

his father was of course, set in the panelling over the fireplace in the large room.

What had been Mr Turnbull's dining-room was the office, as it is today.

Above the Rare Book Room was what was usually called the New Zealand Room though it really housed the main Pacific Collection. This is now the Reference Room and Reading Room. The companion smaller room also had some New Zealand books, as it had a cabinet which held the big illustrated books and such things as the portfolio of reproductions of Dr Wilson's Antarctic sketches.

In the bay window of the New Zealand Room was the big table at which we did the cataloguing. The only accommodation for readers consisted of three small tables at the fireplace end of this room, though there was a large table in the next-door room which could be used if necessary.

Above the New Zealand Room was the English Literature Room, its shelves filled with the more modern writers, and with the theatrical collection, and other material. The small room next door was occupied by Mr Elsdon Best, ethnologist to the Dominion Museum, which at that time was in the old building at the top of Bowen Street.

The four storeys of stack rooms at the back had fortunately quite a lot of empty space in some of them.

The staff consisted of Mr J. C. Andersen, Miss Grace Davidson, Miss Marion Hardie and me, and then there were the two housekeepers – Miss Brouard and Miss Tweeddale. They had both been with Mr Turnbull for several years. Miss Brouard came from the Channel Islands and was short in stature, active and efficient, and with a lively disposition. Miss Tweeddale was tall, and of rather a melancholy cast of countenance. She became ill while I was there and had to go to hospital where she died, and I can't remember whether there was a successor to her or not. Probably there was one until Miss Brouard herself retired, and no more resident housekeepers were appointed.<sup>1</sup>

Miss Davidson had been one of the original staff, the others being Miss Quince Cowles and Miss Ursula Tewsley. Miss Cowles went over to the General Assembly Library, and I took her place. Miss Hardie's appointment was rather unusual, as she was over sixty, but Mr Andersen had been very pleased with some typing she had done for him on occasions, and had been anxious to have her at the Library. This was possible because of the peculiar arrangements about women in the Public Service at that time.

During World War I many women were taken on the permanent staff of the Public Service, which they hadn't been before, but of course many of them didn't stay on – women had to resign on marriage, anyway – and the men complained that they were upsetting the super-