

catalogues, in book form,⁽⁹⁾ to replace the printed dictionary type of catalogue which was expensive to produce and was usually out of date by the time it left the printer's hands. The new catalogues, which combined all the advantages of a card catalogue as regards power of expansion and adjustability, were also appreciated and used more by the public.

After he had been at the Library about eight months, Mr. Bell said that he had had a chance to inspect the large stock of volumes during the process of classifying and reorganising, and that he was of the opinion that there was no circulating library in the Dominion that could equal the splendid collection to be found in the Christchurch Library.⁽¹⁰⁾ In support of this statement Mr. Bell quoted figures which showed the relative stocks at the libraries in the chief centres to be Christchurch 28,000, Auckland 14,884, Wellington 12,520, Dunedin 11,134. Apart from the large collection of works of fiction the Library had a very fine stock of books dealing with travels, history, and biography, there being over 7000 volumes in those sections alone.⁽¹¹⁾ There was also a collection of about 2365 volumes dealing with drama and poetry, the most popular of which were those by Shaw, Wilde, Galsworthy, Bridges, and Masefield.

In July 1914 the electric light installation was completed and was brought into use in September.⁽¹²⁾ This replaced the gas lighting, the fumes from which, in the past, had had a very deleter-

9. "Evening News", October 29, 1913.

10. L.T. February 10, 1914.

11. Mr. Bell said that this collection was unequalled in many of the large English and Australian libraries.

12. B. of G. 1915, p.28.