

Service. During the year, 20,767 requests were received, of which 20,392 were filled, the majority from our own stock; 370 (1·8 per cent.) were not filled either because the requested book was unobtainable or because the request was not within the scope of the Service—*i.e.*, light fiction or non-fiction of an ephemeral kind. Of the total supplied, 1,053 were sent to A.E.W.S. libraries in response to requests:—

				North Island.	South Island.	Total.
Supplied	..	..	..	13,000	7,393	20,393
Not supplied	..	..	..	324	50	374
				13,324	7,443	20,767

Books borrowed from other libraries throughout New Zealand were of great help in meeting requests; 1,803 volumes were borrowed for libraries participating in this Service, of which 454 volumes were lent by the General Assembly Library. To this and other libraries grateful acknowledgment is made for this help, without which the proportion of unfilled requests would have been higher.

Some of the most popular subjects requested were floral decoration; painting in oil and water colours; dressmaking and sewing; house-planning and interior decoration; gardening; child psychology. Many books were requested for University and secondary-school studies.

LOAN COLLECTIONS

Two hundred and forty special collections, consisting of 9,840 books and 941 periodicals and pamphlets, were issued to libraries for periods of two months. The previous year, 184 such collections, totalling 7,484 books, had been issued. The most popular subject was again gardening. Among other subjects in demand were hobbies and crafts; music; homecraft; New Zealand; art; drama and theatre; child care; sports and pastimes; and books for intermediate readers—boys and girls between the ages of thirteen and eighteen years. Loan collections were issued to 55 libraries linked with this Service, and 17 collections were sent to teachers' training colleges, W.E.A. summer schools, Education Department refresher courses, and to other libraries outside the Service which required them for special purposes:—

	North Island.	South Island.	Total.
Number of collections to Country Library Service libraries	120	103	223
To other libraries	12	5	17
	132	108	240
Number of books issued	6,552	3,228	9,840
Number of Country Library Service libraries served	42	13	55