

the appointment, in June 1926, of Miss R. Ray M.A. as children's adviser to aid children in the selection of books and to give a series of talks to boys and girls on using the library. (17)

That a creditable standard had been attained in this important sphere of library work was indicated in the Carnegie Report in 1934 where it was stated that the Remuera branch Auckland, the Newtown branch Wellington, and the Canterbury Public Library all contained children's rooms which did not suffer by comparison with overseas collections. (18) Moreover, it was pointed out that lending privileges to children in Christchurch were free, this being at the time the only large subscription library in which that feature was found. (19) The report continued,

"Too frequently, however, there is no effort made to serve the children, or the attempt is so feeble that it deserves no credit ... This failure to grasp the importance of service to children seriously detracts from the value of New Zealand libraries." (20)

In the light of this statement the Librarian and staff had every reason to be justly proud of their work in the children's section. It would certainly appear that it was second to none in New Zealand.

In spite of financial difficulties, the library continued to progress and by 1937 there were 2203 children enrolled on its books, the large majority of whom were active readers. (21) The enthusiasm of the children was typified by the fact that, when shortage of money presaged economies, a number of senior members were co-opted as volunteer "Helpers" in 1936 (22) and continued in this capacity for a

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17. *ibid* 1927, p.37.

18. Munn and Barr, *op. cit.* p.14.

19. *ibid* p. 21-2.

20. *ibid* p.14.

21. B.of G. 1937, p.36.

22. *ibid* 1936, p.38.