

## COMMENTARY AND NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

It is thought that the *Record* should give some information about the work and administration of the Library in addition to featuring articles on the material in its collections. As far as possible administrative matters covered by the Annual Report of the National Library of New Zealand, of which copies of the section dealing with the Alexander Turnbull Library have already been sent to members, need not be covered. It should be mentioned, however, at the risk of repetition, that a major responsibility of the staff is the servicing of the sections of the collections elsewhere than in the Turnbull building in Bowen Street and not infrequently directing or participating in the removal of stock from one building to another. At present the Library is housed in four buildings, two of which represent an improvement on the different buildings occupied twelve months ago. The present accommodation, while not functional in its disposition, at least gives a higher degree of security than has been hitherto available.

In the last six months the Photograph Section and map collection have been effectively housed in new premises on the first floor of the Local Government Building; storage space has been occupied in the basement of the Bowen State Building and duplicates, marginal stock and photographic plates cleared from 138 Sydney Street West, an old 'motorway' house – surely the least satisfactory of any building in which library stock of however marginal a quality has to date been stored in New Zealand. Before the Library is eventually housed in the National Library Building authority for the sketch plans of which is being sought, an interim home of several years duration will probably be necessary in another building where it is hoped the entire collection can for the first time since 1955 be brought together.

In December 1967 members of staff farewelled informally Mrs Iris M. Winchester, MA, DIPNZLS, Assistant Chief Librarian. Mrs Winchester, who has given sixteen years of valued service to the Library (until February 1963 as Miss I. M. Park) has been absent on leave since July. Mrs Winchester was Acquisitions Officer from 1950 until 1958 when she transferred to the Reference Section, where in positions of increasing responsibility she worked until her appointment as Assistant Chief Librarian in January 1966. She was Acting Chief Librarian from January until April 1966. All that Mrs Winchester has done in the Library has been at the highest standard. Her Library School Bibliography *New Zealand Periodicals of literary interest*, subsequently published by the School (1962) was a careful assessment of continuing value and interest. Members will recall her lively and perceptive essay on William and H. G. Swainson in the March 1967 issue of the *Record*. It