

books obtained as gifts) more than £30,000; and the Art Gallery contains nearly 600 pictures, most of which have been purchased at an expenditure of nearly £40,000.

**—A Hundred Thousand Readers.—**

The number of readers who take advantage of the facilities offered during the year has passed the 100,000 mark. An encouraging feature is that in the last five years there has been a special augmentation of the number of readers of the artisan class. The Library officials attribute this partly to the increase of manufactures, and partly to the aid given by the daily newspapers in making the institution better known, as well as to the fact that the latest and best works in various departments of trade, manufacture, and applied arts are placed on the shelves as soon as possible after their issue from the press. There is also a "suggestion book" on the central table, in which readers may enter the title and particulars relating to any work they desire to see added to the library. This is placed before the Library Committee at its monthly meetings, when decisions are given on the items submitted, and the result is noted in the book for



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reference by those who made the suggestions. The value of the Library to University students has been shown by the constantly growing attendance of this class of readers. The Arts professors now set subjects are looked up by the Library staff, the ordinary textbooks and lectures. These subjects are looked up by the library staff, and bulletins are prepared for the catalogues and exhibited in the main hall, giving lists of books and articles in the library relating to the subjects, with the pages at which the references may be found.

**—The Catalogue.—**

The shelves are free to all, but the novice in the study of any subject who desires to find the quickest and best way to his work has no need to search among them for suitable publications. If he states his quest and its particular range to one of the attendants, he will be supplied in a few minutes with all that he requires, both in works bearing directly on the subject, and references to it in books that deal with it only incidentally. The first catalogues, on the pure authorship method, soon proved inadequate, and about 10 years ago a new "dictionary" catalogue was begun on the card system. This is still in course of compilation; and, in fact, can never be really completed so long as books are being added to the Library. Many thousands of cards have been written and filed for handy reference. These render sources of information available to the public which could not otherwise be placed before them. The reclassification of the books was undertaken with the beginning of the new catalogue; and, except for the physical alteration of the position of the volumes, it is practically finished. This has been done on the Dewey Decimal system, a close method which provides facilities for the use of the books to a large extent without the aid of the subject catalogue. The Library will be actually rearranged on this system when the new building now being erected shall make the crypt of the Library available for storeroom purposes. Then the main hall will shelve about 60,000 volumes most in request, and the rest will be removed to the storeroom, whence they can be brought out when required.

**—Control and Administration.—**

The Board of Governors which controls the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery was presided over for 16 years by His Honor the Chief Justice (Sir Samuel Way), and to his capable leadership and wide knowledge in the realms of literature, science, and art the institutions were largely indebted. In November, 1908, Sir Samuel retired from the chair, and the presidency was conferred upon its present occupant, Mr. W. J. Sowden, who has already proved himself in the office and secured the willing allegiance of his fellow-members. The board, as at present constituted, is as follows:—President, Mr. W. J. Sowden; Vice-President, Mr. L. Grayson; Professor W. Jethro Brown, Messrs. T. Burgoyne, M.P., R. Cruickshank, E. Davies, H. D. Gell, T. Gill, and E. W. Hawker. Prof. G. C. Henderson, Mr. W. Howchin, Mr. C. Lindsay, Dr. R. S. Rogers, Mr. L. H. Sholl, Mr. L. W. Stanton, Sir S. J. Way, and Mr. R. Woolnough. The administrative officers are:—General Secretary, Mr. J. R. G. Adams; Assistant Secretary and Accountant, Miss L. M. Harwood.

**—The Library Staff.—**

Since Mr. Adams (in whose absence on leave Miss Harwood, Assistant Secretary, is ably acting) has devoted himself chiefly to the vast volume of administrative work which now pertains to the triple institution, and which is constantly increasing, the Library staff has consisted of the following:—Librarian, Mr. W. H. Ifould; Assistant Librarian and Revising Cataloguer, Mr. H. J. Keyes; a cataloguing clerk, junior cataloguing clerk, library assistant, and two cadets, as well as non-clerical



**MR. W. H. IFOULD**  
Librarian.

cal and bookbinding staffs. There should really be two more cataloguers to complete the normal strength. These positions are now vacant through the appointment of Mr. P. E. Lewin to the librarianship of the Royal Colonial Institute in London, and of Mr. R. J. G. Freeborn to the Parliamentary Library in Adelaide.

**—Six Curious Books.—**

The plate entitled "Collection of Rare and Curious Books," published with this article, shows half a dozen volumes which form some of the rarer treasures of the Library that cannot be placed on the open shelves, but must be inspected under the surveillance of one of the Library officials. They represent six periods in the history of literature, and of six different types of books and bindings. The large volume with the prominent lettering is a manuscript book of the Offices of the Virgin, written and illuminated on vellum about A.D. 1448, just before the invention of printing. The imposing tome behind it is a modern reproduction of a somewhat earlier Latin work, the *Breviarium Græmanum* one of the most famous Breviaries

in the world, the original of which is at St. Mark's, Venice. Lying over these is seen a Hebrew scroll of the Book of Esther in manuscript, date about the close of the sixteenth century. The tiny book in front is an English version of the Psalms. It is the smallest work in the Library—about 3 x 1½ in., and is bound in an old English sampler. The binding is much worn, but as an example of this antique method of book covering, apart from its contents, the little work still possesses considerable value. The bundle of sticks in the front is a Tamil manuscript "Book of the Rammoni." The quaint characters, like a succession of beautifully formed scrollwork, are cut into the bark of an Asiatic bamboo; and, although 12 folios together would make the thickness of only a quarter of an inch, the lettering is deeply incised on both sides. There are seven lines of script on each face, in a width of but 1½ in. The writing was probably done by an old craftsman at Johore. This curious book is bound with a string passed through holes pierced near to one end of the pages. The little pocket book in the upper portion of the picture is one of the pencil diaries of John McDouall Stuart, written during the explorer's famous journey into Central Australia.

**—Books on Australia.—**

The Library makes a speciality of Australian, and more particularly of book and original documents dealing with South Australia. In this section it possesses a valuable collection of journals of explorers, and especially of navigators; and probably no other library in the Commonwealth, with the exception of the Mitchell Branch of the Public Library of New South Wales, is so rich in records of the Dutch navigations. Information from these rare volumes is sought from other countries and other States. At present the Librarian, for example, is tracing for a Western Australian enquirer the original discovery and naming of Rottneest Island, in the journals of Vlaming and of Dirk Hartog. A collection of special value in the section devoted to South Australia contains the original MSS. diaries of Capt. Sturt, J. McDouall Stuart, and Mr. Joseph Hawdon (the first "overlander" who travelled cattle from the eastern States to Adelaide). It also includes many documents which will be of immense importance to future historians of the Central State. Among scientific publications which the Morgan Thomas bequest has enabled the library to acquire is a complete set of Curtis's Botanical Magazine, starting from 1820. It contains the first scientific descriptions of a large number of Australian plants, and is therefore of great importance to botanists.

**—Plans for the Future.—**

The board is anxious, as soon as the arrears of the cataloguing shall have been overtaken, to begin a detailed bibliography of South Australia, which would bring Mr. T. Gill's valuable bibliography up to date and add to it much information concerning the early period of South Australian literature. It is proposed in this publication to give all important references under their proper subject headings, and it will include an index of the important newspapers up to the present time. It is hoped that some day a bibliography staff will be formed, who will assist the public in searching for information more than it is possible for the ordinary library attendant to do. A student might then write from the country for data, which could be supplied in note form, and specialists would find their labour in research greatly decreased. A children's section is also under discussion, to include books for little folks alone. It is considered unsatisfactory that children should be allowed in the main hall, where it is impossible to supervise the young readers and to encourage them in the perusal of good and useful literature.

**—Daily Timetable.—**

The Public Library is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily; on Sundays from 2 till 6 p.m., and on all holidays, with the exception of Christmas Day and Good Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.