

	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters	9,201	14,679	4,226	28,106
Ballinasloe	992	2,247	237	3,476
Loughrea	589	2,014	232	2,835
Tuam	783	2,119	301	3,203
Glenamaddy	501	734	207	1,442
Spiddal	128	644	226	998
Portunna	229	1,760	231	2,220
Oughterard	91	599	135	825
Moylough	57	521	97	675
Centres	917	15,369	5,253	21,539
Totals	13,488	40,686	11,145	65,319
Percentages	20.6	62.3	17.1	100.0

It was proposed by County Councillor M. Carty, seconded by J. Hoban, and resolved: That the County Librarian be congratulated on his report; and that the report be adopted.

**260—The Library Association of Ireland:** Before considering the matters arising out of the Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland the County Librarian pointed out that the Library Association of Ireland was now a Chartered body and as such is the only organization empowered to speak on behalf of the Library Profession in Ireland. Today almost anyone can be a member of any public library and there are few restrictions on the borrowing of books. Many of the changes which the public library has undergone are due to the yearly meetings held by the Association. At these conferences librarians and representatives of Library Authorities gather to exchange ideas on services being offered and those to be offered. Since its formation hundreds of ideas have been brought up at the Association for discussion, experimented with, and either discarded or used. The progress made in the Libraries of Ireland attests to the value of the organization.

It was proposed by County Councillor M. Kitt, seconded by J. Hoban, and resolved: That a full and complete Hospital Library Service for all public hospitals, financed by the Central Government and administered through the Public Libraries, be established:

Resolved—That any School Library Service provided by the Library Authorities should be financed by grant by the Department of Education to the Library Authorities, and that the present system of School Libraries should not be considered as a satisfactory permanent substitute for a proper School Library Service:

Resolved—That the Public Libraries Act, 1947, be amended so as to give adequate representation to practising Librarians on the Library Council.  
(Minutes Nos. 256 to 260 inclusive).

*Michael Glynn  
26th July, 1952.*

Minutes of the Proceedings of a Quarterly Meeting held on Saturday, the 13th day of September, 1952.

**Present:** Alderman Miss M. A. Ashe, County Councillor; County Councillor M. Carty, N.T.; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, County Councillor P. T. Galvin, County Councillor Sean Glynn, Michael Gohery, N.T.; James Hoban, N.T.; County Councillor T. King, County Councillor M. F. Kitt, N.T.; John Moroney, N.T.; Frank Mullan, N.T.; Jarlath A. O'Connell, Town Commissioner; County Councillor M. Quinn, and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

**Apologies:** Intimations of their inability to attend were received from Sean Donnellan, N.T.; the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A., V.F. (Chairman); the Reverend M. McDonough, M.A.; and Tadhg O'Shea, B.A., N.T.

**Chairman of the Meeting:** County Councillor J. J. Cunningham.

**274.—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.

**275.—Donations:** Resolved: that the following donors be tendered the Committee's thanks:—  
The U.S.A. Government Information Service, Dublin: *New York Times* and *New York Herald Tribune* (European Edition);  
Clare County Library: *Annual Report, 1952-53*;  
The Hospital Library Council, Dublin: *Annual Reports, 1950 and 1951*.

**276.—Reports of the County Librarian:** The County Librarian submitted his reports:—  
*The School Library*, a pamphlet issued by H.M.S.O., contains a foreword by Miss Florence Horsbrugh, British Minister of Education, in which she writes: "It may be said of books, even more truly than of films and broadcasts, that they are 'the golden key' that opens the enchanted door." The pamphlet continues: "Boys and girls want books of quality and substance to match the growth of their own powers and their own imagination. Homes and friends can be of help, and so can public and county libraries, but school libraries can help most of all... The reading problem is confined to no particular kind of school and no school is exempt from the responsibility of facing it. The importance of books in our civilization is such that it is the duty of every school to make sure that, whatever else a pupil learns, he learns to make the fullest use of books to the extent that his age and abilities allow... A start cannot be made too soon in order that children may grow up with the companionship of books as far back as they can."

*20. 12. 52*

for home reading for the past ten weeks :—

	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters	3,873	6,197	1,771	11,841
Ballinasloe	122	381	47	550
Loughrea	74	342	28	444
Tuam	162	358	52	572
Glenamaddy	84	127	34	245
Spiddal	23	108	40	171
Portumna	41	297	47	385
Oughterard	16	111	24	151
Moylough	13	105	18	136
Athenry	11	81	13	105
Woodford	13	99	21	133
Centres	123	2,051	717	2,891
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,555</b>	<b>10,257</b>	<b>2,812</b>	<b>17,624</b>

It was proposed by Councillor Kitt, seconded by Councillor Cunningham and Resolved : That the County Librarian's reports be adopted.

**277.—The Galway Reader :** It was proposed by M. Gohery, seconded by F. Mullan, and Resolved : That the printer of *The Galway Reader* be called upon to issue the work at once.

**278.—Mr. Edward Griffin :** The County Librarian reported that the County Manager had declined to increase Mr. Edward Griffin's remuneration.

It was proposed by Councillor Quinn, seconded by J. A. O'Connell, and Resolved : That we unanimously request the County Manager to reconsider his decision refusing an increase in the salary of Mr. Edward Griffin.

**279.—An Gúm :** It was proposed by Councillor Kitt, seconded by Councillor Cunningham and Resolved : That all future publications by *An Gúm* be in the new script and that a greater issue of books be published by that body in Irish.

**280.—Encyclopaedia Britannica :** It was proposed by Councillor Quinn, seconded by Councillor Galvin, and Resolved : It be recommended to the County Manager that three sets of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* be purchased for reference use at the Ballinasloe, Loughrea and Tuam Branches. respectively.

**281.—Galway Art Club :** The County Librarian submitted the following letter received from the Galway Art Club :—

“ At the General Annual Meeting of the Galway Art Club it was proposed and seconded that a recommendation be made to the County Galway Library Committee to provide a fund of at least £50 per annum to be used towards the buying of paintings, drawings, etc., and so form a collection of works of Art for the proposed Galway Art Gallery.

“ In the proposition it was mentioned that £50 be taken as a minimum amount but even with that sum quite a respectable fund or collection could be built up with the passage of years.

“ In the interest of Art in Galway and as a token towards the proposed Art Gallery I hope that your Committee will seriously consider this proposal.

Yours, etc.,

JOHN MULHERN (*Hon. Pres.*)”

It was proposed by J. A. O'Connell, seconded by M. Carty, and Resolved : That consideration of the letter received from the Galway Art Club be adjourned to the next meeting of the Committee.

**282.—Purchase of Reprints :** It was proposed by J. Hoban, seconded by Councillor Ruane, and Resolved : That this Committee recommend the purchase of Reprints—a list of which we have examined—to the amount of £420 to replace Adult Fiction and Juvenile popular works now worn out.

**283.—Memorandum on future developments :** The County librarian submitted the headings of a memorandum on the future development of the Library Service which he is preparing. Resolved : That the County Librarian be authorized to prepare a memorandum on the headings submitted, have it printed and circulated to the members for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

**284.—Votes of condolence :** Resolved : “ That the Committee's sympathy be tendered the Chairman of the County Council on the death of his sister ; and the relatives of the late Canon Cunningham, a member for many years of this Committee.

(Minutes 274 to 284 inclusive).

Minutes of Proceedings of a Quarterly Meeting held on Saturday, the 20th of December, 1952.

**Present:** County Councillor Michael Carty, N.T.; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham (Vice-chairman), County Councillor Sean Glynn, Michael Gohery, N.T.; James Hoban, N.T.; County Councillor Thomas King, County Councillor M. F. Kitt, N.T.; Frank Mullan, N.T.; Town Commissioner Jarlath A. O'Connell, County Councillor Martin Quinn and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

**Chairman of the Meeting:** County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, Vice-Chairman.

**285.—Minutes of the last Meeting:** It was proposed by M. Gohery, seconded by J. J. Hoban, and Resolved: That the Minutes of the last meeting, circulated each member, be taken as read; and that they be signed.

**286.—Donations:** It was proposed by J. A. O'Connell, seconded by J. J. Cunningham, and Resolved: That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors:—U.S.A. Government Information Bureau, Dublin: (1) *The New York Times* (daily), (2) *The New York Herald Tribune* (daily), (3) *Life's Picture History of Western Man* and (4) 26 pamphlets—*U.S. Presidential Election*.

Professor J. Mitchell, Secretary and Registrar, University College, Galway: *Calendar and Syllabus of the U.C.G., 1952-1953*.

The Electricity Supply Board: *Annual Report, 1952*.

The City Librarian, Wigan: *Annual Report of the Wigan Public Libraries, 1951-1952*.

The Association of Secretaries in Commerce, London: *The Commercial Secretary*.

The Oxford University Press: *Catalogue, 1952*.

Muintir na Tíre: *Rural Ireland, 1952-1953*.

The Federation of British Industries, London: *F.B.I. Directory, 1952-1953*.

T. Kelly, F.R.C.V.S. of I.: 7 volumes of fiction.

Frank Curran, Esq., Shantalla, Galway: *Agreement*: John Kennedy with Francis Shawe Taylor for the sole right of fishing on the Kilcolgan River, dated 13th September, 1894.

**287.—The County Librarian's Reports:** It was proposed by County Councillor J. J. Ruane, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and Resolved: That the County Librarian's Reports be adopted:—

"Since the last meeting Branch Libraries have been opened at Carraroe, Killimor and Abbeyknockmoy.

"The roster of Branch Libraries approved by the County Manager for the year ending the 31st March, 1953, remains incomplete. The Branches at Clifden and Dunmore remain to be opened;

Thomas Mac an  
7/2/57

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 7th DAY OF MARCH, 1953.

**Present:**—Alderman Miss M. A. Ashe, County Councillor Michael Carty, N.T.; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham (Vice-Chairman); Sean Donnellan, N.T.; County Councillor P. T. Galvin; the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A., V.F. (Chairman); County Councillor Sean Glynn; Michael Gohery, N.T.; James Hoban, N.T.; County Councillor Thomas King; County Councillor M. F. Kitt, N.T.; the Reverend M. McDonough, M.A.; John Moroney, N.T.; Frank Mullan, N.T.; Town Commissioner Jarlath A. O'Connell; County Councillor Martin Quinn; and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

**Chairman of the Meeting:**—County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, Vice-Chairman, and subsequently the Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A., V.F., Chairman.

**283.—Minutes of the last meeting:**—It was proposed by M. Gohery, seconded by S. Donnellan, and Resolved: That the Minutes of the last meeting, circulated each member, be taken as read; and that they be signed.

**Public Donations:**—It was proposed by County Councillor M. Carty, seconded by F. Mullan, and Resolved: that the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors:—Mr. J. Murphy, Esq., County Librarian, Lismore: "The Warped Plough and Forrow"; Miss Eileen Power, M.A., Librarian, U.C., Dublin: *Catalogue of an Exhibition of Books in Connection with the Newman Centenary, 1852-1952*; The United States Government Information Service, Dublin: "Printings from America," by John Walker; "Children's Books around the world": a selected list; "United States Industrial Design"; "The New York Times"; "The New York Herald Tribune" (European Editions); and 24 volumes on Egyptology; The Association of Secretaries in Commerce, London: "The Commercial Secretary," No. 8; The County Librarian, Essex: Copy of the "25th Annual Report"; Wesley C. Keir, Esq., San Francisco, U.S.A.: 6 back numbers of "The National Geographic Magazine"; M. McCabe, Esq., County Librarian, Monaghan: *Annual Report*; The Bibliographical Society of Ireland: *Annual Reports*; Frank Curran, Esq., Shantalla, Galway: Autographs: Mrs. Wyse Power and Edward Martyn, Tullira.

**285.—Annual Reports:**—It was proposed by County Councillor M. Carty, seconded by Town Commissioner J. A. O'Connell, and Resolved: That the County Librarian's Annual Report be adopted; and that the committee tender their congratulations on the subjects and format of the work.

6/2/1953.

Patrick Glynn

and the difficulty in obtaining suitable premises at a reasonable rent in Gort is still unresolved. Copies of a map showing the location of the centres in operation, or approved, is before the meeting.

The County Manager has written *inter alia* that "the Libraries Committee should have due regard to the areas that are still unserved (by Branch Libraries) and the priorities of the claims of such areas. If the Committee submits its recommendations to me, I shall be pleased to give full consideration to them and to give effect to such recommendations as I can approve if and when the necessary funds are made available by the Galway County Council."

"7,174 volumes were delivered to Branches and Centres since the last meeting:—Ballinasloe 624; Loughrea 354; Tuam 280; Glenamaddy 157; Spiddal 240; Portumna 326; Oughterard 212; Moylough 335; Athenry 220; Woodford 300; Killimor 900; Carraroe 719; Abbeyknockmoy 870; Centres 1,637.

Total 7,174.

"2,000 volumes are being rebound; and 1,000 discarded books were supplied to the Regional Sanatorium, Merlin Park, Galway.

"The books issued for home reading amounted to 61,000 volumes:—

	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters	4,047	18,573	2,883	25,503
Ballinasloe	3,301	3,032	603	6,936
Loughrea	2,914	2,893	466	6,273
Tuam	1,369	2,328	588	4,285
Glenamaddy	277	1,401	113	1,791
Spiddal	240	756	147	1,143
Portumna	129	1,398	675	2,202
Oughterard	96	1,419	162	1,677
Moylough	906	1,545	570	3,021
Athenry	93	776	171	1,040
Woodford	251	660	211	1,122
Centres	399	3,669	1,939	6,007
	14,022	38,450	8,528	61,000

"It may be seen that the books read consisted of 23% of Non-Fiction; 63% of Fiction; and 14% of Juvenile Works.

"Each volume was read on an average 8.5 times.

"The following extracts from the *Scottish Council for Education Report on the Libraries of Scotland* are of interest:—

'The task of the reformer in libraries as elsewhere is never easy. He has to contend with people who have different visions and with others who have no vision at all. He has to contend with the suspicion and possibly the opposition of those who have

already achieved something in the field and are very well content with the results of their labours. He has to try somehow to give his ideals practical shape, and fit them comfortably into the social structure. He is almost certain to cause resentment by interfering with vested interests. Above all he has an incurable habit of asking for more money.'

'We recommend accordingly that so far as it is geographically possible an equal and full provision of library service be made throughout Scotland, and that this provision should be suited to all ages, capacities and interests.'

'Rapidly as the public library system has developed in this country, it has not taken such a hold nor played such a part in national life as its sponsors hoped and foretold. On the contrary, very many children leave school without any urge to continue their education or broaden their interests by the greatest single instrument open and available to every individual in the community, namely the public library service. We suggest that this points to some serious defect in library methods or in educational methods or both. It is not good enough to teach children to read, to make books available, even to visit libraries and have library periods in schools, and then hope for the best.'

'We have suggested (above) that a special effort be made in the school to create a book interest and habit in pupils who leave school at the end of the compulsory period. The problem *thereafter* becomes one for the librarian, who will find all his ingenuity and resources taxed in trying to preserve this habit and interest in that most difficult of all constituencies, the young workers from fifteen to eighteen years of age.'

'... Regarded as possessions, books belong far less to the legal owner who holds them as property than to the person who can use or profit by them. The reader most truly "possesses" the book who has mastered what the author has sought to convey. Therefore, the legal ownership of the bookstock is of as little consequence as the title deeds of the library building.'

#### "The Galway Reader."

"The manuscript of *The Galway Reader* is still in the hands of the printer. On the instruction of the Committee letters asking to have the work completed have on several occasions been sent to the printer.

#### Care of and Prompt Return of Books.

"The value to readers of the book stock can be greatly augmented by the mobility of the stock. A slow rate of stock turnover at Branches and Centres is likely to present a dull selection of books for the general reader and result in a lack of interest on the part of borrowers. The physical condition of stock is likely to deteriorate because of the non-return of books at the appropriate

time for re-binding, repair or discard, and because of the tendency to overwork the popular choices. The careful handling of books by readers is stressed, and the attention of Branch Libraries and of those in charge of Centres is drawn to this important subject.

**Disinfection of Books.**

“Are Books carriers of disease? This problem is again under discussion in professional journals. Our regulations require a borrower in whose house there may be a case of infectious disease to notify the fact to the sub-sanitary officer whose duty is in turn to collect the book for disinfection. In Scotland, on the other hand, there is no legal necessity for disinfecting books that may have been in contact with an infectious disease. The Leicester Public Libraries have been investigating whether the disinfection of library books used by scarlet fever patients prevented the spread of the fever. The report categorically states that, it is possible for books from scarlet fever patients to spread infection and that, therefore, appropriate measures such as disinfection or destruction to deal with such infected books should be continued.”

**288.—“The Galway Reader”**: It was proposed by County Councillor M. Quinn, seconded by County Councillor T. King, and Resolved: That the printers, in whose hands *The Galway Reader* has been for nearly a year, tender an explanation of their failure to print the issue of the journal.

**289.—Carraroe Local Library Committee**: Resolved: That the following persons form the Carraroe Local Library Committee: The Rev. A. Moran, P.P., Chairman; Mrs. Keane, Branch Librarian, Secretary; M. O Cathain, Sean O’Shea, Cait Breathnach, An Bhean Ni Luain, M. O Nuallachain, O.S.; An Bhean Ni Cuinneagain, agus Clr. M. O Domhnall.

**290.—Additional Branch Libraries**: 1. Creggs and Kilkerrin—It was proposed by County Councillor M. Carty, seconded by County Councillor M. F. Kitt, and Resolved: Subject to the approval of the County Manager that Branch Libraries be established at Creggs and Kilkerrin during the year 1953-1954.

2. Currandulla—It was proposed by County Councillor T. King, seconded by County Councillor M. Carty, and Resolved: That provision be made, subject to the approval of the County Manager, for the provision of a Branch Library at Currandulla during the year 1953-1954.

3. New Inn—It was proposed by County Councillor M. Quinn, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Ruane, and Resolved: Subject to the approval of the County Manager, that a Branch Library be established at New Inn during the year 1953-1954.

4. Aran Islands—It was proposed by County Councillor T.

King, seconded by County Councillor M. Carty, and Resolved: Subject to the approval of the County Manager, that a Branch Library be established at Kilonan, Aran Islands, during the year 1953-1954.

**291.—Alteration of the Hour of Meeting**: It was proposed by County Councillor J. J. Ruane, seconded by Town Commissioner J. A. O’Connell, and Resolved: That all future meetings of this Committee be held at one o’clock in the afternoon instead of at twelve-thirty o’clock in the afternoon.

**292.—Congratulations to the Cardinal-Elect**: It was proposed by County Councillor M. F. Kitt, seconded by James Hoban, and Resolved: That the congratulations of the members of this Committee be tendered The Most Reverend The Archbishop of Armagh on his elevation to the College of Cardinals.

(Minutes Nos. 285 to 292 inclusive).

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 7th DAY OF MARCH, 1953.**

**Present** :— Alderman Miss M. A. Ashe, County Councillor Michael Carty, N.T., ; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham (Vice-Chairman) ; Sean Donnellan, N.T., ; County Councillor P. T. Galvin ; the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A., V.F. (Chairman) ; County Councillor Sean Glynn ; Michael Gohery, N.T., ; James Hoban, N.T., ; County Councillor Thomas King ; County Councillor M. F. Kitt, N.T., ; the Reverend M. McDonough, M.A. ; John Moroney, N.T., ; Frank Mullan, N.T., ; Town Commissioner Jarlath A. O'Connell ; County Councillor Martin Quinn ; and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

**Chairman of the Meeting** :— County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, Vice-Chairman, and subsequently the Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A., V.F., Chairman.

**293.—Minutes of the last meeting** :— It was proposed by M. Gohery, seconded by S. Donnellan, and Resolved : That the minutes of the last meeting, circulated each member, be taken and read ; and that they be signed.

**Public Donations** :— It was proposed by County Councillor M. Gohery, seconded by F. Mullan, and Resolved : that the County Library thank be tendered the following donors :  
Mr. J. Murphy, Esq., County Librarian, Lismore : "The Warped Plough and Furrow" ; Miss Eileen Power, M.A., Librarian, U.C., Dublin : Catalogue of an Exhibition of Books in Connection with the Newman Centenary, 1852-1952 ; The United States Government Information Service, Dublin : "Publications from America," by John Walker ; "Children's Books around the world" : a selected list ; "United States Industrial Design" ; "The New York Times" ; "The New York Herald Tribune" (European Editions) ; and 24 volumes on Egyptology ; The Association of Secretaries in Commerce, London : "The Commercial Secretary," No. 8 ; The County Librarian, Essex : Copy of the "25th Annual Report" ; Wesley C. Keir, Esq., San Francisco, U.S.A. : 6 back numbers of "The National Geographic Magazine" ; M. McCabe, Esq., County Librarian, Monaghan : Annual Report ; The Bibliographical Society of Ireland : Annual Reports ; Frank Curran, Esq., Shantalla, Galway : Autographs : Mrs. Wyse Power and Edward Martyn, Tullira.

**295.—Annual Reports** :— It was proposed by County Councillor M. Carty, seconded by Town Commissioner J. A. O'Connell, and Resolved : That the County Librarian's Annual Report be adopted ; and that the committee tender their congratulation on the subjects and format of the work.

6/11/1953.

**296.—County Librarian's Quarterly Report :—** It was proposed by Town Commissioner J. A. O'Connell, seconded by County Councillor P. T. Galvin, and Resolved : That the County Librarian's Quarterly Report be adopted :

"Bennett Cerf in **The Wonderful World of Books** points out, 'If you take up a book in a grim spirit of self-improvement, swearing to read so many pages before you let yourself do something you like, if you concentrate on books somebody tells you you ought to read, the chances are you won't have any fun. But if you put down a book you don't like and try another till you find one that means something to you, and then relax with it, you will almost certainly have a good time—and if you become, as a result of reading, better, wiser, kinder, or more gentle, you won't have suffered during the process.'"

The purpose of the libraries is mainly to encourage citizens to read more, even if they have found they could survive without it, somehow, and also to make books easily available to the public at large.

**Loss of Books :** In the days before open access to the book shelves a loss of one volume in an issue of a thousand was considered a reasonable loss. The check and control of losses is really a costly business. Librarians realize that they are custodians of a certain form of public property and they are expected to keep for as long in safety as the property retains its value. It is to be regretted that in present conditions of public regard, or want of it, for the property of others, especially of communal property, the eagerness of librarians to serve their people without let or hindrance, and the consequent removal of all barriers, wickets and entrance checks, open access to rooms and shelves, does not, it would seem, absolve the librarian from all responsibility for the care of books.

**Mutilation of Books :** It would seem that the mutilation of books in Galway is on the increase. While in the normal state of affairs losses occur not only in the pockets, shopping baskets and attach cases of readers, they are most exasperatingly caused by the removal of pages and illustrations. A recent case is that of a life of Goebels from which every illustration was torn out, and were discovered rolled up and placed behind a shelf of books. This was not the work of an irresponsible juvenile. Cases have been noted where borrowers, who, when coming upon a passage that made an appeal to them, or repelled them, tore out the page. Books have been found decorated with pen and ink exclamations and contradictions in the places where the author has expressed an opinion with which the readers did not agree. It looks as if the annotators with their egotistical accursed practices are becoming surer and surer of their invulnerability. Citizenship means different things to different people, but it is a social concept.

It indicates a relationship to other persons, and is not merely a matter of rights but also of responsibility. It is sustained not at the expense of others, but in the hope that all can join in its benefits.

**The Modern Novel :** Some time ago the New York **Publishers' Weekly** protested against novels (1) "that are but thinly disguised autobiographies of young writers to whom nothing very interesting has happened ; (2) against novelists who do not offer entertainment but are creating men and women bedeviled by fears, tortured by suppressed sexual desires and afflicted with despair and hopelessness", who are not novelists but "psychiatrists, philosophers, poets and what-not," or who, if they are not trying to write like Henry James, are "mainly sentimentalists left over from Queen Victoria's funeral cortage and dull pornographers."

The situation has been summed up in three comments : the first emphasizes the fact that the so-called "modern novel" has now become extremely *vieux jeu*. "At first it was novel and stimulating," writes Mr. Harrison Smith in the **Saturday Review** : "now it is keeping people out of the book-stores ; they do not see why they should pay high prices for thrice-told dismal tales." The second, a corollary to this, is that the public is simply bored. "Writers born to some of the fashionable ideas of recent years have been too easily persuaded that they have only to express themselves to deserve a hearing," says Miss Elizabeth Lawrence of Harper's. "Such writing is little more than a form of self-indulgence, and the public has understandably grown bored with the experiences and emotions of immaturity to which little or nothing has been added."

Mr. Somerset Maugham declares : "there is no reason why the novelist should not deal with any subject under the sun so long as he is prepared to accept the limitations of his medium. The novel is a form of art, perhaps not a very exalted one, but a form of art nevertheless, and the purpose of art is to please. A novel should have a coherent and probable story, a variety of plausible incidents, characters that are living and freshly observed, and natural dialogue. It should be written in a style that is suited to the matter. If the novelist can do that he has done all that should be asked of him."

**Science-fantasy Fiction :** The young read trash because it interests them. Parents, teachers, librarians and others may wish that they would read books which happen to interest them more, but anyone's interest cannot be forced. The important thing is that the youth whose taste it is sought to guide should enjoy what he reads. The popularity of science-fantasy fiction today is remarkable. The demand for this *genre* not only among juveniles, but with adults, is almost as great as that for

Westerns. There are vast numbers of people avid to read anything which deals with one-eyed men from Mars or with web-footed submarines from Atlantis, and who discriminate fiercely between good and bad in this kind of fiction. It would seem obvious that there are many people nowadays who find such a prospect a nice change from ordinary life in this atomic age.

**The Visitors :** It is the desire of every librarian to bring the masses into the public library where they will see at a glance that there is a book for every taste and interest. The service wants the person who is not normally a library borrower to find out how much he or she is missing in entertainment and guidance. It is a curious public who use the libraries and has been rescribed as "the respectable, the disreputable, the psychopaths, the book thieves and the browsers who never borrow a book."

**An Interesting Welsh Publication :** The latest publication of the Welsh Department of Education consists of a review of two earlier pamphlets together with a treatment of a place of social studies in the curriculum of the schools of Wales. The pamphlet **The Curriculum and the Community in Wales**, incorporates, and in that sense supersedes **Language Teaching in Primary Schools** (1945) and **Bilingualism in Secondary Schools** (1949). For the first time the complete period of Primary and Secondary education has been regarded as a continuous whole. The pamphlet sets out to place language studies in the pattern of those features of the curriculum that lend themselves to an intimate relationship and are more directly connected with the cultural inheritance of the children of Wales—History and Geography. Suggestions on teaching these subjects are made and ways in which they may be taught as one. The emphasis is evenly distributed between regard for the individual child with his peculiar and highly personal needs, and the claims of the community of Wales. "What is involved," it is stated, "is not only the teaching of actual subjects but also the general ethos of the school, its attitude towards the Welsh community and its success or failure in making the culture of that community one, at least, of the integrating principles of its curriculum." The especial difficulty of doing this in a bilingual country is recognized, and the pamphlet opens with a consideration of the teaching of both languages, Welsh and English, to the Welsh-speaking and the English-speaking children.

Dealing with the teaching of English an attempt is made to relate the problem to the complex linguistic background and the suggestion is made that the syllabus in English at the Ordinary stage of the General Certificate of Education should be modified in the case of those children for whom English is a second language. In the chapter on the teaching of Welsh

two points receive attention. After praising Infants' Schools in Welsh-speaking areas and Welsh medium Primary Schools in anglicised areas the report goes on to state that the work in Welsh and the attitude to the teaching and use of the language is not so progressive in the Secondary Schools and the junior schools of the anglicised areas. The need for more and for better books and similar school material is emphasized.

In Part 2 of the pamphlet there are chapters on History, Geography and Integrated Studies. In History, it is stated, too much is introduced into the syllabus and too much is attempted; in Geography the previous tendency towards a highly formalized approach to physical geography has very largely given way to the teaching of regional geography which in turn is in danger of becoming too formal. Both these chapters refer to the paucity of suitable display and illustrative material about Wales. Practical suggestions are made such as the exchange of school work on local studies and exchange visits between pupils.

In a series of correspondence Mr. Leslie M. Rees, Chief Librarian, County Borough of Swansea Public Libraries informs your County Librarian: "As you know, there is a fair output of books in the Welsh language—there are at this moment about 700 in print. Is there a great deal of difference between spoken Irish and written Irish (a criticism often levelled against literary Welsh and used as an excuse in some instance for the poor reading figures recorded)? There are a number of publishing houses in Wales and I am sure that not one of them ever makes a profit on any Welsh book it issues. What is particularly ironic is that we have a large mass of enthusiastic Welsh people who are constantly crying out for more books to be published in our own language, but who apparently do not buy them when they are."

**The County Library and the School :** One of the greatest services the Galway County Libraries offers to teachers is access to collections of books suitable for school libraries. The teacher, by reason of his training as a teacher, has special opportunities for making the library an integral part of all school activities, while his close contact with the children in school enable him to train them in the art of using and appreciating books and libraries. Both the teacher and the librarian can encourage that mutual co-operation which is so fruitful for both school and library and which helps to bridge the gap which unhappily so frequently now exists between the school leaver and the reader using the Adult Lending Library.

Many youth clubs and similar organizations throughout the country have established small libraries of their own. Every encouragement is due to them in this endeavour, for a well-managed club library will play a valuable part in keeping the

members of a club together and in familiarising them with the use of books. The County Libraries assist such libraries by every possible means, and where the service is not readily accessible to members of organizations, books are supplied on loan to clubs. Side by side with this assistance, encouragement is given to club members to make full use of the wide resources of the public library itself to which the club library itself would serve as an introduction. Co-operation of this kind does much to ensure that young people in their 'teens do not lose touch with the County Libraries.

**Branches :** Since that last meeting a Branch Library has been opened in Ballygar. Gort, Clifden, Dunmore and Headford Branches have yet to be established.

**Local Records and the Library :** Until comparatively recently there had been no concerted attempt at the preservation of local records, other than legal and official documents. The only bodies interested were a few local archaeological societies, to which the country owes a great debt in promoting the safety of these materials, and the encouragement of local libraries and museums. The time has now come when legislative action is necessary for the protection of archives. Such action is long overdue. Only in the libraries of the country has any concern been evinced for the safety of the personal and private records of the locality. The official attitude has been one of perpetual procrastination and in many counties, as in Galway, had the library not voluntarily undertaken the task—in a limited way—of preservation of the past, it would not have been done at all. The position arising from the present policy is one which concerns the historian and the student, no less than the librarian. The Galway County Library is not merely a purveyor of the latest novel or textbook ; it has also a duty to posterity to see that the source materials needed will be available. The library must strengthen its position, state its case forcefully and frequently, and stand firm against any encroachments upon its rightful sphere. It must naturally be prepared to co-operate with all other bodies interested in the task of conserving research materials, but co-operation must be on a basis of parity and its position as a record repository must be adequately recognised. The conservation of local source materials is a task requiring energetic action by all, whether corporate body or individual, who are interested in record preservation. A co-operative spirit, carried forward today, will facilitate the development of a comprehensive programme of archive administration which when complete, will infinitely extend the range of our cultural resources.

**Dispatches to Branches and Centres :** Since the last meeting 4,118 books were supplied to branches and centres : Branches 3,383 and Centres 735 respectively.

**Books Issued at Centres and Branches :** The following figures show the number of books issued for home reading at branches and centres :—

	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters .....	5,334	19,875	3,086	28,295
Ballinasloe .....	3,532	3,242	645	7,419
Loughrea .....	3,117	3,096	501	6,714
Tuam .....	1,467	2,516	630	4,613
Glenamaddy .....	298	1,499	127	1,924
Spiddal .....	268	819	168	1,255
Portumna .....	222	1,506	728	2,456
Oughterard .....	113	1,524	176	1,813
Moylough .....	717	1,657	612	2,986
Athenry .....	107	1,079	206	1,392
Woodford .....	202	809	242	1,253
Ballygar .....	49	503	72	624
Schools, Clubs, Halls, etc.	437	3,928	2,079	6,444
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>15,863</b>	<b>42,053</b>	<b>9,272</b>	<b>67,188</b>

**297.—Library publicity :—** It was proposed by Town Commissioner J. A. O'Connell, seconded by County Councillor P. T. Galvin, and Resolved : That the County Manager be requested to consider the advantages of bringing the library service to the notice of the public by such means as :

(a) periodical advertisements in the Press giving the addresses of the Branch Libraries ;

(b) hours of opening at each Branch, details of service, and the facilities offered by the Irish Central Library for Students through the Branch Libraries ;

(c) the provision of a notice board outside each Branch Library showing the hours of opening, etc. ; and

(d) a short article to be supplied to the Press periodical on some subject relating to the work of the library service.

**298.—A County Art Gallery :—** It was proposed by County Councillor Quinn, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Ruane, and on a poll, Resolved : It be recommended to the County Manager that a sum of £50 a year be provided to build up a fund for the purchase of paintings, drawings, sculpture, etc., and so form a collection of works of art for the proposed Galway Art Gallery ; and that the pictures, drawings, sculpture, etc., be available for circulation throughout the county when requested.

**299.—Minutes of a Book Selection Sub-Committee :—** It was proposed by the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn,

seconded by County Councillor T. King, and Resolved : That the Minutes of a meeting of the Book Selection Sub-Committee held on the 4th February, 1953, be adopted.

**300.—Branch Libraries, 1953—1954 :—** NOTED—The County Manager's letter of the 2nd February, 1953 : “. . . . Thus it will be necessary to defer for a period of twelve months consideration of the provision of Branch Libraries at Currandulla, New Inn, Kilkerrin, Creggs and Menlough . . . . The Council shall proceed with the provision of the proposed Branch Libraries at Gort, Clifden, Headford and Kilronan . . . .”

**301.—“The Galway Reader :—** NOTED—The County Secretary's letter of the 18th February, 1953 : “. . . . that we have been pressing the Printers for delivery of **The Galway Reader** . . . .”

**302.—Letter of appreciation :—** NOTED—A letter of thanks and appreciation from Miss Geraldine De Courcy, 49 West 44th Street, New York, for information supplied her in connection with her research on Paganini's Tour of Ireland.

**303.—“Mélanges Colombaniens” :—** It was proposed by Town Commissioner J. A. O'Connell, seconded by County Councillor M. Carty, and Resolved : That the purchase of a copy of **Mélanges Colombaniens** (The Department of External Affairs) be recommended for purchase.

**304.—“Notes on the History of Ballinasloe,” by the Reverened P. K. Egan :—** It was proposed by County Councillor M. Carty, seconded by Town Commissioner J. A. O'Connell, and Resolved : That the purchase of 36 copies of a pamphlet at a shilling each : “Notes on the History of Ballinasloe,” by the Reverened P. K. Egan, be recommended for purchase.

**305.—Minutes of a Book Selection Sub-Committee :—** It was proposed by Sean Donnellan, N.T., seconded by County Councillor T. King, and Resolved : That the books listed and submitted at this meeting be recommended for purchase.

**306.—Congratulations :—** It was proposed by County Councillor M. Carty, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and Resolved : That the Committee's congratulations and best wishes be tendered Mr. Sean Bohan on his appointment as County Donegal Librarian.

(Minutes No. 293 to 306 inclusive).

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**Leabharlanna Connóga na Saitlínne**

**COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES**

**TWENTY-SIXTH, TWENTY-SEVENTH AND TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORTS.**

The Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh, and Twenty-eighth Annual Reports summarise the work of the County Libraries Department during the years ended 31st March, 1950, 1951 and 1952. They are prepared not only for the County Manager and the Local Authorities of the county but also as memoranda on public relations generally for the ordinary citizens in the scope and resources of their public library system and the services it is capable of providing.

**WHAT GALWAY READS**

The development of a public library is a continuous process, as may be inferred from the great amount of up-to-date history and biography, incorporated in books touching new developments. The history of nations, the profound institutional changes and new theories of government, are additions to historical works on different nations. Fraught with as great, or even greater, significance are the achievement of the Republic of Ireland; India's independence; the evolution of the British Commonwealth of Nations; the discovery of penicillin; the development of television; the changing of values in art, literature, and music. All these and many other dominant up-to-date topics are adequately covered by the Galway Libraries. The Libraries serve the community of the City and County of Galway at all levels, and in all spheres of interest, and deal with the collection, recording and active exploitation of all types of written and recorded materials. They endeavour to promote the habit of reading and the wider distribution of books. Readers are of all ages with an infinite variety of tastes and interests. There is available 47.1 books per 100 of the population, and of the 280,576 volumes issued during the last year 16.85 were juvenile, 62.98% fiction, and 20.16% non-fiction.

**Book Prices.**

One fact emerges very clearly from a study of the figures showing the expenditure on books during the financial years now ended: 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.

The obtaining of adequate raw materials is no longer the publisher's first preoccupation as in the middle of March of last

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 6th DAY OF JUNE, 1953.**

**Present** :— County Councillor M. Carty, N.T.; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham (Vice-Chairman); Sean Donnellan, N.T.; County Councillor P. T. Galvin; the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A., V.F., (Chairman); County Councillor Sean Glynn; Michael Gohery, N.T.; County Councillor T. King; County Councillor M. F. Kitt, N.T.; J. Moroney, N.T.; F. Mullan, N.T.; Town Commissioner J. A. O'Connell; Urban Councillor James O'Connor; Tadg O'Shea, N.T.; County Councillor M. Quinn; and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

**Chairman of the meeting** :— The Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A., V.F.

**307. 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.

**308. Donations** :— RESOLVED—That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors:

Monaghan County Library—A Three Year Plan, and an Annual Report; Seafarers' Education Service and College of the Sea—2 volumes; The Library Association of Ireland—An Leabharlann; Miss Whang-Kyung Koh, M.A., Ph.D.—Korea through English Eyes; Castleblakeney Tostal Council, 1953—Castleblakeney: A historical sketch; The Library Council, Dublin—Fourth Annual Report; Association of Secretaries in Commerce—The Commercial Secretary, No. 9, vol. 1; County Donegal Library—Annual Report; U.S.A. Government Information Service, Dublin—The New York Times and The New York Herald Tribune; Church of Christ Scientist, Dublin—The Christian Science Monitor; and the Galway Literary Society—Annual Report.

**County Librarian's Reports** :—

**309. Staff** :— Noted—the appointment of Mr. John Bohan, B.A., Dip. Lib., Assistant Librarian, to the post of Donegal County Librarian; and the resignation of Miss Imelda Donagh, B.A., on her marriage.

**310. Art Gallery Committee** :— Approved—The Minutes of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Art Gallery Committee held on the 20th May, 1953.

**311. The Libraries and their functions** :— Adopted—The County Librarian's memoranda on the County Library service.

d—An editorial by Mr. litor of the Library World, ibraries.

ence, Llandudno, 1953:— report on his attendance ce at Llandudno.

anguage :— Noted—An of "The Place of Welsh H. M. S. O., 12/6 net", of Education pamphlet :

the teaching of history in the schools.

**315. Statistics** :— Adopted—The County Librarian's reports on the issues of books for home-reading throughout the country.

**316. Mr. Edward Griffin** :— It was proposed by Town Commissioner J. A. O'Connell, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and unanimously RESOLVED—That in view of Mr. Griffin's services of the past 24 years; and the fact that his duties have been more those of a Library Attendant rather than those of a Library Porter; this Committee appeals to the County Manager to promote Mr. Griffin to the position of Library Attendant, with the corresponding pay.

(Minutes Nos. 307 to 316 inclusive).

*Patrick Glynn*  
12. IX / 1953.

**312. Loss of Books :—** Noted—An editorial by Mr. A. C. S. Enser, F.L.A., F.R.S.A., Editor of the Library World, on the losses of books in British Libraries.

**313. Library Association Conference, Llandudno, 1953 :—** Adopted—The County Librarian's report on his attendance at the Library Association Conference at Llandudno.

**314. Decay of the Welsh Language :—** Noted—An epitome by the County Librarian, of "The Place of Welsh and English in the Schools of Wales, H. M. S. O., 12/6 net", and his review of the British Ministry of Education pamphlet : The Teaching of History in the Schools.

**315. Statistics :—** Adopted—The County Librarian's reports on the issues of books for home-reading throughout the country.

**316. Mr. Edward Griffin :—** It was proposed by Town Commissioner J. A. O'Connell, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and unanimously RESOLVED—That in view of Mr. Griffin's services of the past 24 years ; and the fact that his duties have been more those of a Library Attendant rather than those of a Library Porter ; this Committee appeals to the County Manager to promote Mr. Griffin to the position of Library Attendant, with the corresponding pay.

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*12. IX / 1953.*

year paper for books came off the ration. Thus, for the first time in ten years the producer of books is now able to buy his paper according to his individual requirements, without benefit of licence, permit or other official form. According to comment, this liberation has arrived too late. The publisher has for some time past been inclined to relegate paper rationing to a secondary place—his main concern during the past year being the ever-rising cost of manufacture at the very time when an increase in prices to meet these costs is particularly undesirable. One may safely say that in nearly every case the money value of books is greater to-day than it was twelve months ago.

The consequence of improved manufacturing facilities is that, although the student and the specialist user of books still remain short of their requirements, the general reader has been offered an abundance.

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 has gone forever.

The position concerning mill-board is really desperate and is likely to force publishers to issue books in paper covers unless Holland releases greater supplies or an ersatz substitute is found quickly. It will also be necessary to salvage all covers of books before they are withdrawn for pulping. This will entail additional work for the staffs of libraries. A plea is made to all not to waste or destroy card-board cartons.

The official statement from the Publishers' Association conveyed through the Library Association, that book prices are likely to rise from ten to twenty per cent during the coming year, has come as a shock to all librarians. While it was known that a rise in price was inevitable it was not anticipated that the rise would be so high. Librarians knew that book prices were bound to rise with paper costs nine times as much as the cost in 1938, and printing four times as much. Casing of books has at least doubled in cost.

One must shudder apprehensively at all this ballooning of prices, but books are, however, one of the few commodities that have not kept pace with others on the price index. We all know that the days of the 7s. 6d. novel and the 3s. 6d. cheap reprint are over. Librarians do not, nevertheless, view this extra expenditure in a light-hearted manner. When he buys books he is anxious to get the most for his Committee's money. This increase will mean, therefore, a quicker rejection of the shoddy makeshifts that are being still offered by publishers, and it will also be necessary to scrutinise more closely the value of a book as literature or information. A further review of the fiction question is clearly indicated.

No co-ordination exists in the publishing world today. Too many books are published, and many of them are unnecessary. The tendency of making many pieces of "book-making," of unwanted anthologies and symposia, of duplication of subjects, of publishers rushing into a "buyers'" market, is obvious. Undue optimism seems to be the keynote. The members of the book trade have long been trying to bring about some co-ordination of publishing effort before the cut-throat competition noticeable in the United States of America gains strength in these islands, resulting in a down grading of quality with an up-grading of price.

#### **Books and Leisure.**

Books or conversation or listening to the radio? Which is the better way to gain knowledge or to spend one's leisure? What of the cinema? A book will stay untouched on the library shelves until a film or radio version is made of it, and then everyone asks for it at once and long waiting lists accumulate. Since some of the books filmed or broadcast are out of print, it is not always easy for the library to meet sudden demands of this kind, but that is not the only aspect of the matter which arouses concern. The custom of broadcasting serial versions of books may in due course have an adverse effect on the use made of the books themselves, as it may be expected to curtail listeners' leisure that might otherwise be used for reading.

While at the moment the "new leisure" is being turned to good account it should be pointed out that it is obvious that reading is not only a leisure-time occupation in itself, but more and more a means of acquiring knowledge of other leisure-time occupations, such as gardening, carpentry, handicrafts, sports and games.

"Few things are so susceptible to eye-appeal as books." Whenever a book is given a display in the library the issues rise, whatever its subject. It is not that the public library reader is gullible, but that he relies to a large extent on the library as a guide to his judgment. The library's stock must be ample and contain, not necessarily the latest, but the best books on every subject. If the library has to keep the reader waiting for a book a reader has asked for by name then the library falls in the estima-

tion of the reader. Again, the staff must be intelligent and courteous, and a properly trained staff will know how to deal with the three main types of readers. First is the one who knows exactly what he or she wants. That is easy, as the assistant just has to know where to look. Second is the reader who wants a book on a particular subject. The assistant must know the best work available on the subject. The third is the optimist who wants a book for the boss or a relation, but does not know what. The assistant must find out all about the boss or the relation. If he or she is right on all these occasions the reader will in turn be quite satisfied.

#### Old Galway Newspapers.

An appeal is again made, and the co-operation and help of the members of the Committee and the general public is necessary, for complete sets or odd numbers of the County and City of Galway newspapers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, particularly *The Tuam Herald*, *The Illustrated Loughrea Journal*, *The Galway Vindicator and Packet*, *The Galway Mercury*, and *The Galway Express*. These newspapers are contemporary with the events they describe, and while it is one thing to read about the past from the text book, it is quite another thing and, in a way, more important, to read about it from contemporary sources. The old newspapers tell us, if not the whole story, tell us in a vivid and incredible way what no historian can do so well. The advertisement columns of these papers add also a good deal to our learning and to our delight. There may be those who do not care for the notices of academies where "the globes" and other accomplishments were taught, or of invitations to join the Connaught Rangers for a fine outing during the summer. These papers, however, have a permanent value.

#### Children as Readers.

The Galway Libraries are playing a valuable part in the education of children. The book stock of the Juvenile Department is the most important part of the Libraries and every effort is made to keep it at a high standard. The child readers are potential adult ones and, therefore, their department is an important one. It should be a training for intelligent citizens, and its aim is to give the children literature that will lead them on to a high standard of reading. By doing so ephemeral matter is discouraged so that when the children come to borrow from the adult library they will have a high standard of reading rather than the tendency to "assimilate print" of the lightest kind of fiction. By supplying a wide selection of classic and good modern writing a step is made towards creating an intelligent reading public.

Book reviews in *The Galway Reader* are an additional stimulant not only to good reading for adults but also for children.

Children should be encouraged to use all the resources of the

Libraries. Not nearly enough parents know what fun it is to get acquainted with junior books themselves and share in their delights along with the children. Not only is it fun; it is also a means of encouraging the children to read good books, and enriches the home by another common interest. Browsing regularly in the Library Headquarters and Branches among the children's books is one way to learn of literature for the junior. Another way, and nothing can take its place, is reading aloud at home as a family. There are available delightful books for tots that older children can be taught to enjoy with the family. The books for the older ones can, of course, be read aloud when the little ones are looking at picture books or are in bed. Parents should make active contact with the Libraries and help the children to learn to turn to them for books.

#### "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. It was 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 not, if their attention were drawn to good reading, 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 quite sure what book he wants, but he feels that if only he can find the book he will recognise it in a moment. The quest is not an easy one, because the books with really attractive titles are not infrequently the worst. The cheap and sensational book obtrudes itself on the unpractised eye and attracts. The journal may be described as a market place for exchange of ideas where the soundness of each reader's pet theories may be tested in notes and queries, so that he may be tempted to read a little further, if only in the hope of defeating his opponent next time. It is, perhaps, too much to expect that most readers can indulge in disinterested discussion on political problems, just now, but most people can discuss their favourite books reasonably, and learn to see other aspects which they had not noticed in their own reading. The librarian will know individuals who frequent his shelves and who would be anxious to meet others with whom they might exchange their views and from whom they may catch other enthusiasms.

This, then, is the object of *The Galway Reader*—to encourage the reading of good books of every kind and above all to encourage the general reader. The County Library provides the material for reading, but with the very varied nature and standard of the books on its shelves, the greater, therefore, are the difficulties of the general reader. Galway being a university town it has been found that the professional student can look after himself both in the County Library and in the University Library. The journal helps borrowers to become discerning readers, and by developing taste leads the reader from the elementary to the advanced.

Several requests were received from places as far apart as the Universities of Pennsylvania, Harvard, Boston College, and Los Angeles; and from individuals in Great Britain and the United States, for copies of *The Galway Reader*. It is to be regretted that No. 1, of Vol. 1 of the journal are out of print and that only comparatively few copies of subsequent numbers are available.

#### **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, 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 585 volumes were obtained for Galway readers during the last 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.

#### **Book Exhibitions.**

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, it would be pointed out with all proper modesty that *The Galway Reader* plays no mean part in providing information on the lines suggested.

#### **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.

In the case of the information service available to an enquirer, a problem is posed. Information, that is the answer to a question, is needed. Firstly, it must be defined and understood; secondly, a suitable source of information must be traced and located;

thirdly, the data must be abstracted. Sometimes the enquirer is capable of doing all this himself, but usually it has to be done by the County Librarian, and this information and reference work requires time, wide sympathies and understanding. Every effort is made to exploit our resources, to secure from the enquirer a precise definition of his needs—a matter doubly important if the enquiry has to be passed on to other libraries.

### The Book of Kells.

A reproduction of the entire manuscript in facsimile—a task never before attempted—has now been issued in two volumes. A third will follow in the autumn of 1953. The work has been added to the Libraries and is at present on exhibition at the County Library Headquarters. Volumes are being prepared for exhibition at Branches.

The size of the plate is that of the original. Of the 678 pages of the manuscript, 48 pages are reproduced in colour. These 48 pages in colour include all the "great pages," together with a selection of the less famous pages, carefully selected so as to exhibit all the typical forms of illumination. The remaining 630 pages are reproduced in black and white. The most up-to-date technical processes have been employed for the reproduction, the results have been carefully examined, and the proofs checked with the original, page by page and colour by colour, by representatives both of the Board of Trinity College and Urs Graf-Verlag.

The edition is strictly limited, and 400 copies are separately numbered.

The Book of Kells is an illuminated manuscript on vellum, containing the four Gospels in Latin. Its date has yet to be precisely determined; some writers have placed it as early as the sixth century, others as late as the end of the ninth century. The Book of Kells has been in the possession of Trinity College, Dublin, since the year 1661. Its text has been classed as *Vulgate* by some experts, but it differs so widely from the accepted Vulgate that perhaps it should be viewed rather as an Irish variant of the "mixed" or "old Latin" text. Some of the variant readings are of peculiar interest.

The Text is, however, a matter of relatively small importance. The glory of the Book of Kells is the amazing beauty and infinite variety of its illuminations and ornament. For grandeur of conception and delicacy of execution several of its illuminated pages merit the term *sublime*. Taken as a whole the Book of Kells is a supremely beautiful document, surpassing all other works of the kind, and by far the finest example of early Christian art in Ireland. During the Middle Ages the Book was well known upon the continent of Europe, and it has had a widespread influence upon European ornamentation.

As we turn its pages beauty and mystery compete for our atten-

tion. Spirals interlaced with a precision and subtlety, almost, it would seem, beyond the power of pen to trace or eye to see, lines of colour interwoven like threads of gossamer—how were they done? Some of the grotesque animal forms seem to have strayed in from prehistory. In the figures of the Evangelists or of the enthroned Virgin and Child, the human body is represented at such a remove from nature that the reader feels himself in a Celtic twilight on the threshold of history. In the pages of the manuscript northern styles and southern styles of art appear side by side, Christian and pre-Christian mingled with Celtic, Coptic and Romanesque. For the history of European art, the manuscript is a mine not yet fully explored, and it is a labyrinth of beauty, to which perhaps the clue has not yet been found.

The Irish semi-uncial is here seen to perfection in page after page, interspersed with ornamental initials of many colours and of infinite variety in design, no two of them alike. The opening words of each Gospel are embedded in a carpet of colour and intricate tracery. These are the "great pages," the work of a master-hand, executed each with princely splendour and extravagance of invention and resource. Men have crossed the Atlantic to see them. Here, too, are the Eusebian Canons, the ancient harmony of the Gospels, in tabular form, framed, as was usual, in pillar arcades, with daring designs and a wealth of colour and ornament.

An exact copy of this unique work has long been desired by those who love learning and art. There are discoveries to be made in it, which may be of importance for the history of art and letters, and those discoveries cannot be made until scholars have free access to its pages through the replica. In the past some attempts have been limited in scope and aim, at best they had a limited success, but they have failed to give what lovers of the whole Book of Kells desire.

Swiss experts, equipped with the latest methods of scientific colour photography and reproduction technique, have proved themselves equal to the task. They visited Dublin and photographed specimen pages; the processes of colour reproduction were carried out in Switzerland; returning to Dublin with the specimens in proof, they compared them with the original, and where necessary corrected and revised them. The revised pages were then submitted to the Board of Trinity College. After careful scrutiny the Board was satisfied that the specimen pages were a guarantee that the complete reproduction would prove worthy of the Book of Kells: and then, and not till then, did they give permission for the work to be carried out.

### Reference Works.

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:—

	1949-'50.	1950-'51.	1951-'52.
A General Works	70	44	225
B Philosophy	25	16	12
C Religion	110	40	114
D Social Science	87	98	174
E Languages	19	9	10
G Natural Science	68	61	101
H Useful Arts	291	248	342
K Fine Arts	368	334	532
L Literature	194	170	501
M History, Geography, Travels and Biography	866	844	1,383
F Adult Fiction	4,989	4,273	9,529
J Juvenile Books	1,355	1,335	3,186
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,442</b>	<b>7,472</b>	<b>16,109</b>

### The Library Association of Ireland.

Arising out of the Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland held in Sligo in September last, some observations are submitted together with additional remarks by the County Librarian:

(1) The Library Association of Ireland calls the attention of Library authorities to the development work now being carried out by the Library Advisory Council of Northern Ireland, as compared with the Republic of Ireland, where little, if any, development work, other than a Library survey, is now in progress. The Northern Ireland Advisory Council consists of 28 members of whom eleven are practising librarians, and the remainder directly concerned with the organisation, or administration of Libraries. The object of the Council is to consider measures for the development and expansion of library services. Since its establishment, it has produced two main reports; one which dealt with a complete hospital service, and the other with a system of school libraries throughout Northern Ireland. In the course of the reports the Council stresses

the necessity for a considerable degree of co-operation between libraries and social and educational organisations and shows that there is a rapidly growing awareness that well stocked and well organised libraries are an essential part of the social services. (2) The Library Association of Ireland points out that if the Department of Education is really interested in a school library service it should pay for it, and not, as at present allow the full cost to fall on the Local Authority in each County. Your County Librarian would add to this that, although in many districts, much good work is being done by the library service for children and adolescents, and deficiencies of the present system are serious, librarians regard the problem as one of real urgency. The Department of Education is not fulfilling its duties in this respect. Thousands of schools throughout the country have no school library which could be called effective and adequate, and many public libraries have children's departments that are ill-equipped, poorly stocked, badly staffed and severely limited in scope and range. To quote from the reports of the British Minister of Education, and the British School Library Association: "... if a right contact with good books is never made, or if being made, it is severed on leaving school, the loss which is thereby suffered is grave, and often irreparable."

While the responsibility for school libraries rests with the education authorities, there are advantages in the purchase (as distinct from the selection) of part of the bookstock of school libraries being in the hands of librarians acting on behalf of the Department of Education.

Any services provided by the library authority should be financed by grant by the Department of Education to the Library authority. The formation of school libraries up to the standard envisaged by educationalists, must be a gradual process, extending over many years. In the initial stages, therefore, interests of children will be well served, limited as now, by close co-operation with the County Library in the loan of books for use in the school, though this should not be considered a satisfactory permanent substitute for a school library.

The depopulation of rural areas gives rise to a major economic and social problem to which Library Authorities should be actively concerned, and it is the duty of those authorities to make sure that the rural dweller is not denied the books he needs. Direct service is imperative and this should begin with the children in the rural school. Reading is the most important subject in education for the reason that it is the road by which we must travel to gain knowledge of all other subjects. The foundation of this road is laid when the child masters the mechanics of reading and learns to associate the printed letters in his book with the objects represented. The function of libraries is to make reading a pleasure to the child and so give him a lasting love of books. Every book he reads takes his road to knowledge a little further on its way. Every child must be