

NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES

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An effort is being made to produce the current issue of **NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES** so that it may be in the hands of members in time for Conference on February 18th. While most of the ground is covered by the circulars sent out by the Secretary and need not separately be dealt with in **NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES**, we are printing this month an article on Indexes and Indexing for Sciences relating to Agriculture, by Mr. F. A. Sandall, Librarian of the Massey Agricultural College, which binds up with one of the studies of the present Conference which is concerned with special libraries.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES IN DUNEDIN.

Visitors to Conference this year will have an opportunity to see some of the most important special libraries in the Dominion. Many will be surprised at their wide range. The fact is that, by virtue of Otago University's special national schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Mines and Home Science, the southern city has developed strong scientific collections in these and related subjects. All are controlled by the University, though the Medical School Library, the largest single collection, is administered separately from the rest. It contains over 17,000 volumes and is the only comprehensive medical library in the country. Its "Munro Collection" of ancient anatomical treatises is of exceptional historical interest.

Libraries of the other special schools are administered in conjunction with the main University Library, though housed separately. Cataloguing is centralised.

Mining, Metallurgy and *Dentistry* all have good working collections of books together with the more important journals. *Biochemistry* and the technical and scientific aspects of *Nutrition, Foods* and *Clothing* are well covered in the Home Science collection.

Apart from the collections in government departments in Wellington—mainly unorganised and therefore largely unknown quantities—each of the above, if not unique, is the strongest in the country.

In addition, the University Library has particularly strong sections in Geology, Biology, Botany, Zoology, Organic Chemistry, and Anthropology. The Geology section includes a fine collection of reprint and pamphlet material. Chemistry includes the only complete set of Beilstein's *Handbuch* in New Zealand (costing to date over £500), and is building up material on textiles and fibres in connection with the Wool Research Department. (This is attached to the University).

Non-scientific special libraries include

(1) The Hocken, devoted to N.Z. and the South Seas, a splendid historical collection, rich in manuscripts, maps, early newspapers, pictures and pamphlets, as well as books. It is situated in a wing of the Museum, but is administered by the University Library.

(2) The McNab Collection of N.Z. Literature in the Public Library, supplementing the Hocken, particularly in post-1900 material.

(3) Large libraries of theological and church literature at Knox and Selwyn Colleges.

Not the least interesting aspect of Dunedin's special libraries is the great degree of co-ordination that has been achieved, at any rate with the scientific libraries. Its advantages will be brought out in the seminar on "Libraries and National Development" to be held at Otago University on February 20th.