

## CORRESPONDENCE.

(Mr. A. D. Cunningham's article on New Zealand subject headings, printed in the January issue of "New Zealand Libraries," has provoked the following reply from Mr. J. O. Wilson, A.L.A., of the General Assembly Library, former Secretary of the Wellington Branch of the Association. A further letter received from Miss Alice Woodhouse, Reference Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library, is held over until the next issue. It is hoped that the use of "New Zealand Libraries" for discussion of this nature will continue.)

Dear Sir,—

I have read with interest Mr. A. D. Cunningham's articles in the last issue on "New Zealand Subject Headings." While I understand that the subdivisions he gives for New Zealand—History are merely suggestive, I think it would be as well to settle the matter once and for all.

In the General Assembly Library we are using the following:

NEW ZEALAND—HISTORY—To 1840.

See also New Zealand—Discovery and exploration.

Missions—New Zealand.

—Crown Colony, 1840-1853.

—Period of Provincial Governments, 1853-1876.

—Maori Wars, 1843-1872.

—1876.

—European War, 1914-1918. See European War, 1914-1918—New Zealand.

It will be noticed that there are several differences between the two sets. First of all, Mr. Cunningham has two that we have not used, *Period of missionary influence, 1814-1840* and *Colonization companies and settlement schemes, 1822-1850*. Personally I do not think that they are necessary, but in the second case a reference from say "*Period of organized settlement, 1839-1850*" to "*Crown Colony, 1840-1853*," would be useful. Then there are some variations in dates. The New Zealand Constitution

Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament in 1852, but not proclaimed in New Zealand until January 17, 1853, so this date has been chosen as the ending of the Crown Colony period and the commencement of the Period of provincial government. Similarly the last Provincial government met in November, 1876, and this date has been taken to mark the end of one era and the commencement of another. For those who wish to divide the period after 1876, I should recommend the following divisions:—

NEW ZEALAND—HISTORY—1876-1907  
—20th Century.

1907 marks the end of New Zealand's life as a Colony, and is also near enough to 1900. The subdivision *20th Century* is in keeping with cataloguing practice abroad.

Finally there is the question of *Maori Wars, 1843-1872*. While the dates 1845-1872 are those usually given, 1843 is the date of the Wairau massacre, and I think this should be included in any discussion of the wars. Doctor Hight gives these dates in his chapter on the Maori wars for the "Cambridge history of the British Empire, Vol. vii., part ii., New Zealand."

To those who think that the subdivisions are too few, I should like to point out that it is books that we are dealing with, and not just theoretical divisions into periods, such as *New Zealand Company (second)*; *Waitangi, Treaty of, 1840*; *Gate Pah, Battle of, 1864*; etc.

I am, etc.,

J. O. WILSON.

All questions relating to the *Activities of the Association* should be addressed to JOSEPH NORRIE, HON. SECRETARY, NEW ZEALAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 1529, WELLINGTON, C.1.; while questions with regard to the *Bulletin* should be addressed to STUART PERRY, HON. EDITOR, "NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES," P.O. BOX 1529, WELLINGTON, C.1.

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