

and the first annual report of the Institute did not seem to justify the promoters' arguments for its establishment. This was partly attributable to a period of general depression adversely affecting every individual interest in Christchurch and its neighbourhood. A statistical analysis makes gloomy reading. Of a membership of 112, only fifty had borrowed books from the library and an average of nine per night had attended at the reading room. The circulation figures, for the library of 168 books, were 314, suggesting that subscribers borrowed less than one book each per month. However, in spite of a seeming lack of interest the list of magazines and periodicals that were on the Reading Room tables is so imposing that it is of interest to give it in full:- The Lyttelton Times, Canterbury Standard, New Zealander, Wellington Independent, Nelson Examiner, Otago Witness, Sydney Morning Herald, Melbourne Argus, Home News, Illustrated London News, Builder, Economist, Punch, Mechanics' Magazine, Dublin University Magazine, North American Review, Quarterly Review, Edinburgh Review, Sunday at Home, Leisure Hour, Chambers's Journal, Art Journal, Athenaeum, Blackwoods Magazine, Illustrated Times, Cassell's Family Paper. (18)

If the major part of the report does not appear encouraging, at least this list shows that a wide range of colonial and overseas contacts had already been established. Finally, it is also pleasing to notice the interest shown by the Government which had already assured the Institute that the subject of a building site should have every attention. Naturally it seemed likely that the Institute would have a much better chance of thriving once it was