

are limited in scope . . . and the country as a whole suffers. Our many subscription libraries have failed . . . compared with our handful of free libraries. Figures bear this out. There is a greater response to free service . . . than to subscription service, where amusement dominates; . . . more valuable books are neglected . . . and public money is wasted. Objections to free service . . . are answered by pay collections . . . which continue to provide light reading. Free libraries are a public service . . . conducive to community planning . . . and a good investment . . . nationally as well as locally. The Government has taken the initiative . . . but progress will depend on local authorities . . . and on individuals working together for free libraries." The topic under each line is dealt with concisely, but fully, and as a propaganda instrument for the cause of free libraries "the Case" deserves the greatest success.

AUSTRALIA. Commonwealth national library. Annual catalogue of Australian publications. No. 4—1939. Canberra. 1940. [1x], 131 p.

Compiled under the direction of Kenneth Binns, Librarian of the Commonwealth National Library at Canberra, this is a good example of national bibliography.

There are six main sections :—

1. Books published in Australia, 1939.
2. Books of Australian interest published overseas.
3. Official publications (of Federal and State Governments).
4. Selected list of Australian annuals and serial publications, 1939.
5. Selected list of Australian periodicals, 1939.
6. Directory of Australian publishers.

The list of official publications is particularly useful, and sets an example which might well be followed by the New Zealand annual *List of Copyright Publications*. Though the list of books about Australia published overseas does not pretend to be complete, its inclusion makes the Catalogue a useful guide to the literature of Australia.

—W. J. H.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor,

NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES.

Sir,—As my object in writing to the Bulletin was to keep prominently before members the need for training in librarianship I am gratified that Mr. Sandall is keeping the ball rolling. I do not consider Mr. Sandall "traitorous" but merely defeated in his conception of the part the University can be assumed to contribute in regard to training for librarianship. I have never suggested that the university should be in any way responsible for the training in the purely technical side of librarianship. As, however, the subjects (except technical librarianship) prescribed for higher qualification are already amply and well taught at the University, I suggest that the Library Association could with advantage use existing facilities. I am sure from the general tenor of Mr. Sandall's letter that there is no essential difference in our common desire to see training put on a sound basis. It seems hardly fair that the brief note I contributed to the correspondence column of the Bulletin should form the basis of a public interchange of views. I have prepared a fuller exposition of my views and until space can be

found in the Bulletin to publish them we are beating the air.

The subject is important enough, I think, to warrant full discussion. I do not for a moment suggest that the university should attempt courses in technical librarianship, nor do I think that the Library Association itself is not the proper body to engage in this work. With alterations made to suit my views, I accept the concluding paragraph of Mr. Sandall's letter to finish my own :

"Meanwhile, let the N.Z.L.A. look forward to conducting its own examinations (in co-operation with the N.Z. University) maintaining a permanent system of as high a standard (as has been attained by the N.Z. University) leaving the Library Association "free"—pathetic term—to fulfil its own high mission."

Yours, etc.,

SYDNEY C. ALLEN.

[An issue of "NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES" on the subject of Library Training is scheduled probably for October. Dr. Allen's name appears on the panel of contributors, and members will have an opportunity of considering his views then.]