

JUVENILE WORKS

- All Clear! Hadath, G.
Apple Pie Inn. Donahey, M. D.
ATKINSON, M. E. The Monster of Widgeon Weir.
- BAKER, Barbara. The Three Rings.
BAKER, M. and M. The Wind's Adopted Daughter.
BARNE, Kitty. Family Footlights.
She Shall Have Music.
BATTY, D. M. The Giant Without a Heart.
BEATY, J. Y. Nature is Stranger Than Fiction.
Ben. Townend, J.
BEWSHEP, Gwyn. Secret of the Garden.
Beyond the Ocean Rim. Finch, R.
Book of Robin Hood. Haydon, A. L.
BRANDT, R. A. The Fisherman's Son: a fairy tale.
BRIDGES, T. C. The Girl from Golden .
BRIGGS, Martin S. Building To-day: building practice for youths.
BRUCE, D. F. Nancy Calls the Tune.
Building To-day. Briggs, M. S.
- Champions in the Making. Hector, B.
- Derry Down-Under. Methley, V. M.
Detectives in Greasepaint. MacFarlane, S.
Diana at School. Hornsby, T.
DONAHEY, Mary D. Apple Pie Inn.
DUVOISIN, Roger. The Three Sneezes.
DYER, E. Brent. Lavender Laughs in the Chalet School.
- Eagle of the Desert. George, S. G.
ELLSBERG, Edward. "I have just begun to fight"! the story of John
Paul Jones, the Father of the U. S. Navy.
ELLSWORTH, E. E. The Highwayman Came Riding.
Emperor's Ring. Robertson, W.
ENGLEFIELD, C. Sara Squirrel's Ready Made Home.
EYRE, Frank, joint-author. See HADFIELD, E. C. R.
- Family Footlights. Barne, K.
FARROW, Dorothy F. Little Brown Hen.
FELMERSHAM, M. Mary Jane and the Magic Ring
The Mary Jane Book
FINCH, Robert. Beyond the Ocean Rim.
Fire Service To-day. Hadfield, E. C. R. and F. Eyre.
Fisherman's Son: a fairy tale. Brandt, R. A.
Flippits. Ross, M.
FRICKEY, M. Three Smart Squirrels and Squire.
Fun with Mechanics: a play book of science. McKay, H.
- Gang of ten. Mann, E.
GEORGE, S. G. Eagle of the Desert.
Giant without a Heart. Batty, D. M.
GIBBS, Margaret. One Man Wallopem.
Girl from Golden. Bridges, T. C.
Green Baskets, Sankey, M.
- HADATH, Gunby. All Clear!
HADFIELD, E. C. R. and Frank EYRE. The Fire Service To-day: a survey
of the Fire Service for Youths.

Galway County Council
(CO. LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT.)

**MINUTES
OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

OF A

QUARTERLY MEETING

HELD ON

**Saturday, the 7th day of June,
1947**

Athlone Printing Works Co. Ltd.

P. Flynn
6/IE/1947

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Galway County Council Archives

Galway County Council

COUNTY LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 7th DAY OF JUNE, 1947.

Present.—County Councillor J. Brennan, Councillor J. Burke, County Councillor M. Carty, N.T.; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T.; County Councillor John Glynn, Councillor M. Keane, County Councillor T. King; County Councillor M. Kitt, N.T.; John Moroney, N.T.; and County Councillor M. Quinn.

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

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

100. **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.”

101. **Donations.**—Resolved:—

“That the Committee's thanks be tendered to the following donors: The Gaumont-British Picture Corporation, Ltd., for the gift of six specially designed hanging cords for library use; and the Hospital Library Council, Dublin, for a copy of the 10th Annual Report.”

102. **The Book Association of Ireland.**—Resolved:—

“That the County Librarian be authorised to co-operate as far as possible with the Book Association of Ireland in arranging a temporary reading centre and book exhibition in connection with the Summer College of the Irish Country-women's Association to be held in the Galway Grammar School during July next.”

COUNTY LIBRARIAN'S REVIEW.

The County Librarian submitted the following review of the work of the Libraries:—

I have taken this occasion to review the work of the Libraries after a comparatively long period during which the service was closed for stocktaking, re-indexing and general reorganisation.

The scheme is getting back into its stride rapidly. With all its shortcomings every effort is being made to give a better library service as is possible with the present limited space and facilities. In this review, inevitably, some inclusions and omissions will cause annoyance or disappointment. It is, however, an immediate reaction to situations and events which may change with time. Objectivity is its aim, but the approach is in some degree subjective, and bias may seem apparent in the subjects dealt with as well as in the comments made. Friction is an element of stimulus and that, one hopes, is the prime object of this review. One does not intend to act as an oracle but as agent provocateur, awakening the dormant, shaming the uncritical, jolting the smug. It is one's wish that this digest may provide a constructive and critical commentary.

What is the Purpose of the Library?

The question is exercising not only the Irish libraries but the English and American systems also. The simple reply to the question would seem to be: "to provide the community with the books it needs." Such a reply is likely to be regarded as an over-simplification. Nevertheless, it may be adhered to because the operative word in the definition is "needs" and not "wants." To discover the needs of a community, which are as manifold as there are people in it, is in itself a formidable task. A programme, then, if there is to be one, is merely the best methods of exploitation by good technique, tactful advertisement, and a personal service which radiates willingness, and at the same time avoiding the many attempts that are made to harness the library to particular movements, shibboleths or partisanships.

Every local authority has the right to set up its own public library and it can readily be realised what a great power for public education this right gives. Few individuals can afford to purchase all the books necessary for a complete education. It is obvious, however, that if a group of people join together to buy books for their common use, the choice of each member of the group is widened, and therefore, the greater the membership of the group, the greater the selection of books available. We may readily conclude then, that the most efficient library will be the one set up by combined contributions of the whole of the community, and it is for this reason that the county as a Local Government unit was adopted as the most convenient basis for such an organisation. When you borrow books from a public library you are not borrowing from a collection privately owned by the County Council but from your own communally owned bookstore, just as though you went to a neighbour's house and borrowed from him—the main difference being that in public libraries, you are expected to return the books which were borrowed. The librarian and his staff are employed by you to look after your

books, and are always at your disposal to give you that guidance which their special training and experience has enabled them to dispense.

While the people of County Galway have, on the whole, the urge to read for pleasure and information, a certain amount of apathy is characteristic—due, one is afraid, to considering libraries as either a nuisance or a luxury. Whatever the apathetic and the pessimistic may say, there are people not only in the County Galway but everywhere eagerly reaching out for books which will inspiringly divert their thoughts to the duties of citizenship and to seek the explanations of national and world affairs on the doorstep of men's actual local interests.

Branch Libraries are in operation in Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Athenry and Tuam where readers borrow on an average 2,162, 1,131, 790 and 1,975 volumes each month respectively. In addition, collections of books varying from 50 volumes to 400 volumes are available at the following places: Woodlawn, Oranmore, Spiddal, Shragh, Woodford, Roundstone, Gort, Cladagh Dubh (Connemara), Renmore, Ballyglunin, Toureen, Brownsgrrove, Lettermore, Clydagh, Kinvara, Mullagh, Letterfrack, Ballygreaney Cumber, Eyrecourt, Menlough, Carraroe, in C.Y.M.S. Clubs, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, etc. At the County Library Headquarters in Galway there is available a Branch Library for the city and district in addition to a large collection of reference books, maps, prints, etc., for the use of students and other interested readers.

Librarians have always emphasised how largely the use that a person can make of his schooling depends on the efforts that he makes to build on that foundation by his own reading. It is equally true also that the use that a person can make of books is conditioned by the amount of training that his mind has received at school. When all the other factors that have stunted the growth of public library work have been given due weight, one must not forget that compulsory education was not introduced until twenty years after the first Public Libraries Act, and that even now the vast majority of boys and girls are deprived of outward mental discipline before they are old enough to pass on to the stage of self-discipline. Some teachers have struggled hard against adverse conditions to awaken a true love of knowledge in their pupils, and an understanding of the value of books, but the sudden break at fourteen years of age has undone much of their work. Thus our hopes of making lifelong library readers by "catching them young" has been largely frustrated, and in adult departments the percentage of readers to population has remained low. Even in the best library areas, the majority of the public have not used the excellent books provided because they have not been mentally prepared to benefit by them. Experience has shown, however, that a considerable section of the public tend to be responsive to the efforts of cultural agencies,

and all forms of continuation and adult education are promised increasing official support. We can, therefore, expect that in the years to come a larger proportion of the public will be prepared to do some worthwhile reading, provided that they are properly introduced to the books that are waiting to be read.

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 you require, 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, and, 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.

In the encouragement of readers along the path of self-education lies the hope of that democracy of thinking citizens which is so sorely needed. The library's part in the task will consist partly in seeing that the right books are available, but also in doing all it can to make effective the links between books and the readers who need them. There is scope, then, for the public library to function increasingly as an informal agency in its own right, but that is not to say that it can dismiss the question of co-operation with organised education. That adult students in the past have been greatly helped by the public library service it would be idle to deny, but it is plain enough that workers in this field are far from being satisfied with the service as it exists to-day, and that they will be the allies of the library in all efforts that are made to improve the status of public libraries on a national scale. Writing of the needs of adult education, Mr. H. C. Shearman (of the Workers' Educational Association) remarks: "It is a question whether a programme of library buildings and of provision of books is not indeed the first requirement—even before adult education institutes—and our deficiencies in this respect are too little realised and too seldom discussed." In view of current tendencies it is important to multiply small branch libraries so that people can easily obtain books. Thus an active and dynamic policy is clearly indicated but such a policy is limited at present by financial considerations.

Areas of Supply.

A relevant experiment of importance is here proposed: to reconcile the geography of the library service with population. The following towns form almost perfect areas of supply centres—

representing the old rural districts—and are in each case the Mecca of the people in rough semi-circles in districts ranging from three and a half to twelve miles. In each case the people of the area make frequent, and usually regular, visits to the centres of supply as represented by the ten main groups of population. Here and there these supply areas may overlap, but this would be to the public advantage as, in the proposed new service, they would be able to use either library or both. This topographical basis seems to be the best.

Area.	Population.
Ballinasloe Urban and Rural Districts ...	14,669
Galway Urban and Rural Districts (including the Aran Islands)	39,739
Clifden	11,673
Glenamaddy	9,768
Gort	9,374
Loughrea	18,115
Mount Bellew	11,014
Oughterard	13,687
Portumna	7,941
Tuam	29,216

The advantages claimed are: (1) the presence of a paid librarian in charge of a district in close touch with library centres in their neighbourhood would tend to stimulate interest in their library, especially in places distant from Galway; and (2) the district library as a Branch Library would have a wider selection of books than would be possible if they were merely a collection of small centres. While at present it would not be possible to increase the number of books, a wider selection would be possible by allowing more frequent whole or part exchange. The idea is to rent a building in a prominent position in a district, equipped with a staff enclosure of modern design, adequate up-to-date shelving, reference tables, etc.

Voluntary Service.

There will always be the question of the adequacy of the voluntary worker in any field. At the inception of most schemes the library movement, for example—enthusiasm is maintained from the sense of urgency and duty, but some of this enthusiasm is evaporating as is natural, after 24 years. There are, however, many uses for the volunteer in library activities, but one must realise the fact that work done without pay tends often to be unsatisfactory. The drawback to voluntary work is that it is rarely a main interest, and when family or social claims intervene the volunteer becomes to some extent unreliable.

Book Thefts.

A warning must be uttered about book thefts. For some reason or other it has always been the thought that it is a venial offence to steal books. If a library has no better influence upon a reader than to encourage him to steal its books then the reader ought to be driven out of the building and kept out. Who makes good these thefts? Honest people, always. The ratepayer must foot the bill for losses in the library. The loss is not restricted to the value of the books. The labour of buying, accessioning and cataloguing is wasted, too; and the heavy labour of looking everywhere for books when they cannot be found results in the loss of valuable time of the library staff. About fifteen per cent. of the books issued are kept out longer than the regulations permit and apart from the unscrupulous reader, loss and confusion are caused by borrowers exchanging books outside the library. Many books are also lost through the greed of readers. Borrowers grab at new books, and if they get a chance they will smuggle out, uncharged, more books than they are entitled to. Invariably, having run the risk of smuggling them out, they are unwilling to run it again to return them. The fact that books are smuggled out, and not technically stolen, makes no difference. The books are lost.

It is our duty to reduce the losses. We must face the facts that, although the present good registration and other administrative devices will reduce the losses, theft is not negligible. It tends to become heavier with the increase in the price of books. If open shelves are to remain, library authorities may find it necessary to employ a detective who can take a turn at all the libraries in the system. Theft cannot be allowed to continue. We have trusted the people and they have shown us that a substantial number of them are not to be trusted. Losses are not and should not be dismissed as negligible. It is idle to talk of the value of books, and to appear indifferent when we lose them. Books from all classes of literature are stolen. Blank fly-leaves at the beginnings and ends of books are ruthlessly torn out. Striking frontispieces and beautiful illustrations and engravings are detached. The crossword fiend, eager for prizes, has no scruples about filching a dictionary for permanent home use. Far from revering the books in a public library students often commit the heinous sin of wantonly tearing out long articles, written by celebrities, from expensive dictionaries and scarce historical works. A book lost in a train or omnibus is seldom returned. It is too much trouble to return it to a Garda station, a lost property office, or to the library. Some lost books, paradoxically, are not lost at all. Now and then small text-books are purloined by students and other respectable borrowers to save themselves the labour of lengthy copying, or for comparison with other books at home. Or, finding two very popular novels upon the

shelves, and being only legitimately allowed to borrow one on his ticket, a borrower sometimes surreptitiously pockets the other, takes it home, reads it, and circulates it among his friends. It frequently happens that many of these books reappear on the shelves after a long absence. Regarding this matter it is interesting to note that American libraries declare that a book missing is not lost. If it is being read by somebody, no matter who, it is not lost, even if it never appears again. One can hardly think that this spirit of plutocracy and oriental passivism will find much favour with Irish libraries.

What, then, is to be done? There are, of course, many difficulties. Inadequate staff and bad supervision, arising from an unsuitable building and lay-out, are two of the principal evils. It is manifestly impossible for an assistant or two, during rush hours, to issue or discharge books, total accounts, record statistics, catalogue books, or answer visitors' questions and, at the same time keep a hawk-like eye on possible delinquents. Must more stringent library legislation be formulated? In the United States the law sides with the library. Conviction follows upon almost every action brought to court, the fines and terms of imprisonment being very severe. Prompt, tactful and decisive action is necessary in Ireland too.

Cost of Books.

Librarians are interesting themselves in the question as to whether book prices are likely to come down when the conditions governing book production have become stabilised. There are two factors in the case: (1) that of the vastly increased competition among publishers; and (2) the question as to whether cheap money will continue. It is well-known that the number of book publishers has greatly increased since 1939, but it does not necessarily follow that all have come to stay. Casualties must follow as soon as the old established firms find themselves on the same favoured ground as the new firms. Due to the methods of the Paper Control Board the old established firms have had a serious grievance in war-time as their paper supplies were limited, the new firms on the other hand were in a position to get all the paper they wanted. While competition tends to increase, the limitation in paper supplies, the encouragement of the cheap money policy, and the shortage of labour and materials, will mean an increase rather than an appreciable reduction in prices of books. Compare eight shillings, the average cost of a book to-day with under five shillings in the early part of 1939.

Shortage of Books.

The position of students everywhere in regard to text-books, reference-books, works on technology and agriculture has long been a difficult one, as one has had to frequently deplore. It tends

to become desperate. The recent economy cuts in fuel have reduced production and now, it is learned from official sources that paper mills are to have the lowest coal priority. These books are scarce, and getting scarcer. "The Times," in a useful leading article, asserted that orders for books now commonly amount to four or five times the number printed. The shortage of labour in the binding trade creates a bottleneck which holds up most books, too. It concludes that the general situation warrants a new survey of available sources, so that they be augmented, with a larger allocation of more paper for text-books, reference-books, etc.

Some Tendencies of the Modern Novel.

It may not be out of place to quote from a recent article by Ignace Legrand—one of the leading authors of contemporary France: "It is the American novelists who have the ear and the favour of the literate public: Hemingway, Don Passos, Faulkner, and Henry Miller. These authors have, besides, exerted a great influence on many young writers . . . Undraped sexuality, ugly and coarse, holds a place in their writings for which, however enamoured of the whole truth one may be, one cannot always very well see the necessity. Optimism, a healthy and, I believe, a necessary idealism, is, on the other hand, less evident or not evident at all in all their novels and short stories . . . 'Hearts are not being worn any more' because they were considered too vulgar; . . . immorality considered a cardinal virtue; scorn for humanism, for moral and intellectual distinction, for sensibility, for pity, and so on. A good novel should be to the reader like the unforeseen discovery, the un hoped-for discovery, of a human person able to exalt and develop and expend his own personality on all planes. A novel should not, then, be mere literature, in the sense of a more or less brilliant play of wit by some lady or gentleman lucky enough to be able to sit down in comfort at their desks and write out a work of imagination. A novel should be the work of a real man or woman who, possessing an unquestionably original temperament and spirit, has really something to say to his or her brothers and sisters in mankind whom God or nature for their environment has favoured less. A true, a great novel, is not just a matter of literary procedure, of mere cleverness, of reflection of labour, even of talent. It is much more than that. It is a moment never yet lived or reproduced by the thought or the heart or the conscience of man."

In conclusion one may say that if the public library is to play its proper part in additional cultural, social and educational activities it will have to be realised that large-scale organisation and adequate financial provision will be required.

It is interesting to note that the cost per head of the population for the library service amounts to 5½d., representing 1·1d. in the £ on the rates.

103. Theft of Books.—Resolved:—

"That the question of providing the services of a plain-clothes Garda during rush hours in the County Library Headquarters be taken up with the Garda authorities."

104. Alteration of Enclosure and re-arrangement of book stacks.—Resolved:—

"That the views of the County Surveyor be obtained relative to the feasibility of removing the enclosure from its present position to the centre of the main room and re-arranging the book stack radially from the enclosure."

105. Application to Government for Grants.—Resolved:—

"That application be made to Government for a grant or grants, if such be available, for the erection of a modern public library, museum, art gallery and Gaelic Theatre in one building."

106. Library Centre in Nurses' Home.—Resolved:—

"That a Library Centre be established in the Nurses' Home at the Central Hospital."

(Minutes Nos. 100 to 106 inclusive).

P. Flynn

6/IX/1947.

COMAIRTE CONNDÁE NA GAILLIMHE
 LEABARLAINNA CONNDÁE NA GAILLIMHE
 COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES

COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS,
 GALWAY,

30th August, 1947.

A CHARA,

A meeting of the County Libraries Committee will be held on Saturday next, the 6th day of September, 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:—

3. Minutes of the last Meeting.
4. Donations.
5. Reports to date.
6. Centres.
7. 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.

A.P.W.CO.LTD.

1. Election of Chairman.
2. Vice Chairman.

Galway County Council

(CO. LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT.)

MINUTES
 OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF A

QUARTERLY MEETING

HELD ON

Saturday, the 6th day of Sept.,

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Athlone Printing Works Co. Ltd.

Tomas mac an Ríog
 6-12-47

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**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING
OF THE COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES COMMITTEE HELD
ON SATURDAY, THE 6TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1947.**

Present :—County Councillor James Brennan, County Councillor M. Carty, N.T. ; County Councillor P. J. Colleran, County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T. ; the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A. ; County Councillor Thomas King, County Councillor M. Kitt, N.T. ; County Councillor M. Quinn, Chairman of the County Council ; and Urban Councillor M. Keane.

Chairman of the Meeting :—County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, Chairman.

107.—CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1947/'48.—It was proposed by County Councillor Brennan, seconded by County Councillor King, and Resolved :—

“ That the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn be elected Chairman of the Committee for the year 1947/'48.”

108. VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1947/'48.—It was proposed by Councillor Keane, seconded by County Councillor Brennan, and Resolved :—

“ That County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T., be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the year 1947/'48. ”

109. 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.”

110. DONATIONS.—Resolved :—

“ That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors of Reports and Bulletins : The Bermondsey Public Libraries, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, the Cavan County Library, the Wexford County Library, and the City of Leicester Public Libraries.”

111. BALLINASLOE BRANCH.—It was proposed by Councillor Keane, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and Resolved :—

“ That the following persons be elected to act as the Ballinasloe Local Library Committee : (1) Father Cummins, A.D.M. ; (2) the local Rector ; (3) Mr. Thomas Derham ; (4) Mr. W. Dunne ; (5) The Rev. P. K. Egan, B.A. ; (6)

Councillor M. Keane; (7) Mr. Patrick Molloy, N.T.; (8) Mr. Nicholas O'Carroll; (9) Mr. Patrick O'Donnell; (10) Mr. William Parker; (11) Councillor A. Staunton; and (12) Mr. W. J. Ward."

It was proposed by Councillor Keane, seconded by County Councillor Cunningham, and Resolved:—

"That the County Manager be requested to consider (a) the provision of lavatory accommodation at the Ballinasloe Branch Library, (b) the painting of the walls and the re-covering of the library table with rexine."

112. LOUGHREA BRANCH LIBRARY.—It was proposed by Councillor Keane, seconded by County Councillor Carty, and Resolved:—

"That the following persons be elected to act as the Loughrea Local Library Committee: (1) Mr. P. J. Barry, M.P.S.I.; (2) The Reverend Brother Basil; (3) County Councillor M. Carty, N.T.; (4) Mrs. W. J. Duffy; (5) The Reverend P. G. Egan, P.P.; (6) Father Murphy, Adm.; (7) Mr. R. J. Lee; (8) the Reverend J. J. Madden, P.P.; and (9) Mr. M. O'Regan, *was Mr. Mc Guinness, N.T.; Mr. V. Jordan*

It was proposed by Councillor Keane, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and Resolved:—

"That as the County Libraries Committee pay an all-in rent for the room in the Loughrea Temperance Hall used as a Branch Library the County Manager be requested to compel the Trustees of the Hall to paint the walls and woodwork of the room."

113. TUAM BRANCH LIBRARY.—It was proposed by County Councillor Coleran, seconded by County Councillor Cunningham, and Resolved:—

"That the following persons be elected to act as the Tuam Local Library Committee: (1) Father Killeen, Adm.; (2) Mr. Jarlath O'Connell; (3) Mr. Jarlath Burke; (4) Miss Nuala Costello; (5) Mr. Mark Killalea, T.D.; (6) Mr. J. Coughlan; (7) Mr. P. Brennan; (8) The Reverend Brother McKenna; (9) Mr. Collery; (10) the Reverend Mr. Jackson, Rector; (11) Mr. M. Cahill; (12) Mr. P. Purcell, N.T.; (13) Mr. W. J. Concannon, L.L.B.; (14) Mr. Liam Hanrahan, N.T.; and (15) Mr. M. Mannion, N.T."

NOTED.—The County Librarian's report on the completion of the work by the contractor at the Tuam Branch Library, and the necessity for adjusting the lights over the book stacks.

114. ATHENRY BRANCH LIBRARY — NOTED. — The Co. Librarian's report that the Athenvry Branch Library remains closed pending the appointment of a Branch Librarian.

115. CENTRES.—The County Librarian reported that since the last meeting centres are in operation in the following places: The Agricultural College, Athenry; Auglora, Brackloon, Ballyglunin, Browns Grove, Ballygreaney, Cladagh Dubh, Clydagh, Cummer, C.Y.M.S. Branches, Carraroe, Carnmore, Eyrecourt, Gort, Irish Countrywomen's Associations, Kilasolan, Lettermore, Letterfrack, Mullagh, Menlough, Ballinasloe; Mental Hospital, Ballinasloe; Nurses' Home, Central Hospital; Oranmore, Roundstone, Renmore, Redemptorist College, Spiddal, Shragh, Kinvara, Tureen, Tuam, Woodlawn and Woodford.

NOTED.—The County Librarian's report on the centres in operation.

116. REQUESTS TO THE COUNTY MANAGER.—It was proposed by County Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor Keane, and Resolved:—

"That the County Librarian be instructed to request the County Manager to accelerate the sanction to the increase granted by him to Mr. Edward Griffin, and to request that he reconsider the salary scale for Senior Library Assistants relative to the new scale fixed by him for Junior Assistants."

117. COUNTY LIBRARIAN'S REVIEW.—Resolved:—

"That the County Librarian's review and list of books recommended be approved:—

The use of books for home-reading, which is the most important of all the ways in which a public library can be of service, continues to grow. The increased needs of the individual for books, so noticeable during the war, shows little sign of flagging in these times of international uncertainty.

There is a widespread idea that people in agricultural areas do not need the same kind of books that are required in more affluent, leisured, suburban or industrial districts. This is not borne out by experience or statistical facts. The truth is that with the spread of education and opportunity, and the quickening of public interests, there is no difference whatever between the needs of one community and another. 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. The circumstance of a man living in town or country, or that he earns £5 or £15 a week has no relation whatever to his reading interests. Accordingly the Library Scheme provides a supply of books as wide and generous as can be obtained within its financial limits, and this policy is amply justified by results.

But what the Library Service is concerned about is that about 48% of the people of the country make use of the store of interest, education and recreation provided. It is true that the remaining

52% include children too young to read, others too old or infirm, and some who have never learned to read; but the fact remains that many thousands of persons either do not know what the Libraries can offer, or are too indifferent to do anything about it. It seems incredible that any household can neglect such opportunities for interest and the general fun of life available to every member of the family; but thousands do just that very thing.

SOME RECENT ADDITIONS.—Edmund Blunden in his new biography of *Shelley* has contrived to be just and balanced and he is not antagonised by the poet's temperament as have been some earlier biographers. He has managed to stress, more than has been customary, the normal elements of Shelley's life. L. P. Stebbings and R. P. Stebbings, in the *Trollopes*, deal with Anthony, the novelist, and Frances, his mother, and place them in relation to their family. The study has much of interest, though it has many insinuations, and its mood is almost hostile. In *Herman Melville*, Ellery Sedgwick, a young American scholar, whose death is a great loss, makes a brilliant study which goes beyond *Moby Dick* and explores the whole of Melville. Richard Aldington has edited the *Selected Works of Oscar Wilde*, with an introduction. He places his emphasis rightly on Wilde's work, although it may be felt that he does not sufficiently realise its wit and gaiety and how those two gifts were part of the happier side of his personality.

The war has made us polyglot. Galway men and women have served in many countries and people of other nations have lived and are living here. This has resulted in an interest in works on foreign literatures.

There have been added to the Libraries a number of volumes of miscellaneous studies and essays. E. A. Peers in *St. John of the Cross* collects his lectures on Spanish Literature which extend from the 13th to the 20th century. New commentary on the art of fiction is to be found in Phyllis Bentley's *Some Observations on the Art of Narrative*, and in John Lehmann's symposium, *New Writing and Daylight*. Finally in this section may be noted V. de Sola Pinto's editorship of a lively group of essays on the *Teaching of English in Schools*.

In poetry a striking volume which shows the achievement of the younger writers is John Lehmann's *Poems from New Writing, 1936-1946*, a collection of some of the poems that have appeared under his editorship. Sir Shane Leslie's *Poems from the North* have, in contrast with the work of these younger writers, the directness of a ballad. Oliver St. J. Gogarty's *Perennial* adds to his reputation as a poet who has a sense of tradition and a philosophy that he has made very individually his own. Among collections from earlier writers may be noted the Earl of Longford's *More Poems from the Irish*, which makes a further selection of Irish Bardic Poetry of the thirteenth and following centuries.

A number of books about the theatre are available. W. J. McQueen Pope, in *Theatre Royal, Drury Lane*, gives the history of "the greatest theatre in the world," and considers its changes from serious acting to "variety." All who enjoy ballet will find matter of interest in C. W. Beaumont, in the *Sadler's Wells Ballet*, in which he gives a detailed account of the Sadler's Wells ballets. *This Thing Called Ballet*, by George Borodinn, deals with the history and theory of the ballet.

Some general volumes on art are to be noticed. A notable new feature has been the Faber Gallery, with volumes on *Botticelli*, *Manet*, and *Dutch Indoor Subjects*. Mrs. E. Rothenstein has introduced a collection of *Stanley Spencer*, with nearly one hundred admirably produced illustrations.

Outstanding among a number of autobiographies and memoirs of contemporary figures are Keith Feiling's *Life of Neville Chamberlain*, a kindly portrait, though with attempts at objectivity, and Alan Moorehead's *Montgomery*, a frank and courageous picture. Trevor Evan's *Bevin*, is an attempt at portraiture and interpretation of a figure still in the middle of the field of action, with its most revealing pages on Earnest Bevin's early and struggling days.

D. Creston's *In Search of Two Characters* gives a study of Napoleon I and his son and is particularly effective in its analysis of character, and of its determination. E. Sanceau, in *Henry the Navigator*, gives a well documented account of Infante Dom Henrique of Portugal, who encouraged exploration without ever being himself a navigator. R. L. Green's *Andrew Lang* has very little biographical material, but gives an ample account of his works. Of outstanding interest here is the *Scarlet Tree*, the second volume of Sir O. Sitwell's autobiography. With this may be put *Siegfried's Journey*, in which Siegfried Sassoon gives a further section of his autobiography and deals with the years 1916-'20. *The Letters of Alexander Woolcott*, edited by Beatrice Kaufmann and Joseph Hennessey, are the record of a great American wit, best known in Great Britain and Ireland as the author of *The Man who Came to Dinner* and *While Rome Burns*. Sir Philip Gibbs records part of his career and travels in the *Pageant of the Years*. *Wars I Have Seen* is Gertrude Stein's mainly personal reflections on her life in France during the German occupation. *The Merry Wives of Westminster* is Mrs. B. Lowndes' description of early Edwardian days when society was still leisurely and genially, and includes an interesting picture of the literary society of those days. An impressive career of a different type is recorded in the semi-official account of that apostle of individualism, *Henry Ford*, by W. A. Simmonds.

Among literary remains and memoirs is David Mathew's *Acton: The Formative Years*. Bishop Mathew studies the first twenty years of Acton's life in an objective manner, and gives

the whole background of his reading, the width of his contacts, and the fundamental judgements which his history has established.

There has been an interest in the quality and variety of historical works which are recommended. A. L. Rowse introduces a new series with an essay on *The Use of History*. In this he maintains that "the prime, though not the only, use of history is that it enables you to understand better than any other discipline the public events and trends of our own time." In *Diplomatic History* (1713-1933) Sir C. Petrie gives a general but complete impression. An outstanding work is Harold Nicholson's *Congress of Vienna*, which deals with an historical conference. The author has had considerable experience of the working of international conferences at the present time, and though parallels are not stressed, they are none the less apparent. Maxwell's *History of Trinity College, Dublin* (1591-1892) is a compact account with many memorable personalities and incidents recorded since the foundation in 1591 by Queen Elizabeth.

The pace at which current events move can be seen in J. Hersey's *In Hiroshima*, where he gives a moving and widely-read account of the effects of the atom bomb on Japan. Salvador de Madariaga in *Victors Beware*, gives a warning that the west is betraying itself. It is the same theme of disintegration of Western Civilisation and the destruction of its values that Colin Brogan explores in the *Democrat at the Breakfast Table*. Victor Gollancz in *Leaving them to Their Fate*, makes a plea for the adequate feeding of Germany. J. H. Warner, in the *English Local Government System*, emphasises the importance of Local Government and outlines the present administration. *The Dark Side of the Moon*, with a preface by T. S. Elliot, gives a personal narrative of the Poles in Siberia. Paul Winterton, in his *Report on Russia*, bases his work on his residence in the country from 1942-1945. Bishop Mathew's *Ethiopia* gives a systematic historical survey of the country.

Among works on economics and politics there are a number which reflect the different economic problems of the modern world. A. C. Pigou, in *An Introduction to Economics*, published a series of lectures of an introductory character. K. E. Boulding in *The Economics of Peace*, explores the national and international implications of "full-employment."

Outstanding among the philosophical works is that of M. R. C. Shaw, the American philosopher, in *A Preface to Logic*, in which he states his conception of the place of formal logic in modern thought. Mediaeval philosophy has not received much attention in English, so a welcome can be given to Dr. Arthur Ryan's *The Perennial Philosophers*. Aldous Huxley, in *The Perennial Philosophy*, gives an anthology and a commentary in which a vast number of texts on philosophy are examined. For many

readers Huxley's study will be marred by his harsh and disparaging comments on Christianity, and should be read after Dr. Ryan's admirable work.

The centenary of Cardinal Newman's conversion was commemorated by *John Henry Newman: Centenary Essays*, and *A Tribute to Newman*, edited by Professor Michael Tierney. The two volumes cover together all aspects of Newman's work, faith and personality. Mgr. Ronald A. Knox has prepared a fresh translation of *The New Testament* from the Vulgate. The translation is made officially for study and use alongside the standard Rheims version of 1582.

There remains the difficult task of giving some picture of the multifarious work in fiction available. A great distinction is attached to *A Woman of the Pharisees*, by Francois Mauriac, translated by Gerald Hopkins. This is a skilful portrayal of characterisation by a French writer of Catholic affinities. The portrait of Brigitte Pain, the main character, is powerfully conceived and her hypocrisy, all the more formidable because it is unconscious, lives as a vision from the book. The war figures in one way or another as the background of a number of novels. Edith Pargeter's *Reluctant Odyssey* is a remarkable novel of the Libyan campaign and the Singapore surrender. Historical novels have occupied an important place in the year's output. C. S. Forester's *Lad Hornblower* follows a character and setting in which he has already displayed his considerable narrative gifts. Seawarfare is his theme and the Napoleon conflict his period. Kate O'Brien, in *That Lady*, has written a distinguished novel based on the hypothetical relations of Anna de Mendoza, Princess of Eboli, and Antonio Perez, secretary to Phillip II of Spain. Oliver Onions, in *Poor Man's Tragedy*, turns to the period of the Wars of the Roses. Jane Lane, in *His Fight is Ours*, builds her story on Glencoe and its people between 1715-1745. The main problem she explores is why the clans rose to Prince Charlie. A number of other novels have their settings in various countries. E. Hall chooses an Australian theme for the romantic novel, *My Love Must Wait*, which has an eighteenth-century background. George Blake, in *The Westering Sun*, writes again of the Clyde.

The contemporary scene and the life of England during the last hundred years still occupy a number of writers. J. B. Priestley, in *Bright Day*, uses again the factor of time and sends a middle-aged man back to the period before the war of 1914. Howard Spring, in *Dunkerleys*, continues the theme of *Hard Facts* with a portrait of the world of newspapers and publishing and the contrast of London and the provinces. Olivia Robertson uses the slums of Dublin as her setting in *St. Malachy's Court*, much of which is direct reportage. Rosamond Lehmann's *The Gipsy's Baby* records life as seen by children with most convincing imagination. Finally, there are some novels which cannot be easily classified. Somewhere in the borderland of theology and fiction must be placed

C. S. Lewis's *The Great Divorce*, which is a fantasy of the future life. The grotesque and the "gothic" certainly dominate Mervyn Peake's gigantic novel *Titus Groan*. There are reprints of Katherine Mansfield's *Collected Stories* and of Lord Tweedsmuir's verse, history and fiction issued as *The Clearing House*.

118. SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—Resolved:—

"That the following report on School Libraries submitted by the County Librarian be adjourned for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee; and that copies be circulated each member with the Agenda for the December meeting:—

The importance of the school library as a factor in the national library service cannot be underestimated. The school library is obviously from one point of view a part of the school and therefore an educational problem. It is concerned with the provision of a library service for every child and adult in the land. This service is provided through many channels, of which school libraries are only one. We are concerned with children from the earliest reading ages to the end of adolescence, and their needs are met in many ways, all of which must be co-ordinated if the service is to be comprehensive. There is a strong case for all different types of service to be interwoven in a single organisation.

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 Eire, analogous 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. 6d. 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 toward 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.

119. NEW PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL.—Resolved:—

"That when the draft of the Bill be available, the County Librarian is hereby instructed to call, if necessary, a special meeting of the County Libraries Committee to consider the Public Libraries Bill, 1947.

Order made on 11.12.47
6-12-47

comhairle conndae na Gaillimhe
 Leabharlanna Conndae na Gaillimhe
 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.

A.P.W. CO. LTD.

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GOI/5/3 (P114)

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 dis-

Book Prices.

While it is admitted in these days of limited paper stocks that the publisher has to be certain of a return for his outlay, it is hard to understand the tendency to issue books the whole edition of which he knows will be sold at enhanced prices. Reprints of standard books do take place and good non-fiction works are published, but in small editions that are not likely to remain on the publisher's hands, and again at high prices. Material reward and literature may be permitted to reside side by side, but far too frequently the cakes and beer go to the men who write and those who distribute solely for - cakes and beer. Their return is out of all proportion to their contribution. In reality, they traffic in literature just as much as the black marketeer traffics in commodities in short supply. In the realm of industry the flashy, the ill-designed, the badly-constructed is not boosted. In the sphere of book production, however, the badly-constructed and the generally shoddy publications, masquerading as literature, is most certainly boosted, and at a price out of all proportion to its worth. The recent information that it is necessary for publishers to increase the price of books by a further 15 per cent is not justified. Economics, with the view of keeping prices at present levels, if not in fact to reduce them, can be met by the obvious practical immediate step of cutting drastically the output of books of sentimental drivel and violence. This does not mean that the sentimental and the violent should go from literature, but simply that they should be given their proper place certainly not at the expense of serious literature and at such uncalled for high prices.

trict, 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 populations 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 ~~xxxxxx~~ 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