

post-graduate students of our own University, authors, and lecturers, both foreign and local. They may be relatively few in number, but their needs are many, and in the course of their researches they explore every section of the Library, consulting relevant books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, manuscripts, and illustrative material.

From within New Zealand come many enquiries about local history. A school about to celebrate a jubilee, or a district its centenary, find the references that the Library can often supply a useful starting point for the compilation of their district's history. When the Library holds the only known copy of a book, it is sometimes necessary to do more than provide the reference: if the extract is short, a type-script copy is made, or if it is long, a photographic copy; for we do not lend books to private individuals, and only rarely to other libraries. One correspondent who lives far from the Turnbull Library, or in fact from a library of any size, is writing an account of the little-known French expedition of Surville which visited these shores in 1769-70. For this he relies almost entirely on prints from microfilm copies of the journals of the expedition, which we have been able to procure from the French archives in Paris, and elsewhere.

Requests from overseas correspondents have a special interest. A Polish scholar requires details about the scientist-explorer Strzelecki, who called at the Bay of Islands in 1839; an American professor needs a microfilm copy of any letters we hold written to or by Thomas Arnold; an Australian author wants an account of Charles Richmond Thatcher's sojourn as an entertainer on the goldfields of New Zealand; an English historian working on a new life of E. G. Wakefield asks for photo-copies of original documents; a Frenchman interested in his countryman, Baron de Thierry, lists several questions he would like us to investigate; and a German writer, compiling a dictionary of medals, requests a copy of the original order-in-council, and an illustration of the New Zealand Cross.

Questions asked of the Reference Department frequently call for days of searching. In the absence of adequate reference books on New Zealand, and because much of our history still remains to be written or re-written, it is most