

CHAPTER VICONCLUSIONS

It has been the purpose of this work to evaluate the worth of the Christchurch library service in the light of the history of its development. Now that the conclusion has been reached the reader is in a position to share with the writer any misgivings or expectations for the future. As suggested in the preface, and emphasised throughout the entire work, good library facilities are a first essential of a high standard of culture, and the use made of those facilities must be entered to the cultural credit or debt of the citizens concerned. With the increasing complexity of the pattern of human life it becomes more than ever imperative that each and every one of us should make a sincere and determined effort to understand our fellow humans throughout the entire world. Without understanding, tolerance is impossible. Without tolerance, war and destruction are not only possible but highly probable. In numerous instances, that indispensable tolerance can be acquired by reading, and the necessary books should be available in any public library worthy of the name. If those books are not available, if, in other words, a public library service is not fulfilling its correct function, then it is of the utmost importance that the deficiencies are brought to light. From this I mean to suggest that the history of a library service that is functioning as it should is only of interest to those closely connected with library administration.