

It is with sadness that we record the untimely death of Tony Ralls, a member of the Catalogue Section for eight years and Assistant Editor of the *Record* from 1983 to 1986. The Chief Librarian, speaking at his funeral service, described Tony at his best 'as a gentlemen and a scholar; concerned for others and sensitive to their needs; concerned for truth . . . He believed passionately in the Turnbull and what it represented—a research library, dedicated, in Alexander Turnbull's words, to the search after truth. He believed in high standards and he saw in the Turnbull an excellence seldom achieved in this country'

Notable Acquisitions

National Council of Churches

With the transfer, in December 1987, of some thirty-five metres of records from the National Council of Churches in New Zealand, the Library has acquired one of the most valuable collections for research into ecumenism in this country.

The N.C.C. was founded in 1941 and drew its membership from the major Christian churches with the exception of the Roman Catholic church. Its aim was to advance the ideas of ecumenism in general among its members, and through its links with the world-wide movement it was able to coordinate welfare work both in New Zealand and abroad.

The records include twenty-five metres of subject files which formed the main filing system of the N.C.C., together with an extensive series of minute books covering Executive and Annual General Meetings, the National Christian Youth Committee, the Women's Committee, the Church and Society Committee and other financial and working committees. There are also scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, photographs and publications including the bulletin *Church and Community*. The main records include good coverage of local branch activity and also some material of earlier organisations, dating from the 1920s, whose efforts led to the setting up of the N.C.C.

Although the organisation officially ceased to exist in December 1987, a new body called the Conference of Churches in Aotearoa/New Zealand (CCANZ) based in Wellington and including the Catholic Church for the first time will continue its work.

Rev. Percy Hall Collection

Miss Dorothy Hall has donated to the Library the papers and books of her father the Rev. Percy Hall. He took up his appointment as Headmaster of Tereora Boarding School, Rarotonga, in 1900 and returned to England for theological training with the London Missionary Society in 1905. In 1908 he embarked again for Rarotonga where he remained until 1916.

The manuscript collection comprises four main groups. One group gives an overview of education in the Cook Islands, ca. 1890-ca. 1920, and includes records of Tereora School, Rarotonga, 1895-1911; diaries, essays, sermons and journals written by pupils; and the debate between the LMS and