

ion of ten shillings per year. The effectiveness of the system is best illustrated diagrammatically and a study of the attached map (72) is very revealing. Suburban loyalty ensures, at any rate to a large extent, that the majority of residents prefer to patronise their own library, even if another is slightly more accessible. (73) This means that the effectiveness of any one library can be analysed with a reasonable degree of accuracy. Of course it must be realised that it is the total population figures for each area that are shown so that the position is not quite as disgraceful as it might at first seem. That these figures show a variation from 1 in 2.1 at St. Martins and 1 in 3.6 at Opawa to 1 in 23.6 at Linwood, 1 in 26.6 at Spreydon, and 1 in 47.5 at Woolston, is itself a commentary on the system.

However, it is not possible to deal adequately with this side of the question without dealing also with the problem of distribution. One glance at the map is sufficient to reveal not only the ridiculous nature of the present arrangement but also how impossible it is to ensure an effective coverage of the city. The very fact that libraries in St. Martins and Opawa serve 1551 and 2385 persons respectively while those in St. Albans and Linwood have to attempt to cope with approximately 42,000 between them (74) should be sufficient for any enthusiastic supporter of the existing system to hang his head in shame. It would be beyond the scope of this work to suggest improvements for the future but a brief comparison with the Auckland system will give some idea of the basic needs of a city such as Christchurch. In Auckland the library system, in 1934, provided a building for each

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72. See inside back cover.

73. Suburban librarians are in agreement on this point.

74. These two libraries have to serve, besides their own districts, North Richmond, Richmond, Avonside, North Linwood and East Linwood.