

at Woolston in 1899.⁽³⁸⁾ Also during the period before 1900 a library at Spreydon received government grants from 1884 to 1886.⁽³⁹⁾

There was no diminution of activity with the turn of the century and the first new library to appear was that at Sydenham. Although a public meeting had been held to discuss the matter in 1883,⁽⁴⁰⁾ nothing eventuated until 1903 when the Sydenham Reading Rooms and Recreation Club were opened in the old Borough Council Chambers.⁽⁴¹⁾ After about four years a motion was passed that, because of hooliganism amongst the younger members, the assets of the club should be handed over to a committee for the purpose of forming a public library.⁽⁴²⁾ Accordingly, on November 26, 1907, with a membership of about 150,⁽⁴³⁾ the Sydenham Public Library was incorporated "for the purpose of providing suitable reading, recreation and entertainment for the members." Annual subscriptions were fixed at eight shillings for men and six shillings for women, the men to have access to the billiard room.⁽⁴⁴⁾ The manner of formation of this library diverges somewhat from the general pattern, but that which follows can be regarded as typical of those which have been formed in more recent years.

On the last day of April 1909 a meeting was called by the Linwood Citizens' Association to discuss a proposal for the establishment of a public library.⁽⁴⁵⁾ Mr. G.W. Russell M.P. informed those present that the City Council had put the sum of £40 on its estimates for the

38. *Ibid.*

39. *Ibid.*

40. L.T. June 1, 1883.

41. Old minute book at Sydenham Library.

42. *Ibid.*

43. Personal information from Mr. C. Pollard.

44. *Ibid.* This is the only library in which the subscription is not uniform for all adults.

45. L.T. May 1, 1909.