

but the necessary money before the colony could be founded was not secured until 1835. During the interval a great many preparations were being made for the foundation of the new colony, and on August 29, 1835, the S.A. Library Association was formed. Its object was "the cultivation and diffusion of useful knowledge throughout the colony," and one of the means by which that object was to be obtained was "a library of reference and consultation." Mr. Gill, the Under-Treasurer, had given him the original minute-book of that Association, which he produced. There were sixteen conversations held from February to August, 1835, and on September 5 the inaugural address was delivered by Mr. (afterwards Sir) R. D. Hanson. Twenty-five years afterwards Mr. Hanson was Chairman of the Select Committee which led to the foundation of the South Australian Institute and Public Library, and forty years after he was Chairman of the Royal Commission which recommended the foundation of the South Australian Public Library, Art Gallery, and Museum, and which led to the erection of the present buildings. The original committee were - John Brown, who lived in Bank-street for so many years, and whose house was the resort of all the quidnuncs of the time, Robert Gouger, R. D. Hanson, G. S. Kingston, and Dr. Wright. There was an obligation to which all the members fixed their names, and he did not think the exhibits at the conversations the previous night were more interesting to the colony than the autographs appended to that obligation. On September 16, 1834, Mr. Gouger made a beginning of the library of reference and consultation by making a present of 60 books and 4 volumes of pamphlets. He had wished to produce all that remained of those books, but he held in his hand one of the volumes of pamphlets which had been rebound, and which was identified by the catalogue in the minute, and by Mr. Gouger's signature. The books were sent to the colony in the ship Tam o' Shanter, which arrived before Proclamation Day, but it was not until June 28, 1835, that a meeting was held to consider the advisableness of establishing a Mechanics' Institute. That was opened on August 1 by Mr. James Hurtle Fisher. The books were transferred to the Mechanics' Institute, which had its home for about ten years in a wooden shanty near the site of the present railway station. In 1848 the Mechanics' Institute effected an alliance with the South Australian Literary Society, and removed to Peacock's Buildings, and afterwards to Exchange Chambers. In 1856 a reading-room was opened, and under an Act of Parliament, passed the same year, the South Australian Institute was established. This was mostly secured through the personal influence of John Howard Clark. In the history of the Public Library of South Australia he was not quite so imposing a figure as Sir Redmond Barry, who was the mainpring of the Library movements throughout Australia. But Mr. Clark was a most attractive personality, and it was due to his efforts that the Institute Act was passed. They would see his portrait in the reading-room of the Public Library, but that represented him after his health had broken down after long years of journalistic work. He remembered him at an earlier stage, with his red hair and tawny beard, his square shoulders and well-knit figure, and his apt and ready Shakspearian quotations; he seemed to him as if he belonged to the gracious time of Queen Elizabeth, and had just strolled out of the Globe Theatre after a performance of "Hamlet," "Macbeth," or "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The Public Library and Art Gallery Act was passed in 1884, and the Public Library was accommodated in the new Library Building in that year. The Library, which at the foundation of the colony consisted of 60 or 80 volumes, now numbered 44,000 volumes. His Excellency the Governor passed the Library under review at the Teachers' Conference on September 24 last, when he said: "I should like to urge the very great importance of making the Public Library here better than it is, so that the teachers all over the province may keep up, by means of the travelling libraries, what they learn at the University, and be on a level with modern requirements. I am sorry to say I am ashamed that the librarians' meeting at the Library Conference next month should spy out the nakedness of the land, the dearth of common standard or new works on the shelves, except for the fact that if attention is drawn to it the Government may be induced to supply adequate funds, so as to place the library on a proper basis. Do not sacrifice your literary education to any 'golden calf' of utilitarianism. If you do you will lose your greatness as a people." His Excellency hit upon two indisputable facts. First, the Public Library was an essential part of their public system of education, and that the free Public Library was the necessary complement of free education; and, secondly, that the Adelaide Public Library was absolutely inadequate to the place it filled in the educational system. Let him compare their Library with the Libraries of the other colonies. The New South Wales Public Library contained 150,000 volumes, and Melbourne 170,000. During the last seven years they had had an average of £278 to expend on books for the Public

Library, and if they excluded continuations and periodicals the average was only £278. In one year they spent the magnificent sum of £170 in new books. Even in these times of retrenchment the Melbourne Public Library was spending £2,500 a year. It might be said that it was not fair to compare the Public Library of a small colony like South Australia with the Public Library of communities three times as populous, and he did not know how many times as rich, but although that was obvious in some respects it did not represent the whole truth, because if they furnished a library for £1,000 and another for £10,000 they would have to have the same books in both—the students in South Australia would want to refer to as many books as the student in Victoria. They did not ask the Government for money to buy books from the Kelmscott Press, as they did in Melbourne, but they did insist that the Library did not perform its proper function if the people could not find in it all the books which the student might require. Even in Western Australia, where the Library had only been founded eleven or twelve years, they were spending 1000

£1,000 to £2,000 a year in the purchase of books. The population of Western Australia was not half that of South Australia, and yet last September they had 40,000 books to the 4,000 in South Australia, and by the end of the year the Public Library of Western Australia would contain more books than that of South Australia. At the Ballarat Public Library there were 20,500 volumes—nearly half as many as that of South Australia, whilst our own Parliamentary Library contained 25,000 volumes. He was not suggesting that there was any blame on successive Governments, because they had not been able to satisfy their requirements. The first duty of the Treasurer was to make both ends meet, and he desired to point out that it could not be suggested that the Legislature or the Government had not been generous in their support of education or libraries. They could not call a Government parsimonious which, with a revenue of two and three-quarter millions, was able to spare £150,000 this very year for free education. During the first forty-one years since the Government had undertaken the maintenance of the libraries he found they had spent on Public Libraries, Art Gallery, and Museum £180,000; on country and suburban Institutes, £130,000; and on the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery buildings, £100,000, making a total of £410,000. He passed from that subject in the fervent hope that better times might soon place the Public Library abreast of the Public Libraries of the other colonies of Australia, and give them as much reason to be proud of it as they were proud of the building in which it was housed. He had been unable to persuade the Ministers of Education of one of the colonies of the practical value of meetings of that character. The published proceedings of the Sydney and Melbourne Conferences were sufficient answer to any suggestion of that kind. If they required proof of the practical results of the gatherings they had only to recall the superb gift of Mr. Mitchell to the Sydney Public Library, the direct result of the Sydney meeting. Another example was when their indefatigable Librarian, Mr. Adams, went to the Melbourne Conference he saw the advantages of the card system of indexing, and through the courtesy of the Public Library of Victoria one of the South Australian staff went over to Victoria and learnt the system, which had since been adopted in the South Australian Library. To understand the result of Conferences of that kind they had to go to England and the United States. The Library Associations in England and in the United States had been in existence since 1870 and 1877, and 23 or 24 Conferences had been held in both countries. The Free Libraries Act, introduced into England in 1850, was for many years almost a dead letter, but owing to the constant reiteration of its advantages at the Conferences of late years the Free Libraries Act had come into practical operation, and Sir John Lubbock, at the international meeting in 1897, mentioned that there were 300 towns in England which had taken advantage of the Act, and these districts were inhabited by half of the population of England. In order to understand the benefit of Conferences of that kind they had to go to America, where American minds understood the practical benefits of organization. Their American friends recognised the advantage of the Association, and they had now Federal Library Associations, and also an organization of State Library Associations in nearly half the States of the Union. They had also State Commissions appointed by the Governors of the different States for the purpose of advancing the library system and giving information to those who required it. They had the same thing in South Australia to some extent. Instead of State Library Commissions they had the Institute Parliamentary Committee of the House of Assembly, and instead of the State Library Association they had the Institutes' Association, which had associated with it 100 Institutes with over 5,000 members. The result of the organization and Library Association had been to bring about a greater advance in the library movements in America during the last decade than in the previous 90 years of the century. It had been marked by the erection of superb buildings and phenomenal gifts by private citizens. Then there was the introduction of mechanical contrivances, co-operative indexing, and cataloguing. And another advantage he would like to see introduced into the Association was the inter-State library loans. Frequently when he desired to investigate a subject he had to wait until he could go to Melbourne to see the book he wanted, but under the system introduced in America he would only have to ask the Board of Governors of the Melbourne Library to send the books to Adelaide for a short period to enable him to consult them. Another advantage was in training librarians. It was recognised that the position of Librarian was a profession. There were examinations held in England, and in America there were four training schools and six summer schools for the training of Librarians. Another feature was the introduction of the travelling library. Their American friends were not aware that it was an Australian invention. The boxes of books sent round to the country libraries were the much-valued travelling libraries of America. They were introduced into Victoria and South Australia in 1859 by Sir Redmond Barry and Mr. John Howard Clark. Sir Redmond read a paper on the subject before the Library Association Conference in London in 1877, but it did not attract much notice in America, because he did not think of the attractive title of travelling libraries, but called it lending books. The first American travelling library was sent out in February, 1863, and by 1899 there were 2,500 of these libraries, circulating 110,000 volumes, and now 42 out of the 43 States of the American Union had adopted the system. There was this difference between the Australian and American methods. In Australia they sent books to other libraries, but in America the travelling library was a pioneer library, which was sent out to the back blocks and places where no libraries existed. Another great feature was furnishing libraries for schools. They had been advocated for years in Australia, and a valuable paper was read

on the subject at the Sydney Conference by Mr. Kevin. The Americans had public reading-rooms for children, and endeavours made by selection of books not merely to make the children acquainted with branches of literature which were suitable for their reading, but also for the purpose of directing and assisting their studies. The question for them was should they introduce the American methods into Australia. In South Australia they had been more conservative than in Victoria and New South Wales. While they had free circulating libraries in Sydney and Melbourne they did not have one in South Australia. A great opportunity was lost in 1884 when they entered the new building, and when they transferred half their books to the Adelaide Circulating Library—a subscription institution. That body was aided by Government subsidy for many years, but through stress of finances the subsidy was withdrawn. The Institutes had reading-rooms, but they were mostly subscription libraries; but the custom was to allow visitors access to the books. He could not see why, if the State started a free circulating library in Melbourne and Sydney it should not do so at Ballarat and Goulburn. That would largely increase the cost of public libraries, but his view was that they should have free circulating libraries throughout Australia. He did not think they should be Government institutions, but that they should be municipalized. They had an Act in South Australia for the establishment of free libraries, and the Legislature had given power to impose a 3d. rate as against a 1d. rate in England. It was only passed in 1898, and so far had been a dead letter. What the future of the public library system would be in Australia it was impossible to forecast, but he was quite sure that when the President of the Australian Library Association in one hundred years hence was addressing the meeting of the Association the hall in which it was held would be crowded, and he would congratulate the members of the Association on the fact that the system in Australia was quite abreast of the public libraries of America, England, or any other part of the world. The energetic attempts to push and advertise the work of the free circulating libraries was a prominent feature of the American system. There were branches, branch

reading-rooms, and delivery stations. In the City of Boston, only a little larger than Melbourne, there were seventeen branches. The books of the library were advertised in the papers, on street cars, and in hotels. In Australia, as in America, they provided the literary banquet, but in the latter place they went forth into the highways and compelled them to come in.

A MODEL LIBRARY.
Mr. E. La T. Armstrong, Librarian of the Public Library of Victoria, read an interesting paper on "A Model Library from a Librarian's Point of View." He expressed the opinion that it was well to have an ideal, even if it was impossible to reach it, and it seemed to him that in Australia they had no conception of an ideal library, and no standard for which to strive. Among librarians who had given any thought to the subject, certain essentials were so well recognised that it should not be impossible to imagine a library that would fairly satisfy their needs. In other countries the matter was engaging serious attention, but, so far as he could ascertain, no radical improvement had been made on Panizzi's idea, as carried out in the British Museum. He planned a great circular reading-room, and provided for surplus volumes and future additions in storerooms with easy access. No greater tribute had been paid to the excellence of the idea than the fact that the newly erected Library of Congress at Washington had been built on similar lines. He thought that this system might be accepted as a basis for a model library, as it afforded scope for a fair compromise between absolutely free access to the shelves and entire exclusion, and provided for a maximum of supervision at a minimum of cost. If they accepted the idea in the main, details might be marked out according to circumstances. The chief feature of a library should be a great reading-room, with perfect ventilation and good light, so designed as to be entirely overlooked from a central point. He would assume that they were dealing with a large and growing library, and they might at once give up the idea that all books were to be available to the public without the medium of an attendant. As soon as a library assumed certain proportions the system of unrestricted access became impracticable. Mr. Armstrong then gave an outline of the principal features of the great Library of Congress just erected in America, which had been designed on a magnificent plan, as was shown by the fact that \$1,250,000 had been voted for the cost of the building, and a period of eight years was allowed for construction. America had endeavoured to build a national library worthy of a great nation. Turning to what was in some respects its prototype, the British Museum, they found that the reading-room of that institution, including store-rooms, cost about £150,000 at the time of its opening in 1857. This was only mentioned to show that the enormous sum spent at Washington included more than necessities, and it suggested the question whether by simpler designs and less costly buildings to carry out the main ideas in the more important of their Australian libraries. In smaller libraries the question of open access and storerooms was not of immediate importance. But would it not be well to anticipate a little? Many Australian towns might become large cities before many years had passed, and it would be well, even in the smaller towns, to build on a plan that would be capable of indefinite extension. In a large library he did not believe that 50 per cent. of the volumes would be used once a year, but he had no wish to gauge the value of a library by what was commonly read therein, but, on the contrary, he would say that the books that were least read in a library were in many instances the very books which gave it whatever claim it had to greatness. It was sufficient that a library should possess these books, and that they should be readily accessible to those who required them. In an ideal library they would look for the best of everything, and their best should be widely interpreted. It was sometimes argued that certain books would not be in a public library in the

ground of morality, that argument was good only as against the indiscriminate use of the books in question. The omission of a circulating library was simple; even doubtful books should be left out, but in a reference library that did not apply. There should be discrimination as to what books were issued, that was all, and the censorship should be very cautiously used. An ideal library should contain works of monumental value as well as works of monumental wisdom. (Cheers.)—A discussion followed, in which Messrs. M. J. Ewood, T. W. Rowe, and T. Burgoyne, M.P., took part.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATIONAL AND COUNTRY LIBRARIES.
An exceedingly able and suggestive paper was contributed by Mr. H. C. L. Anderson, M.A., Librarian of the Public Library of New South Wales, on "The Relationship Between the National and Small Country Libraries." Mr. Anderson was, unfortunately, prevented from attending the Convention, and in his absence the paper was read by the Secretary, Mr. Adams. After stating that he desired to induce a discussion on the advantages of the public library and the best means of extending them, the writer remarked that all the colonies had shown a generous spirit in assisting in the formation of country libraries, and in contributing to their future growth. Whether the thousands voted for this educational purpose were wisely spent was another question. He found a strange reluctance on the part of some people to carry this system to its logical issue. They would subsidize communities which were able to erect a school of arts, and to raise a certain revenue, however indirect the methods employed, by means of an initial grant of building, and a yearly vote for purchase of books. But to the group of poor students in a remote bush hamlet nothing was given. The individual student, suffering all the disadvantages incidental to isolation in a country district, could not be helped on any terms by the educational reformer, who was bound too tightly with red tape. He failed to see why the single bona-fide student in the country districts should not get the sympathy and cordial assistance of the true librarians as readily as the group of people—perhaps some students, possibly more billiard-players—who had constituted themselves a school of arts, with full authority to draw an annual subsidy and to borrow a box of books every four months from the National Library. He need hardly explain that it would be obviously impossible for any library to supply light reading to country readers, but they had proved in New South Wales that it was quite practicable to give substantial help to hundreds of earnest men and women throughout the colony without interfering in any serious way with the thousands of city borrowers. After expressing his admiration of the book box system which was in operation in South Australia, Mr. Anderson stated that he wished to indicate the ways in which the State Library could assist country libraries, groups of students in remote hamlets, and even individual students.
1. By issuing at regular intervals a carefully chosen list of the best works in all classes issued during the preceding period. Evidently the time is not yet ripe for the publication of the proposed library journal, for they could not get 100 country Institutes to consent to pay the necessary subscription of 10s. to ensure financial success. However, for the benefit of country friends who had not the opportunities of consulting critical reviews and of handling and sampling the literary wares offered by booksellers, he thought they could and should be willing to prepare quarterly lists of the best books suitable for country readers and students.
2. With the aid of an adequate annual grant they could equip boxes of the best, classic and modern literature to be sent on loan to any small country library or group of students who could show their bona-fide desire for study, and would furnish satisfactory guarantees as to fair usage and safe return. If each country library would subscribe a fair amount—say 25 per annum each—to be supplemented by an equal amount from the Government grant, it could get the loan of 200 volumes of the best literature in parcels of fifty, every quarter. When these boxes had circulated throughout all the subscribers—say every three years—they might be equipped afresh, and the volumes withdrawn be distributed equally among the institutions interested.
3. He also advocated the continuance of the present system of giving an annual grant to each library for the purpose of enabling them to form the nucleus of a permanent reference library, best suited to the conditions of the district concerned. But the grant should be calculated on the basis of money spent during the year on approved books and such other educational agencies as might be recognised. The present system of calculating the subsidy on the basis of subscriptions was too apt to encourage the gathering of subscriptions by all sorts of means—direct and indirect, by the meretricious allurements of billiard tables, cardrooms, and other amusements of what ought to be regarded as private recreation clubs. Those subsidies should be allocated by one responsible officer working under the directions of the Trustees of the Public Library. He had found that this responsible handling of thousands of pounds of public money needed more than the incidental attention of some clerical officer, who probably has no expert knowledge of library matters, and who might be distracted by other multifarious duties.
4. He would lend to any bona-fide student in the country any book from the lending branch that could help him in any course of genuine study, whether in history, in science, or in pure literature. Of course, the treasures of a reference library could not possibly be sent out on loan—merely the books available in the lending branch or from the duplicates of the reference collection. If the expense of sending whole boxes of books was borne by the State, these single books should be sent and returned absolutely free. It was surely as logical to send good books free as to send all classes of newspapers free. If the freight on boxes had to be paid by borrowers, then they might logically ask the individual borrowers to pay cost of postage, but in any case there should be a special rate for such books, say quarter rates, such as was charged on parcels of books sent by train.
The paper gave rise to a long and exceedingly interesting discussion. The following interesting discussion followed:—