

## OBSERVATION

Through various delays, this issue of the Record was intended to notice the passage of twenty-one years from the founding of the Friends. For the occasion the President has rifled through his diaries, so that a kind of history emerges. Despite the fact that the publication has not been as frequent as at first envisaged, it has recorded much, and the Friends, as an organisation, has achieved a good deal for the library.

This issue carries an index to the contents of these first fifteen numbers, and it is now found that the information here is of frequent and surprising value. Good resolutions should ensure that the next occasion, a jubilee, perhaps, will have very much more to chronicle. The library's development and enrichment in the past merely augurs well for its future, with changes, inevitable to time, that are incidental to that development, not fundamental to its character.

## BIOGRAPHICAL ARCHIVES OF DR. SCHOLEFIELD

### THE GIFT OF B.P. (NEW ZEALAND) LTD.

The Library takes especial satisfaction in the gift made by Messrs. B.P. (New Zealand) Ltd. which purchased and presented the biographical archives of Dr. G. H. Scholefield. These comprise the materials gathered over more than fifty years for the five editions of his "Who's Who in New Zealand and the Western Pacific", and his monumental "Dictionary of New Zealand Biography", 1940. They contain apart from the original texts of the published works, much unused information, minor biographies, correspondence, etc., which can have considerable value to the research student.

A pleasant ceremony was arranged by the Friends of the Turnbull Library on 8th March, 1962, when the records were received by the Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, on behalf of the Library. Mr. G. G. Gibbes Watson, Chairman of Directors, represented Messrs. B.P. (New Zealand) Ltd. and in his speech dwelt upon the policy now growing in the commercial world, of contributing in this way to the cultural life of the community.

The corrections to biographies assembled by Dr. Scholefield against a possible reprint of the "Dictionary" were the result of a separate purchase by the library, but these form a natural complement to the main collection above described.