

is trundled by book-van from library to library. But the more specialized needs of the professions, the various industries, the artists, and the scientists of one kind or another are looked after by the C.L.S. Request and Information Service is at headquarters. Working by post from Wellington the request service handles more than 10,000 applications each year for special books or for books on special subjects. ANY SUBJECT—ANY BOOK is the official boast, and mostly it is carried out. Requests from the local libraries are received daily for books and information on many topics, anything from the manufacture of elastic to the pedigree of racehorses. Interior decorating; woodwork and cabinetmaking; poultry-keeping, backyard and commercial; beekeeping; dressmaking and tailoring; housing and town planning, are a few of the more regular request subjects. The headquarters collection of the C.L.S. from which books are taken to meet requests is extensive, modern, and ever-increasing. Requests which the C.L.S. is not able to handle are usually met by borrowing from a city or a university library. Under the wing of the New Zealand Library Association and with the Country Library Service most of the larger libraries in the Dominion now regularly lend and borrow informa-

tional books. By simply agreeing to pool their resources for the benefit of serious readers wherever they live, the major libraries have greatly increased their collective effectiveness. This entails much bibliographical and reference work, most of which is done at C.L.S. headquarters. The results of this come as a great boon not only to the country people, but also to those who live in the cities. It is a queer but justifiable thought that, thanks largely to the Country Library Service, a city man is now-a-days as well off for reference and informational books as the country man. The educational and reference stock of the Country Library Service, though primarily for the use of country libraries, is also available for city libraries.

Providing for the book needs of the three-quarters of a million people who live in New Zealand's country districts and country towns is a work which is not achieved by any one method. Mostly the C.L.S. lends its books and its advice to public libraries, but it is by no means unmindful of the individuals who cannot reasonably belong to public libraries. Free postal service is given to more than five hundred persons living in isolated districts. Many a lighthouse-keeper and many a high-country shepherd are grateful for this regular supply of first-rate literature. Small groups of readers in districts too remote even for a C.L.S. van to reach are supplied with a special hamper service. Hampers containing a mixed bag of twenty-five books circulate from one group to another. Glenorchy and Whakaangi may be some distance from the G.P.O., but the people there want books, and they get them. There is also the Schools Section of the Country Library Service. The Country Library Service is the core of our national library organization, having as its aim *books for libraries and libraries for every one*. You use it now, in the army, the navy, or the air force, in New Zealand or overseas. You will be able to use it when you get back.

