

of Secondary Schools in 1938 when he stated that, "when compared with the library equipment provided in other countries, that obtaining in our own secondary schools is strikingly and disappointingly meagre."⁽⁵⁰⁾ However, the year 1940 saw the first Government grant (of £1000) to post-primary libraries, and by 1948 this had been increased to £19,225 which was the equivalent of a library capitation of five shillings per pupil.⁽⁵¹⁾ As a result, the majority of secondary schools are now equipped with adequate or reasonably adequate libraries and the Chief Inspector reported that, in range and quantity, book stocks were showing the valuable results of the firm capitation allowance since 1945.⁽⁵²⁾ It is essential that the reading habit now being fostered in the elementary schools should not be allowed to die in its infancy through lack of nurture at the post-primary level.

This early acquisition of the reading habit is surely the crux of the whole matter. But the reading habit alone is not enough. The ordinary working man is denied the pleasure and the opportunity of building up his own collection of good literature by prohibitive prices. For him the library habit is an essential supplement to the reading habit. On these grounds it is of paramount importance that juvenile tastes should be a first consideration of those in whose hands the organisation of library services lies. A commendable lead in this direction has been given by the City Library which, unfortunately, has no power to influence the policies of suburban library committees, while they, either on account of parochialism or lack of

50. N.Z. A to J 1938. E 2, p.10.

51. *ibid* 1948. E 1, p.30.

52. N.Z. A to J 1949, E 2, p.24.