first time in nine years, will be able to buy their paper according to their individual requirements, without benefit of licence, permit or other official form. According to comment among publishers, their liberation has arrived too late. They have for some time past been inclined to relegate paper rationing to a secondary place among their present troubles.

One of the results of paper rationing was thin books. The War Economy Agreement, which book publishers themselves voluntarily introduced during the most acute phase of paper shortage as an act of self-discipline, revolutionised the appearance of books. The British Government was so impressed by the effect of this Agreement that it decided not to grant or renew any publisher's quota unless the user conformed to the terms of the War Economy Agreement, which was thus taken out of the hands of the publishers and, instead of being a voluntary self-denying ordinance, became in effect an official order. Now, with the abolition of any Government sanction, conformity to the terms of the Agreement becomes a voluntary act. Publishers, if they like, can increase the size of their books beyond their pre-war girth. It is to be hoped that they will resist all temptation to do any such thing. By all means let us have more opaque paper, wider margins, reasonably spaced type and better cloth for books. But also let us hope that the book that was made thick for the sake of thickness is one of the things that have gone forever.

It is suggested that the County Library should organise a publicity service bringing books directly to the notice of various grades in industrial concerns and agriculture, displaying books not only on technical and agricultural processes but also on such subjects as personnel, management and the like. Its aims would be rather for increased technical knowledge amongst workers. One of the impediments between the worker and the book that he requires for his work is the lack of information about new technical publications. The publicity service suggested would be of immense benefit both to the County Library, industry and farming. In the meantime, I would point out with all proper modesty that THE GALWAY READER plays no mean part in providing information on the lines suggested.

THE GALWAY READER.

The idea of THE GALWAY READER arose from a discussion among teachers, university people, members of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society, local honorary librarians,

interested readers and the staff of the Library. I pointed out that there was a tendency for the reading of fiction to increase at the expense of other classes of literature; that many outstanding and important books are left unread through lack of knowledge of their existence or contents; and that there was a lamentable want of knowledge of city and county history.

It was agreed that the journal should not be too literary, that it should not compete with the local newspapers or overlap the object of the local archaeological journal. A marked feature was to be the Library List which was to follow each article, and the subjects to be dealt with, though general, should have a specific appeal to the people of the county and should deal with the county in some phase or other. Each number was to contain a bibliography on subjects such as Local History and National History, Biography, Travel, Agriculture, Economics, etc. The lists prepared by the Irish Book Association have been found invaluable for this purpose.

While people of to-day are interested in the books of to-day, it is hoped through the medium of THE GALWAY READER to induce them "to come more sweetly to the old books," to let them understand that any literature, past and present, is relatively but a detail in the lives of the few. To many others it will point out that religion, science, economics, business, music, history, travel, and a variety of useful subjects are more necessary than Shakespeare is to the student. It is emphasised that as people must choose from a library, the nearer they come to forming it themselves the better. Everyone nowadays has the habit of letting the eye run along a certain number of printed lines, and it has become one of the dangers of civilization. Reading of this kind tends to produce automatic reaction, the taking of opinions ready-made without troubling to work them out for oneself. The only kind of reading worth stimulating is reading which will encourage reflection. For example, the majority of readers care no more about poetry than a tone-deaf man about music and no effort is made to overcome mental lassitude or vacuity. There is a very large number of general readers outside the ranks of our students who would like to read the books which, rather snobbishly, are regarded as the students' own peculiar property. These readers who are not students in the sense that they are studying for any particular purpose, would, if their attention were drawn to good reading, but lacking a leader the tendency is to confine their search to the fiction department of the library.

There is the familiar type of person who wanders about the shelves hoping to catch sight of a book which will help him. He does not know what subject interests him most, and he is not.