

COMMENTARY

Library jubilee

A. H. Turnbull was born on 14 September 1868 and his centenary therefore occurred on 14 September last, three days after these notes are being written. He died on 28 June 1918 and the Library was formally opened by the Hon. G. J. Anderson, Minister of Internal Affairs, exactly two years later on 28 June 1920. The Trustees Special Committee for the Library at its first meeting in March 1967 decided that having regard to the requirements of an appropriate publication programme the centenary should be celebrated in conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the Library, at a date appropriately close to 28 June 1970. The Endowment Trust on the recommendation of the Committee has commissioned Dr E. H. McCormick to prepare a biographical memoir on the life and collecting interests of Turnbull. Dr McCormick with some research assistance by the staff, is making good progress with his task. It is hoped that as a continuing programme of publication from this anniversary, catalogues will be issued of the special materials in the Library, such as the manuscript collection, the art collection and the rare books printed in Great Britain and other European countries. A preliminary listing of the manuscript collection should be available early next year as part II of the *Union Catalogue of Manuscripts* but the full catalogue will give a more detailed analysis of the contents of the major groups. From the March 1969 issue of the *Record* a series of articles will feature special aspects of the Library and in mid-1970 a jubilee issue of the *Record* in addition to other appropriate material will outline the history of the Library from 1918 until the present time.

Field-Hodgkins Exhibition

On 20 June the Honourable H. G. R. Mason, a Trustee of the National Library, opened the Field-Hodgkins exhibition of sketches and paintings. The exhibition was mounted to mark the generous donation to the Library by the family of the late W. H. Field of their extensive collection of paintings, sketchbooks and correspondence which had been on deposit for some fifteen years. The collection is representative chiefly of the work of W. M. Hodgkins, the Otago solicitor and painter, and his two daughters, the well-known artist Frances Hodgkins and her sister Isabel, the wife of the Wellington solicitor and Member of Parliament, William Hughes Field. The collection was used extensively by Dr McCormick in his studies of Frances Hodgkins, *The expatriate* and *Frances Hodgkins in New Zealand*, and it was Dr McCormick who encouraged the family to deposit the material in the Library.

Mr Mason in opening the exhibition stressed the appropriateness of