

and agriculture, and lighthouse-keepers and assistant keepers and their families. The increase is demonstrated by the number of active members at the end of each of the last four financial years :—

POSTAL SERVICE MEMBERS

	Year ended 31st March,			
	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Active members—				
North Island }	496	674	569	607
South Island }			234	293
Lighthouses }	66	81	101	108
	562	755	904	1,008
Lighthouses served	15	19	20	25

A total of 23,483 books was issued to these members during the year, including 1,414 to lighthouses.

LOAN COLLECTIONS

Special collections of books on specific subjects, issued for two months, were again popular. Subjects such as gardening, occupations and hobbies, music, and New Zealand were in demand, but some libraries asked for collections on such less generally popular subjects as philosophy, mining methods and coal, and vocational guidance.

In addition to the 327 collections issued to 78 libraries linked with this Service, 21 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 :—

USE OF LOAN COLLECTIONS

	Year ended 31st March,	
	1947.	1948.
Number of collections sent—		
To libraries linked with Country Library Service—		
North Island	120	188
South Island	103	139
Total	223	327
To other libraries—		
North Island	12	17
South Island	5	4
Total to other libraries	17	21
Total collections sent	240	348
Number of libraries linked with Country Library Service served—		
North Island	42	60
South Island	13	18
Total	55	78
Number of books issued—		
North Island	6,552	9,722
South Island	3,228	3,490
Total	9,840	13,212