

made welcome in a library, not for the quality of books he wants to read, but for the fact that he wants to read at all. So long as he is willing to read at all, the road to his mind is kept open for knowledge to pass through. Allow that road to close and the state is reached, recognised by Caliban in the "Tempest" when he said, ". . . take away his books, and he is but a sot."

(3) The Library Association of Ireland considers it wise for library authorities to augment stocks as scarcity of paper and the high price of books may soon cause increased demands on libraries. A generous supply of good books is necessary and a very substantial increase in the average expenditure on books is needed. In buying books there should be ample and liberal provision of up-to-date vocational and technical works and the supply of these must be sufficiently generous to ensure that no readers are discouraged by tedious waiting. Attention is needed to see that superseded and out-of-date works are regularly weeded out. The expected development, nationally, of both technical and adult education demands the most substantial support from the library service, and the service must be ready with new standards to meet new needs.

Your County Librarian would pass to an interesting point—the creation of a reading public. Rapidly as the 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. I would suggest that this points to some serious defect in library methods, or in educational methods, or in both. It is not enough to teach children to read, and then hope for the best. The lowest possible liaison is necessary with the public library, especially in the selection of book stock and the services of trained staff. A special effort should be made in the school, to create a book interest and habit in pupils who leave school at the end of the compulsory period.

(4) The Library Association of Ireland calls for more representation of practising Librarians on the Irish Library Council. There is only one librarian on the Council at present. For this and other purposes, the Association calls for the amendment of the Public Libraries Act under which the Council was appointed. Until this is done, not a single County Library can reach anything like its maximum development. The Library Council should fulfil the duty with which it was charged in regard to helping local authorities, to improve their library service, not only to children, but to adults.

The Library Association of Ireland is now a chartered body and as such is the only organization empowered to speak on behalf of the Library profession in Ireland. To-day 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.

The Press.

Never at any time have the Libraries' relations with the Press of the county been so cordial and so co-operative. There is no doubt that thanks to our newspapers the Libraries have been kept in the public eye.

A Branch Library, Art Gallery and Museum.

What are the prospects for 1953? As far as a branch library, art gallery and museum for the city of Galway is concerned, the outlook seems bleak but it is to be recorded with pleasure that the County Manager has not lost sight of the matter. New branch libraries are being organized, but difficulties are being experienced in finding premises at Gort and Clifden districts.

The problems that arise through the use of the county library headquarters as a city library continue. Adequate headquarters space is badly needed, and the staff while labouring under the handicap of an overcrowded headquarters are doing great things to produce results.

Junior Library.

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

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

Until comparatively recently the rural areas, on the whole, showed quite a good taste in literature as compared with the towns. Now, however, little difference exists in the nature of the demand as between town and country—both show a decided inclination for more fiction.

Educational, Social and Religious Societies.

The principle of voluntary service in co-operation with the

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

Statistical Abstract.

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

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

1949-1950

TABLE (A)

	Head- quarters	Branches and Centres	Total
Adult	84,494	103,733	188,227
Juvenile	24,872	33,285	58,157
Totals	109,366	137,018	246,384

TABLE (B)

	Non- Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters	23,743	60,751	24,872	109,366
Ballinasloe	7,541	18,082	4,514	30,137
Loughrea	6,331	17,631	1,266	25,228
Tuam	5,142	19,923	6,201	31,266
Schools & Village Centres	9,122	19,961	21,304	50,387
Totals	51,879	136,348	58,157	246,384
Percentages	21.06	55.34	23.60	100.00

1950-1951

TABLE (A)

	Head- quarters	Branches and Centres	Total
Adults	85,266	106,250	191,516
Juvenile	24,837	34,419	59,256
Totals	110,103	140,669	250,772

TABLE (B)

	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters	22,817	62,449	24,837	110,103
Ballinasloe	7,742	19,284	4,839	31,865
Loughrea	6,353	18,800	2,385	27,535
Tuam	5,455	20,204	6,510	32,169
Glenamaddy	24	295	95	414
Spiddal	9	98	41	148
Schools & Village Centres	8,708	19,278	20,549	48,535
Totals	51,108	140,408	59,256	250,772
Percentages	20.38	56.00	23.62	100.00

1951-1952

TABLE (A)

	Head-quarters	Branches and Centres	Total
Adults	99,797	108,919	208,716
Children	16,899	25,409	42,308
Totals	116,696	118,328	251,024

TABLE (B)

	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters	34,616	65,181	16,899	116,696
Ballinasloe	3,795	8,453	875	13,123
Loughrea	1,915	7,489	798	10,202
Tuam	2,941	8,024	866	11,831
Glenamaddy	1,945	2,725	686	5,356
Spiddal	1,026	2,372	783	4,181
Portumna	562	4,986	787	6,335
Oughterard	244	1,518	386	2,148
Moylough	106	660	178	944
Schools & Village Centres	3,466	56,692	20,050	80,208
Totals	50,616	158,100	42,308	251,024
Percentages	20.16	62.98	16.85	100.00

	1949-'50.	1950-'51.	1951-'52.
1. Library Centre.			
Total number of Centres in operation	47	49	52
Total number of Branches in operation (exclusive of Headquarters Branch)	3	5	8

2. Book Stock.

Total Adult Fiction	25,948	31,312	37,504
Total Adult Non-Fiction	19,112	21,748	25,132
Total Juvenile Fiction and Non-Fiction	8,229	9,564	12,750
Total Stock	53,289	59,711	75,386

3. Number of Books available per 100 of the population served	32.7	37.3	47.1
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4. Book Issues.

Issued from Headquarters direct to readers	109,366	110,103	116,696
Issued from Branches and Centres direct to readers	137,018	140,669	118,328
Total	246,384	250,772	251,024

5. Borrowers.

Estimated number of registered borrowers	38,867	40,499	42,969
Estimated number actually borrowing per 100 of the population	24.3	25.3	27.0

6. Towns over 200 of population 11.8

7. Library Rate 3.2d. in the £

8. Library Expenditure per head of population 15.4d.

INCOME

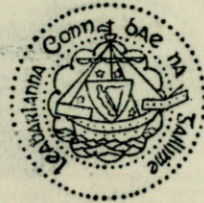
	1951-'52.		
	£	s.	d.
Income from Rates	7,616	0	0
Income from other sources	353	6	11
Total Income	£7,969	6	11

EXPENDITURE

	1951-'52.		
	£	s.	d.
Salaries and Wages	2,473	11	4
Books, Binding and Periodicals	5,943	15	0
Transport and Travelling Expenses	343	13	1
Rent, Maintenance and Repair of Premises :			
(a) Headquarters	229	15	0
(b) Branches	79	9	11
Other Expenditure	110	14	0
Total Expenditure	£9,180	18	4

LEABARLAINNA CONNDAE NA GALWAY
COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES

S. J. MAGUIRE
SECRETARY AND COUNTY LIBRARIAN



COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS
GALWAY

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Thirtieth Annual Meeting held on Saturday,
the 26th. day of September, 1953.

PRESENT -:

Alderman Miss M.A. Ashe, Co. C.; County Councillor M. Carty, N.T.; Sean
Donnellan, N.T.; the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A., N.F.; Sean Glynn,
Co. C.; Michael Gohery, N.T.; James Hoban, N.T.; T. King, Co. C.;
M.F. Kitt, Esq., Co. C., N.T.; John Moroney, N.T.; Frank Mullan, N.T.,
Town Commissioner Jarleth A. O'Connell; Tadhg O'Shea, N.T.; and,
County Councillor J.J. Ruane.

137. 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.

138. Election of Chairman for the year 1953 - 1954:- It was proposed by
Alderman Miss M.A. Ashe, seconded by County Councillor M. Carty, and
Resolved - that the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A., N.F. be re-elected
Chairman of the Committee for the year 1953 - 1954.

139. Election of Vice - Chairman for the year 1953 - 1954:- It was proposed
by County Councillor T. King, seconded by Tadhg O'Shea, and Resolved - that
County Councillor M.F. Kitt, N.T., be Vice - Chairman of the Committee for the
year 1953 - 1954.

140. Donations :- Resolved - That the Committee's thanks be tendered the
following donors -:

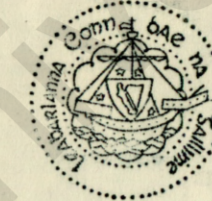
DONOR.	NATURE OF DONATION.
Leitrim County Library.	Annual Report 1952 - 1953;
Wexford County Library	do.
Londonderry County Library	do.
Kilkenny County Library	do.
Carlow County Library	do.
The Rev. W.A. Tobin, per H. Warriner, Esq., B.A.	2 copies of the Author's "Struggle - Our Destiny".
Muinntir Na Tire	Purel Ireland 1953;
U.S.A. Government (Inf. Se v.)	"Lincoln's Camera Men"; "How To Stay Rich"; and "Money and Banking".
Ass. of Secretaries in Commerce, London.	"The Commercial Secretary" Vol. I, No. 10.

141. Reports - Resolved - that the County Librarian's reports be adopted.

142. Irish Library Association of Ireland - Resolved - That the County Librarian's

LEABARLAINNA CONNDAE NA GALWAY
COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES

S. J. MAGUIRE
SECRETARY AND COUNTY LIBRARIAN



COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS
GALWAY

2.

report on the 1953 Conference of The Library Association of Ireland at
Wexford be adopted.

143. Votes of Sympathy:- Resolved - That the Committee's condolences be
tendered the relatives of the late Mrs. McSweeney of Father Griffin Rd.,
Galway, and to Lieut. Col. D. Houston, Remmore Barracks.

(Nos. 137 to 143 inclusive.)

12. XII. '53.

Patrick Glynn

Minutes of the Proceedings of a Quarterly Meeting held on Saturday, 12th December, 1953

Present: -

County Councillor Patrick T. Glynn, County Councillor Sean Glynn, County Councillor Thomas King, County Councillor Michael P. Kitt, County Councillor Martin O'Connell, Councillor J. O'Connell, Councillor J. J. Ruane, Rev. Fr. Glynn, Sean Donnellan, M.T., Rev. Fr. Mc Donough, Francis Muller, M.T., John Moroney, M.T.

144. 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.

145. Donations: -

Resolved - That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors: - Cork County Library, Cork City Library, "New York Herald Tribune"

146. Correspondence: -

Resolved: - That Fogu Faltte be tendered the Committee's thanks for the offer of travel literature and book cases to hold same and that Fogu Faltte be requested to apply their offer to all branches and centres in the County.

Patrick Glynn
Chairman

Date 27th March, 1954

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Minutes of the Proceedings of a quarterly meeting held on Saturday, 12th December, 1953

Present: -

County Councillor Patrick T. Glynn,
County Councillor Sean Glynn, County Councillor
Thomas King, County Councillor
Kitt, County Councillor Martin
J. O'Connell, Councillor J. J.
Glynn, Sean Donnellan, Mr.
McDonagh, Francis Muller
Moroney, N.T.

144. Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Resolved - That the
last meeting circulated and
taken as read, and that

145. Donations: -

Resolved - That the
thanks be tendered the following
Cork County Library, Cork
"New York Herald Tribune"

146. Correspondence: -

Resolved: - That Fog
tendered the Committee's
offer of travel literature
to hold same and that he
requested to apply their
branches and centres

Patrick Glynn
Chairman

Date 27th March, 1954

COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 27th DAY OF MARCH, 1954.

Present: - County Councillor M. Carty, N.T.; Sean Donnellan, N.T.; the Very Rev. 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. (Vice-Chairman); the Reverend Mr. McDonagh, M.A.; John Moroney, N.T.; Frank Mullan, N.T.; Tadhg O'Shea, B.A., N.T.; County Councillor M. Quinn and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

147. 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.

148. Donations: - Resolved - That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors: -

Donator	Nature of Donation
Department of Local Government	Circular (Statutory Rules and Regulations)
La Sol	Sarvy: Composition Script (Radio T.V., Stage)
W. J. Forbes & Co. (Publishers), London.	Provincial Directory of Trades
The Borough Librarian Wigan	Annual Report, 1953-1954.
Irish Texts Society, London.	51st Annual Report.

149. Ballinasloe Branch Library: - The County Librarian drew attention to a report of a meeting of the Ballinasloe Local Library Committee as published in *The Connacht Sentinel* of the 23rd instant. The County Librarian added that the standard of reading at this Branch, which caters for a large area is the lowest in the county. Trivia seems to be in regular and consistent demand, while books of outstanding merit available on the shelves are little used. It would appear that the Branch Librarian and the members of the local committee fail to realize that the main function of the service is cultural and educational, while recreational facilities are also available in the provision of a limited amount of fiction. At the request of the County Librarian, Mr. Flanagan attended at Ballinasloe after publication of the report of the meeting and submitted the following memorandum: - Ballinasloe Branch, Report on Inspection, Friday, 26th March, 1954.

1. The fiction books are not arranged in alphabetical order. The Non-Fiction books are arranged under General Headings only - Travel, History, etc. - and require more detailed arrangement

2. The books require to be dusted, particularly at the street end of the Library. They are in an objectionable condition from dust.

3. Some hundreds of books on the shelves should have been returned to County Headquarters long before now. Until such time as this is done there will be little use in sending further collections of books to this Branch, as there would not be any shelf space for them. The shelves are all tightly packed with books.

4. 326 books were despatched to Ballinasloe Branch between November 11th, 1953 and March, 15th, 1954. 205 books were returned to Headquarters from Ballinasloe Branch during the same period.

5. 103 books are overdue from readers more than six months. This is proportionately the highest figure for overdues in the County.

M. FLANAGAN,

Assistant Librarian.

Resolved - That the County Librarian attend at Ballinasloe, inquire into the subject matters of the report, and submit his observations to the next meeting of this Committee.

150. Reports: - The County Librarian reported: - Staff: - the appointment of Miss E. Burns, B.A., Senior Assistant to Clonmel as Borough Librarian; the appointment of Miss May Kavanagh as junior Library Assistant; the resignation of Miss E. O'Brien as Tuam Librarian; and the appointment of Miss M. Walsh in her place.

Resolved: - That the County Librarian's report be adopted. Resolved also: - That the Committee's congratulations be tendered Miss Burns on her appointment; and Miss E. O'Brien on her marriage.

151. Trust Deed: - Resolved: - That the Committee's thanks be tendered Mr. Frank Curran, Shantalla, for his gift of a Trust Deed in respect of the lands and property of Michael Bellew, of Mount Bellew.

152. New Book Lists: - Resolved: - That consideration of the new book lists as submitted by the County Librarian be adjourned for a month for the attendance of the Book Selection Committee.

(Minutes Nos. 147 to 152 inclusive).

Patrick Glynn
3 July 1954.

G01/5/3, p/85

LEABARLAINNA CONNDĀE NA GAILLIMĒ

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

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 stiumlating 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 enquirer 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
Total	8,442	7,472	16,109

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

made welcome in a library, not for the quality of books he wants to read, but for the fact that he wants to read at all. So long as he is willing to read at all, the road to his mind is kept open for knowledge to pass through. Allow that road to close and the state is reached, recognised by Caliban in the "Tempest" when he said, ". . . take away his books, and he is but a sot."

(3) The Library Association of Ireland considers it wise for library authorities to augment stocks as scarcity of paper and the high price of books may soon cause increased demands on libraries. A generous supply of good books is necessary and a very substantial increase in the average expenditure on books is needed. In buying books there should be ample and liberal provision of up-to-date vocational and technical works and the supply of these must be sufficiently generous to ensure that no readers are discouraged by tedious waiting. Attention is needed to see that superseded and out-of-date works are regularly weeded out. The expected development, nationally, of both technical and adult education demands the most substantial support from the library service, and the service must be ready with new standards to meet new needs.

Your County Librarian would pass to an interesting point—the creation of a reading public. Rapidly as the 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. I would suggest that this points to some serious defect in library methods, or in educational methods, or in both. It is not enough to teach children to read, and then hope for the best. The lowest possible liaison is necessary with the public library, especially in the selection of book stock and the services of trained staff. A special effort should be made in the school, to create a book interest and habit in pupils who leave school at the end of the compulsory period.

(4) The Library Association of Ireland calls for more representation of practising Librarians on the Irish Library Council. There is only one librarian on the Council at present. For this and other purposes, the Association calls for the amendment of the Public Libraries Act under which the Council was appointed. Until this is done, not a single County Library can reach anything like its maximum development. The Library Council should fulfil the duty with which it was charged in regard to helping local authorities, to improve their library service, not only to children, but to adults.

The Library Association of Ireland is now a chartered body and as such is the only organization empowered to speak on behalf of the Library profession in Ireland. To-day 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.

The Press.

Never at any time have the Libraries' relations with the Press of the county been so cordial and so co-operative. There is no doubt that thanks to our newspapers the Libraries have been kept in the public eye.

A Branch Library, Art Gallery and Museum.

What are the prospects for 1953? As far as a branch library, art gallery and museum for the city of Galway is concerned, the outlook seems bleak but it is to be recorded with pleasure that the County Manager has not lost sight of the matter. New branch libraries are being organized, but difficulties are being experienced in finding premises at Gort and Clifden districts.

The problems that arise through the use of the county library headquarters as a city library continue. Adequate headquarters space is badly needed, and the staff while labouring under the handicap of an overcrowded headquarters are doing great things to produce results.

Junior Library.

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

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

Until comparatively recently the rural areas, on the whole, showed quite a good taste in literature as compared with the towns. Now, however, little difference exists in the nature of the demand as between town and country—both show a decided inclination for more fiction.

Educational, Social and Religious Societies.

The principle of voluntary service in co-operation with the

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

Statistical Abstract.

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

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

1949-1950

TABLE (A)

	Head- quarters	Branches and Centres	Total
Adult	84,494	103,733	188,227
Juvenile	24,872	33,285	58,157
Totals	109,366	137,018	246,384

TABLE (B)

	Non- Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters	23,743	60,751	24,872	109,366
Ballinasloe	7,541	18,082	4,514	30,137
Loughrea	6,331	17,631	1,266	25,228
Tuam	5,142	19,923	6,201	31,266
Schools & Village Centres	9,122	19,961	21,304	50,387
Totals	51,879	136,348	58,157	246,384
Percentages	21.06	55.34	23.60	100.00

1950-1951

TABLE (A)

	Head- quarters	Branches and Centres	Total
Adults	85,266	106,250	191,516
Juvenile	24,837	34,419	59,256
Totals	110,103	140,669	250,772

TABLE (B)

	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters	22,817	62,449	24,837	110,103
Ballinasloe	7,742	19,284	4,839	31,865
Loughrea	6,353	18,800	2,385	27,535
Tuam	5,455	20,204	6,510	32,169
Glenamaddy	24	295	95	414
Spiddal	9	98	41	148
Schools & Village Centres	8,708	19,278	20,549	48,535
Totals	51,108	140,408	59,256	250,772
Percentages	20.38	56.00	23.62	100.00

1951-1952

TABLE (A)

	Head-quarters	Branches and Centres	Total
Adults	99,797	108,919	208,716
Children	16,899	25,409	42,308
Totals	116,696	118,328	251,024

TABLE (B)

	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters	34,616	65,181	16,899	116,696
Ballinasloe	3,795	8,453	875	13,123
Loughrea	1,915	7,489	798	10,202
Tuam	2,941	8,024	866	11,831
Glenamaddy	1,945	2,725	686	5,356
Spiddal	1,026	2,372	783	4,181
Portumna	562	4,986	787	6,335
Oughterard	244	1,518	386	2,148
Moylough	106	660	178	944
Schools & Village Centres	3,466	56,692	20,050	80,208
Totals	50,616	158,100	42,308	251,024
Percentages	20.16	62.98	16.85	100.00

	1949-'50.	1950-'51.	1951-'52.
1. Library Centre.			
Total number of Centres in operation	47	49	52
Total number of Branches in operation (exclusive of Headquarters Branch)	3	5	8

	1949-'50.	1950-'51.	1951-'52.
2. Book Stock.			
Total Adult Fiction	25,948	31,312	37,504
Total Adult Non-Fiction	19,112	21,748	25,132
Total Juvenile Fiction and Non-Fiction	8,229	9,564	12,750
Total Stock	53,289	59,711	75,386

3. Number of Books available per 100 of the population served	32.7	37.3	47.1
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	1949-'50.	1950-'51.	1951-'52.
4. Book Issues.			
Issued from Headquarters direct to readers	109,366	110,103	116,696
Issued from Branches and Centres direct to readers	137,018	140,669	118,328
Total	246,384	250,772	251,024

5. Borrowers.

Estimated number of registered borrowers	38,867	40,499	42,969
Estimated number actually borrowing per 100 of the population	24.3	25.3	27.0

6. Towns over 200 of population 11.8

7. Library Rate 3.2d. in the £

8. Library Expenditure per head of population 15.4d.

INCOME

	1951-'52.		
	£	s.	d.
Income from Rates	7,616	0	0
Income from other sources	353	6	11
Total Income	£7,969	6	11

EXPENDITURE

	1951-'52.		
	£	s.	d.
Salaries and Wages	2,473	11	4
Books, Binding and Periodicals	5,943	15	0
Transport and Travelling Expenses	343	13	1
Rent, Maintenance and Repair of Premises :			
(a) Headquarters	229	15	0
(b) Branches	79	9	11
Other Expenditure	110	14	0
Total Expenditure	£9,180	18	4

Minutes of the Proceedings of a Quarterly Meeting held on Saturday, the 3rd day of July, 1954.

Present :—County Councillor and Alderman Miss M. A. Ashe; Sean Donnellan, N.T.; County Councillor P. J. Galvin; County Councillor Sean Glynn; Michael Gohery, N.T.; County Councillor M. J. Higgins, N.T.; County Councillor Thomas King; County Councillor M. F. Kitt, N.T.; John M. Moroney, N.T.; Frank M. Mullin, N.T.; Tadhg O'Shea, B.A., N.T.; County Councillor M. Quinn; County Councillor J. J. Ruane; County Councillor Peter Sirr and County Councillor Thomas King.

153. Chairman of the Committee for the year 1954-1955 :—
Resolved :—That the Very Reverend P. Caron Glynn, B.A., V.F., be elected Chairman of the Committee for the year 1954-1955.

154. Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the year 1954-1955 :—
Resolved :—That County Councillor M. F. Kitt, N.T., be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the year 1954-1955.

155. Minutes of the last meeting :—Resolved :—
That the Minutes of the last meeting circulated to each member be taken as read; and that they be signed.

156. Minutes of the Proceedings of Branch Library Sub-Committees :—Resolved :—
That the Minutes of the Proceedings of Branch Library Sub-Committees be in all cases submitted for consideration to the Quarterly Meetings of the County Libraries Committee.

157. Votes of Sympathy :—Resolved :—
That the Committee's sympathy be rendered to the relatives of the late Mr. J. J. Glynn, Miss E. McHale, and Mr. Nestor, Dunmóire.

158. Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland :—
The Acting/County Librarian submitted details of the Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland to be held in Bray from the 13th—17th September, 1954. Resolved :—That it be recommended to the County Council that County Councillors M. F. Kitt, N.T., and J. J. Ruane, with the County Librarian, be the Council's delegates to the Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland to be held in Bray from the 13th—17th September, 1954.

(Minutes Nos. 153 to 158 inclusive.)

*M. A. Ashe O'Connell
qas d'ois mar 1954.*

GALWAY COUNTY LIBRARIES

Minutes of the Proceedings of a Quarterly Meeting held on Saturday, 9th October, 1954.

Present :—Rev. Fr. McDonagh, M.A., County Councillor M. Quinn, County Councillor P. Sirr, County Councillor R. Joyce, County Councillor M. Carty, County Councillor T. King, County Councillor S. Glynn, County Councillor M. Kitt, Mr. S. Donnellan, N.T., Mr. M. Goherty, N.T., Mr. S. Moroney, N.T., Mr. F. Mullen, N.T. and Mr. T. O'Shea, N.T.

CHAIRMAN :—Councillor M. Quinn was Chairman of the Meeting.

159 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING :—It was decided that the Minutes of the previous Meeting, having been circulated to the Members, be taken as read, and signed by the Chairman.

160 NEW BRANCH LIBRARIES :—It was decided to recommend to the County Manager that the Acting County Librarian be authorised to visit Creggs, Gort, Milltown, Kinvara and Menlough to examine the possibilities of the establishment of Branch Libraries in those areas.

161 BALLINASLOE BRANCH LIBRARY :—A discussion on the Ballinasloe Branch Library was postponed for the presence of the County Librarian.

162 VOTES of SYMPATHY :—It was Resolved that the Committee's sympathy be tendered to Mr. M. Flanagan, Assistant Librarian, on the death of his mother; to Mr. P. J. O'Connor, Loughrea, on the death of his wife; and to County Councillor M. Newell, on the death of his brother.

(Minutes Nos 159-162 inclusive)

*Patrick Glynn.
26 Nov., 1954*

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Galway County Council Archives