

to its new quarters, it was possible to establish a new central office, in the Circulating Department, which greatly aided the work of administration. At the same time, the old heating system was replaced by an effective modern steam plant which effectually ended the just complaints of readers in the building. There were two more important additions and innovations to the Library in the 1924-5 period. The first of these was the acquisition of a very valuable and unique collection of thirty two volumes, by H. Ling Roth, devoted to a comprehensive survey of the art of tattooing.⁽¹⁹⁾ In May 1925, the Library held its first "New Book Day", and, probably for the first time in its history, a queue was formed, of people wishing to borrow books. Under this new system, all new books were placed on a special table, and, on the first day, over four hundred were distributed. As the scheme proved so successful, it was continued for some time, at regular intervals.

However, once again the Library was faced with financial difficulties, and in 1929 Mr. Bell wrote to the Carnegie Corporation in New York enquiring as to the possibility of a grant.⁽²⁰⁾ But the reply he received was far from encouraging, as it stated that, because of the limited funds available for expenditure outside the United States, the Corporation was unable to include assistance to existing public libraries in its programme. An article in "The Sun",⁽²¹⁾ shortly after this announcement, stated that many public institutions, such as the art gallery, band rotunda, and clock tower, had recently benefitted by public bequests, but not so the Library, which, apart

19. "The Sun", March 23, 1925.

20. "Wellington Post", Wellington, June 7, 1929.

21. "The Sun", June 8, 1929.