

The table below shows the state of the School Library Service at 31st March, 1947:—

Education Boards.	Schools served.	Children (Standard Classes).	Books on Issue at One Time (excluding those in Transit).
Auckland	416	35,615	36,156
Canterbury	216	10,178	11,026
Hawke's Bay	110	6,975	7,303
Nelson	64	3,637	3,864
Otago	155	7,361	10,791
Southland	84	3,507	3,706
Taranaki	34	2,268	2,324
Wanganui	149	7,185	7,791
Wellington	125	8,500	9,005
	1,353	85,226	91,966

HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE

With the appointment to the staff of a graduate trained in hospital library work at the University of Minnesota, a survey of the existing facilities of libraries in hospitals has been begun. Since the New Zealand Library Association's questionnaire to Hospital Boards in 1945, it has been realized that libraries for patients are not yet established in all hospitals of the country. Of existing libraries, few reach the standards agreed on by overseas hospital librarians and hospital administrators as the minimum.

The provision of adequate hospital library service can best be done by the free public libraries of the country, following the example given by Dunedin, Timaru, Greymouth, and Tauranga Public Libraries. Service through the public library means that sufficient books of the right type can be provided for all patients, that request and interloan service can be supplied, and that modern developments in hospital libraries can be aimed at.

As a start in promoting the spread of hospital libraries, assistance in the form of books and advice in organizing hospital library service will be offered by National Library Service to free public libraries in the smaller boroughs which undertake service to hospital patients. The administration of this library service will be carried out locally, either by the local public librarian, or by a committee in cases where help in circulation of books is given by voluntary organizations such as the Red Cross Society.

The Committee on Hospital Libraries of the New Zealand Library Association is to consider the compilation of a book-list for use in hospital libraries.

One prison and one Borstal institution have now received collections of books, which will be exchanged three times a year. Selection is suited to the special needs of inmates. Request service also is made available. A similar service is to be extended to all prisons.

BOOK STOCK

During the year additions to stock were 53,297 volumes—19,930 fiction and 33,367 non-fiction. Withdrawals were 3,794—3,313 fiction and 481 non-fiction—making net additions 49,503. The adult stock of the Service now stands at 208,068, made up of 76,958 fiction and 131,110 non-fiction. At 31st March, 1947, stock of the children's section was 151,568, making a grand total of all stock of 359,636 volumes. Difficulty in obtaining books from