

missing. Some of these will probably be returned after a time. The total number of books in this department is 17,186. The subscribers now number 1,575. It was found necessary to remove from the shelves, as being unfit for issue on account of mutilation and bad treatment, about 240 volumes. These for the most part consist of works of fiction. The total number of magazines taken in amounts to thirty-seven. The following figures show the income derived from subscriptions during the last five years: 1893, £757 12s; 1894, £781 2s. 6d.; 1895, £651 1s. 6d.; 1896, £739 14s. 6d.; 1897, £825 1s. Particulars of the issue of books for twelve months: Fiction, 77,160 volumes; magazines, 2,784; miscellaneous, 1,152; architecture, 108; history, 1,806; poetry and drama, 390; travels, 2,676; biography, 1,362; literature, 1,326; science, 846: total, 89,610 volumes; daily average $293\frac{4}{5}$. Magazines, monthly numbers, 10,662; daily average, $34\frac{2}{3}$. Total issue 100,272 volumes; daily average, $328\frac{2}{3}$.

Reading-room—The accommodation in this department has now for many years past been acknowledged to be far inferior to what the circumstances of the case demand. The building is of wood and very old, and in a dilapidated condition; it would be a very short-sighted policy to attempt to patch it up. There is no doubt that a reading-room of brick or stone should be erected, but it is difficult to see how the funds are to be obtained for the purpose. Probably at least £1,500 would be necessary to provide the ordinary facilities required. The following newspapers are filed: English, 6; Irish, 1; Scotch, 1; American, 1; Australian Colonies, 9; New Zealand, about 45. Twelve magazines are provided for readers. It is, however, painful to have to report that these are frequently stolen from the room, no less than nine having disappeared during the month. Newspapers also are frequently damaged.

Canterbury Public Library: Circulating Department. — Stock-sheet for the Year ending 31st December, 1897.

	History and Politics.	Biography.	Travels, &c.	Architecture.	Fiction.	Classics and Literature.	Poetry and Drama.	Geology, Natural History, Science, and Botany.	Magazines.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
In stock, 1st January, 1897 ..	1,216	1,361	1,524	320	8,026	942	350	810	954	1,049	16,552
New books added during the year ..	74	43	57	1	674	27	5	12	72	23	988
Total	1,290	1,404	1,581	321	8,700	969	355	822	1,026	1,072	17,540
Taken off shelves, unfit for issue ..	3	1	6	1	221	..	..	..	8	..	240
Missing	4	3	1	..	100	2	..	3	..	1	114
Total	7	4	7	1	321	2	..	3	8	1	354
In stock, 1st January, 1898 ..	1,283	1,400	1,574	320	8,379	967	355	819	1,018	1,071	17,186

Number of Magazines, Periodicals, and Newspapers taken regularly at the Canterbury Public Library.

	Daily, Bi-weekly, Tri-weekly, Newspapers.	Weekly Newspapers and Periodicals.	Monthly Magazines.	Quarterly Publications.	Totals.
Circulating Department—					
British ... ..	...	13	26	...	39
American ... ..	...	...	4	...	4
Australian ... ..	...	...	1	...	1
New Zealand ... ..	...	...	6	...	6
	...	13	37	...	50
Reference Department—					
British ... ..	...	2	13	5	20
American ... ..	...	...	1	...	1
Australian ... ..	...	...	2	...	2
New Zealand ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
	...	2	16	5	23
Newspaper and Reading Room—					
British ... ..	...	8	12	...	20
American ... ..	...	1	...	...	1
Australian	4	5	...	...	9
New Zealand	55	8	...	...	63
	59	22	12	...	93