

may have. There has been an immediate response, however, both from the people as a whole and in local-authority financial support, in those libraries where energetic and enlightened librarians have been directing the service, even after a few weeks' work.

While it is imperative for assistance to be continued by making available bulk loans of books, it is obviously necessary that further stimulation must be provided for local authorities to employ such people, in order that assistance in books can be used fruitfully. Provision of subsidies seems the best way to do this, since it has been demonstrated that very few local authorities in the 2,000-20,000 population group are in a position to make adequate funds available for the complete service.

The principle of Government subsidy on local-authority libraries is becoming widely accepted overseas. In recent years legislation empowering Governments to subsidize local libraries conforming to certain standards has been passed in Norway, New South Wales, Canada, Denmark, and other countries.

SMALL INDEPENDENT SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARIES: "B" SERVICE

During the year, 691 of these libraries were linked with this Service, compared with the number of 679 for the previous year. Of these libraries, 355 are in the North Island and 336 in the South Island. Altogether 55,555 books were on loan to these "B" libraries, an average of approximately 80 books per library. Figures showing the growth of this section of the Country Library Service are given below:—

Date of Annual Report (H-32A).				Number of "B" Libraries Participating.
31st March, 1939	..	..	..	179
31st March, 1940	..	..	..	265
31st March, 1941	..	..	..	302
31st March, 1942	..	..	..	348
31st March, 1943	..	..	..	368
31st March, 1944	..	..	..	391
31st March, 1945	..	..	..	423
31st March, 1946	..	..	..	504
31st March, 1947	..	..	..	555
31st March, 1948	..	..	..	649
31st March, 1949	..	..	..	679
31st March, 1950	..	..	..	691

"C" OR HAMPER SERVICE

In places where no library exists and when it is not possible for one to be formed and visited by the book-van, the service to properly established groups by means of hampers despatched from headquarters has been continued.

During the year 43 groups received service and 14 were converted to "B" service and are receiving visits from the book-van.

SERVICE TO WORKS DEPARTMENT, STATE HYDRO, AND NEW ZEALAND FOREST SERVICE CAMPS AND STATIONS

Commencing on 1st April, 1949, a free library service has been given to these, the total number of camps or stations benefiting at 31st March, 1950, being 39.

Of this number, 36 receive visits from the book-van and 3 are served by hamper from headquarters. The number of books issued to each library is governed by the number of employees at any location.