

entitled "Public Libraries in Christchurch," N.H. Buchanan reviewed the history of the service.<sup>(97)</sup> When dealing with the suburban libraries, he commented, "With all their shortcomings they are healthy institutions." He pointed out that under the existing system there was an unfair distribution of the money among the various libraries,<sup>(98)</sup> and that it also appeared doubtful wisdom to hand out so much money without any suggestion that, as public money, it should be spent on certain types of books of lasting value. Although he considered that the libraries should be helped, he believed that obligations should be required of them in return, and that it should be possible to fit them into a more comprehensive scheme which would give them more and better books without robbing them of their independence. But, as in the past, nothing was done.

It has already been stated that the suburban libraries have their association but otherwise have no organic connection.<sup>(99)</sup> Until 1947 all the suburban libraries belonged to the New Zealand Libraries Association whose chief service to them was to negotiate with booksellers for discounts. However, the libraries were dissatisfied with the service which they were receiving and, with the exception of Opawa,<sup>(100)</sup> resigned and formed a local association. This association has encouraged friendship among the various libraries but does not interfere domestically. In fact, its main function appears to be to keep the financial position of its members before the

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97. *ibid* February 7, 1947.

98. The present yardstick is the amount of money received in subscriptions, whatever the subscription charged. The City Council subsidises £1 for £1 up to £50 and 12/6 for £1 thereafter with a maximum subsidy of £150.

99. *vide supra* p. 97.

100. Opawa belongs to the local association also.