

under which he worked which, inevitably, exacted a price in health and expectation of life. The writer was fortunate as Chief Librarian in having McIntosh's undivided interest during his last two and a half years of office. The National Librarian and my successor had to share his subsequent time with obligations as Chairman of the Broadcasting Council and Chairman of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, the latter position being rated, even in the Trust's formative years, as more than a part-time job. It is almost unnecessary to say that these additional tasks were assumed largely from an over-developed sense of duty, of public conscience enhanced by his acceptance of a most popular knighthood in 1973. The New Zealand Library Association had made him a life member in 1963 and its Patron in 1972. He would have liked to have done more for it but there was general recognition that the administrative struggles in Wellington were still his most promising arena.

If the slow progress on the National Library building was a major frustration there were compensations. From his first meeting as Chairman of Trustees he sought to give reality to his 37 year old recommendation about scientific and technical library service. It was one way in which, by meeting a known want, sceptics might see some practical point in library expenditure. He was able, too, to secure from various sources much needed additional funds for the National Library Trustees as well as for Turnbull and in the latter case was able to see and enjoy the concrete fruits of his efforts. He was an accessible counsellor, whose well-considered advice was a privilege to many. He was most conscious of the subtle change in his role as an adviser to paid officers. Whatever his private thoughts and despite his obligation to act as a leader in promoting policy he was very much aware that the best course, frequently, was to encourage and console his lieutenants in their professional decisions provided they met the situation by his standards. His contribution, finally, was the greatest not merely because of effective chairmanship, not only because of his knowledge of people and situations but from a blend of character, principle and experience. This rare essence was supreme, for he also knew, without instruction, the problems, the language, and was ready at the starting point of consultation from which one could immediately proceed to the most subtle assessment of personality, situation and, if necessary, political strategy. Each successor can make his own contribution but we can only hope that not too many decades pass before another of his calibre is at the service of libraries and our cultural tradition. To Doris McIntosh who contributed so greatly to his success and who always took a lively and generous interest in the Library we extend our deepest sympathy.

A. G. BAGNALL