

A very large number of volumes of fiction will want replacing through the ill-usage they have received at the hands of the subscribers, at least 95 per cent. of whom are novel-readers, and it is greatly to be regretted that so little care is taken of the books. A supplementary catalogue, amalgamating the quarterly supplements issued since the publication of the main catalogue in 1895, has been published and brought down to April, 1898. The main catalogue of 1895 will be out of print during the year, necessitating the publication of a new one.

The financial assistance received from the Gammack Trust up to the 31st December amounted to £400.

The following figures show the income derived from subscriptions during the last six years : 1893, £757 12s. ; 1894, £781 2s. 6d. ; 1895, £651 1s. 6d. ; 1896, £739 14s. 6d. ; 1897, £825 1s. ; 1898, £857 15s.

Reading-room.—The space in this department has been increased by taking in the lower office and connecting it with the room previously used, but still more accommodation is urgently needed. In addition to eighteen magazines which are provided for readers the following newspapers are filed : English, 8 ; American, 1 ; Australian Colonies, 9 ; New Zealand (about), 69.

Canterbury Public Library: Circulating Department.—Stock-sheet for Year ending the 31st December, 1898.

	History and Politics.	Biography.	Travels, &c.	Architecture.	Fiction.	Classics and Literature.	Poetry and Drama.	Geology, Natural History, Science, and Botany.	Magazines.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
In stock, 1st January, 1898 ..	1,283	1,400	1,574	320	8,379	967	355	819	1,018	1,071	17,186
New books and renewals added ..	62	71	45	4	794	18	10	12	66	33	1,115
during year ..											
Total	1,345	1,471	1,619	324	9,173	985	365	831	1,084	1,104	18,301
Taken off, unfit for issue	..	..	7	..	256	..	..	..	11	1	275
Books missing	..	..	5	..	55	4	2	2	..	1	69
Placed in reference library	1	12	12	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	32
Total	1	12	24	..	311	4	2	2	18	2	376
In stock, 1st January, 1899 ..	1,344	1,459	1,595	324	8,862	981	363	829	1,066	1,102	17,925

Canterbury Public Library.—List of Magazines, Papers, &c.

	Daily, Bi- and Tri- weekly Papers.	Weekly.	Monthly Magazines.	Quarterly Magazines.	Totals.
Circulating Department—					
British	1	11	45	..	57
American	..	..	6	1	7
Australian	..	..	1	..	1
New Zealand	..	2	3	1	6
	1	13	55	2	71
Reference Department—					
British	..	4	14	2	20
American	..	..	1	..	1
Australian	..	..	2	..	2
New Zealand	2	..	3	..	5
	2	4	20	2	28
Reading-room—					
British	..	8	14	..	22
American	..	1	1	..	2
Australian	4	5	..	..	9
New Zealand	56	10	3	..	69
	60	24	18	..	102

Reference Library.—Total of Books in each Section.

History	1,077	English literature, prose ..	520	Botany	107
History, constitutional ..	47	Foreign literature	399	Astronomy	90
Educational	166	Architecture	569	Biography	538
Political	2,188	Learned societies	171	Divinity	752
Calendars, &c.	956	Miscellaneous	264	Mineralogy	18
Newspapers	336	Agriculture	278	Geology	169
Zoology	287	Fine arts, &c.	355	Legal... ..	70
Natural science	221	Chemistry and physics ..	72	Mathematics	121
Travels	395	Dictionaries	338	Biology	26
English literature, poetry ..		Philosophy and mental ..		Anatomy, surgery, &c. ...	104
and drama	278	science	625		