

Because of the lack of comprehensive up-to-date lists of children's books available from the United Kingdom and the impracticability of printing our own catalogue, it was decided to issue regular lists of recommended books. The lists are issued monthly and are planned to cover in a year the whole field of available reading for children (excluding text-books).

Lists already issued have been of help to schools and public libraries either for buying books or for requesting them from this Service.

On behalf of the Department of Island Territories, approximately 3,000 books were selected, prepared for issue, and sent to Western Samoa for circulation among Samoan schools.

Below are tables showing details of the School Library Service at 31st March, 1948 :—

Education Boards.	Schools served.	Children (Standard Classes).	Books on Issue at One Time (excluding those in Transit).
Auckland	437	37,591	43,337
Canterbury	251	11,703	13,280
Hawke's Bay	127	6,496	9,547
Nelson	81	4,404	4,957
Otago	151	7,527	7,877
Southland	132	5,686	6,271
Taranaki	80	5,289	5,593
Wanganui	157	8,266	9,525
Wellington	133	9,209	10,419
Education Department—			
Maori	105	6,683	6,924
Child Welfare	24	768	768
Private schools	38	2,548	2,548
Totals	1,716	106,170	121,046

Additions to stock were 62,568 volumes—37,712 fiction and 24,856 non-fiction. Withdrawals were 1,672—1,225 fiction and 447 non-fiction. The stock now stands at 212,464, of which 138,116 are fiction and 74,348 non-fiction :—

Books.	Fiction.	Non-fiction.	Total.
Stock at 31st March, 1947	101,629	49,939	151,568
Accessions	37,712	24,856	62,568
Withdrawals	139,341 1,225	74,795 447	214,136 1,672
Stock at 31st March, 1948	138,116	74,348	212,464

HOSPITAL AND INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE

The survey of present facilities, and possibilities for future development, of hospital libraries has been carried on. Thirty centres where public hospitals are located were visited by the Hospital Librarian during the year. Difficulties in organizing service to hospital patients through the public libraries arise from the fact that some libraries are still under the subscription system, while others suffer from shortage of staff and funds. For these reasons, only a small proportion of local authorities has taken advantage of the offer of book collections by the Service to public libraries in towns under 15,000 population for starting hospital service. For hospitals of over 100