Melbourne Athenæum.

188 COLLINS STREET, next the Town Hall.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1940.

president: MR. GEORGE A. FIELDING

> Vice-president: MR. W. F. GATES

**Ibon.** Treasurer : MR. M. F. BURKE

Trustees :

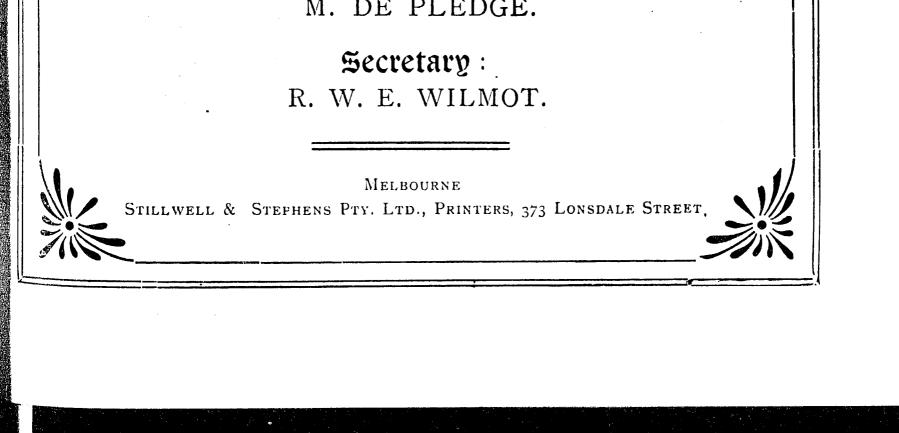
MESSRS. G. H. WIGG, CUTHBERT P. RIGG, AMOS BURR.

#### Committee :

MR. L. V. BIGGS Mr. J. B. GRUT MR. H. A. HUNT MR. E. E. KELLY MR. C. R. RIGG MR. E. W. ROBINSON

MR. R. M. SCOTT MR. A. C. TINGATE MR. W.H. TREDINNICK REV. HORTON WILLIAMS MR. A. D. PEARCE DR. L. S. LATHAM DR. STANLEY WILKINSON

Librarian:



# THE TREASURER IN ACCOUNT CURRENTH THE MELBOURNE ATHENAEUM FOR THE YEAR END & DECEMBER, 1940

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To ,, ,, ,,	Balance at 1/1/40         Subscriptions       £3,279         Rents       4,599         Sales       148         Rail and Postage Refunds       87	$3 \\ 12 \\ 11$				Interest Salaries and Wages Salaries and Wages Books, Magazines, etc Bank Charges and Exc
"	Balance at 31/12/40—      Dr. Balance, Bank of Australasia      tralasia      Petty Cash on Hand	-		243 £9,842		Binding       Ight, Heat and Power         Light, Heat and Power       Repairs         Repairs       Goods and Sundries         Goods and Sundries       Rates and Taxes         Rates and Taxes       Insurance         Insurance       Printing and Stationery         Postages and Petty Cash       Rail and Postage Refund         Advertising       Insurance         Lift Maintenance       Insurance         Lectures       Insurance         Lectures       Insurance         Lectures       Insurance
	• • •					Audited and found correct WILSON, BISHOP L. N. RAINEY Char 21st January, 1941.
	APPROXIMA	ATE	S	FATEN	IE	ASSETS AND LIABIL
Val Val	ASSETS. imated Value of the Real Property of the Institution as per City Valuation January, 1925 (subject to Lease to Frank Talbot Pty. Ltd., as to Theatre Portion, expiring July 15, 1967) ue of Lift and Improvements ue of Library ue of Furniture	, 2 . £8(	3,00 1,50 50	$\begin{array}{ccc} 02 & 14 \\ 00 & 0 \end{array}$	0 0 0 0	LIA Loans under Mortgage, 44 per cent. Play Reading Society ( Bank Overdraft, less Ca Balance (subject to Lea
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& HENDERSON Auditors.

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## **JTIES.**

LIABILITIES. • ge, due July, 1944, at		
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M. F. BURKE, Treasurer.

# The Melbourne Elthenæum

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# 188 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

January 15, 1941.

Notice is hereby given that the ANNUAL MEETING of the Institution will be held in the Art Gallery, on FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, at 3.45 p.m.

Your attendance is requested.

#### **BUSINESS:**

- 1. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of February 1, 1940.
- 2. To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.
- 3. Election of Office-bearers:

The President (Mr. George A. Fielding), Vice-President (Mr. W. F. Gates), Treasurer (Mr. M. F. Burke), and the following Members of Committee, viz., Messrs. H. A. Hunt, E. E. Kelly, A. D. Pearce, R. M. Scott, W. H. Tredinnick, Dr. L. S. Latham and Dr. Stanley Wilkinson, retire, and are eligible for re-election.

4. Appointment of Auditors:

Messrs. Wilson, Bishop & Henderson and Mr. L. N. Rainey are eligible for re-election.

5. General.

#### R. W. E. WILMOT,

Secretary.

# MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM,

To be submitted to the Members at the Annual Meeting on Friday, January 31, 1941.

T HE Committee of the Melbourne Athenaeum, in submitting its report of the transactions for the year 1940-the one hundred and first since the foundation of the Institution—congratulates members on the great success achieved.

Immediately after the Annual Meeting on February 1, 1940, the new Library was formally opened by His Worship the Lord Mayor of Melbourne (Cr. A. W. Coles). There was a large attendance of members and their friends, and the Lord Mayor paid a glowing tribute to the work of the President and Committee and all who had taken a share in the alterations. The Lord Mayor said that the Athenaeum had had a long and honourable history in the first hundred years of its existence. It had been an asset to the city, and he looked forward to its still further progress and to an era of increased usefulness to the citizens.

By courtesy of the Australian Broadcasting Commission, the address of the Lord Mayor and the remarks of the President were broadcast through Station 3LO.

The final act of the celebration of the centenary was the unveiling of the new inscription on the memorial stone in the wall on the first landing. This stone, which recorded the foundation of the Institution on November 12, 1839, the erection of the first building in 1843, the erection of the Hall in 1872, and the transforming of the Hall into the theatre

# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

OF THE

# FOR THE YEAR 1940.

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in 1924, was brought up to date by the addition of the record of the celebration of the Centenary of the Institution on November 12, 1939, and the inclusion of the name of your President (Mr. George A. Fielding) with the names of former Presidents on the stone.

The unveiling was performed by your President on June 14, 1940.

## THE LIBRARY.

The re-organization of the Library was highly appreciated by members, who found, that owing to the new arrangement of the shelves, they were able to discover opportunities for reading books they had not realized were available to them. The modern layout has enabled the Librarian and his staff to exercise closer supervision of the shelves and tables and reading desks.

While many members are always grateful to the Librarian and his staff for assistance and guidance in their reading, there are very many who prefer to choose for themselves, and they have availed themselves of the opportunities the new shelves afford.

During the year Mr. L. V. Biggs, a member of the Committee, who was President in 1936, wrote a most interesting and informative leaflet on "Reading in War Time." Your Committee, with a view to giving members the benefit of valuable information from such a well-known literary expert, had it reprinted in pamphlet form and distributed among the members. It was gratifying to know that, with the exception of very few works, some of which are out of print, almost all the books recommended by Mr. Biggs were available in the Library.

The Librarian has studied the question of war-time reading and has formed some definite conclusions from the experiences of the past year.

He finds that many members, who have been regular readers of what may be called the political magazines, have lost much of their interest in such publications. The reason for this is that, with daily changes of experience and outlook, articles of propaganda or forecast are out of date by the time they reach Australia and are frequently misleading.

fiction as fiction and history as history.

In a world of change, such as we are living in to-day, there is naturally a demand for books of reference. Members who have been engaged in argument and discussion find the Encyclopaedia Britannica, dictionaries and similar works invaluable, and the Librarian and his staff are frequently asked for assistance by members who wish to read on the various subjects which come up from day to day.

One feature of the re-organized Library, in which every shelf is within reach, is the number of members who avail themselves of the facilities provided for "browsing." Members are able to look out books for themselves and to read in comfortable surroundings. In the old reading room it was the exception rather than the rule to see a member reading a book. Newspapers, illustrated papers and magazines were popular, but there were no facilities for reading books. All this is changed in the new Library.

Another notable feature of the Library is the increased interest in standard works. During the year this branch of the Library has had special attention and, in addition to increasing the number of volumes, many of the works have been made more attractive by rebinding.

The advisability of directing special attention to particular sections of the Library has had the attention of your Committee and the establishment of an "Australiana" section was much appreciated. This idea will be developed as occasion offers.

As will be seen, there has been a record increase in

the number of members who appreciate the fact that the Library is open daily from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday afternoons and evenings included, and on all holidays except Good Friday, Christmas Day and Anzac Day, when other libraries are closed. The advantage of being able to change books and magazines out of business hours and up to 10 p.m. daily cannot be over-estimated.

There has been a strong demand for straight-out history relating to past happenings. Books which deal with events long past—but with a spice of anticipation or prophecy have, for the time being, lost some of their appeal. While fiction is as popular as ever, members do not appreciate the intermingling of history with fiction. They prefer to read

The innovation, introduced in 1939, of establishing a waiting list whereby, on payment of a small fee just covering cost, members could rely on securing the books most in demand much more quickly than formerly, has worked satisfactorily. There have been objections, as was only to be expected, but in most cases, when the principle was explained to members they realized that it was to their advantage. The quick despatch of books caused by this system has increased the efficiency of the Library.

In order that due prominence might be given to the advantages to be derived from membership of the Institution, an illustrated brochure was prepared and published. This was highly attractive and produced good results. Copies of this are still available.

The quarterly list has been developed by the insertion of explanatory notes about the books. This work entails much research by the Librarian and his staff and is much appreciated

During the year 2,938 books were added to the Library. Of these, 2,188 were fiction and 750 were of general literature. The amount expended on books, magazines and newspapers, including exchange, was  $\pm 1,631/12/10$ , as compared with £1,611/10/9 in 1939.

The installation of a public telephone in a sound-proof box has been highly appreciated as well as profitable.

The provision of a retiring room for lady members has met with general approval, and the increased comfort, improved system of indirect lighting and up-to-date ventilation have more than fulfilled anticipations. As it stands to-day the Athenaeum Library is one that members can confidently recommend to their friends, and they are invited to assist the Committee in this direction by bringing friends to inspect for themselves.

The history of the Institution, published as part of the centenary celebrations was well received. There are still copies available, and members are requested to support the Committee by purchasing them.

Your Committee realizes that the serious dislocation of the publishing trade in England must materially interfere with the production of books. Close touch is being main-

tained with our suppliers and every step is being taken to ensure as little interference as possible.

## Your Committee is keenly seeking every avenue to keep the Library in its foremost position.

tension.

During the year large supplies of old books and magazines have been forwarded to various camps and depots for sailors, soldiers and airmen. This did not in any way interfere with the ordinary distribution of similar publications to the Mission to Seamen for the use of members of the Mercantile Marine, whose quiet, unobtrusive work is so invaluable.

made:--

Headway, by Miss Colville. The Australian Board of Missions Review, by A.B.M. Society. The Church of England Messenger, by the Diocese of Melbourne. The Theosophist, by the Theosophical Society. The Presbyterian Messenger, by Messrs. Arbuckle, Waddell Pty. Ltd. The Commonweal, by the Rev. Dr. Chas. Strong. The New Zealand Local Authority Handbook, by the Government of New Zealand. Bradshaw's Guide to Victoria, by Stillwell and Stephens Pty. Ltd. New Zealand Parliamentary Papers, by the Government of New Zealand. The Rosicrucian, by the Rosicrucian Order. The Journal of the Royal Society of Arts, The Secretary, The Geographical Journal and United Empire, by W. Gordon Sprigg, Esq. The Hospital Magazine, by the Charities Board of Victoria. The Free Trader, by The Free Trade Union, London. History of Art, 3 vols., by Miss M. Alston The Jungle Book, Second Jungle Book, The Day's Work and Many Inventions (by Kipling), 4 vols., by Miss E. Johnstone The Englishman, by Miss E. Johnstone "Mufti," by R S.S.L.A. Pictures of Their Majesties, The King and Queen Pamphlets on World Affairs, by the Department of Information

The number of members on the roll on January 1, 1940, was 2,590. During the year 967 new members were enrolled and 440 discontinued their membership, leaving the

The Australian publishers are arranging for the production of books in Australia, and this will help to relieve the

The following donations of works have been kindly

The Australian Stamp Monthly, by A. A. Rosenblum, Esq.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

total number on the roll **3,117** on December 31, 1940, **a net gain of 527.** The corresponding figures for 1939 were : New, 498; Retirements, 327; net gain, 171. The amount received from subscriptions was  $\pounds 3,279/3/9$ , compared with  $\pounds 2,765/15/-$  in 1939, **an increase of \pounds 513/8/9.** 

The slight increase in retirements is due to war conditions. Very many members have enlisted, while others who are engaged in war work have been forced to relinquish their membership owing to their inability to make use of the Library. There have been remarkably few complaints, and in many cases in notifying discontinuance members have expressed their regret at having to resign and their appreciation of the facilities provided and of the services given by the Library staff.

## THE COMMITTEE.

There were 12 meetings of the General Committee during the year.

The President, MR. GEORGE A. FIELDING	••	attended	9	
The Vice-President, MR. W. F. GATES	••	,,	12	
The Treasurer, Mr. M. F. BURKE	••	,,	11	
Trustee, Mr. G. H. Wigg	••	,,	<b>2</b>	
Trustee, Mr. CUTHBERT RIGG	••	,,	1	
Trustee Mr. Amos Burr	••	,,	<b>1</b> 0	

Сом	MI	тт	ЕE
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Mr. Robinson	••	attended	7	(d) Mr. C. R. Rigg	• •	attended 4
Mr. Grut	••	• •	11	Mr. Pearce	••	,, 6
Mr. Hunt	• •	,,	10	Mr. Scott	••	., 11
(a) The Very Rev	D. A.	Cameron	,, 2	Rev. Horton Wi	illiams	,, 9
Mr. Biggs		,,	8	Mr. Tingate	••	10
Mr. Kelly	••	,,	10	(e) Dr. Latham	••	,, 7
(b) Mr. Tredinnic	k	,,,	7	(f) Dr. Wilkinson	••	,, 3
(c) Mr. Bainbridg		19	5			.,

(a) The Very Rev D. A. Cameron died on 4/6/40

(b) Mr. Tredinnick was granted leave of absence for three months on military duty

(c) Mr. J. W. Bainbridge died on 7/8/40

(d) Mr. C. R. Rigg was granted leave of absence for three months on military duty

(e) Dr. L. S. Latham was elected on 10/5/40

(f) Dr. Stanley Wilkinson was elected on 11/10/40

Your Committee records with deep regret the deaths of two of its valued members—The Very Reverend D. A. Cameron on June 4, and Mr. J. W. Bainbridge on August 7.

The Very Rev. D. A. Cameron had been a member of the Committee for twelve years and was for two years President of the Institution. His sound judgment was highly appreciated by the Committee. Mr. Bainbridge had been a member of the Committee for only three years, but during that time had done great

Mr. Bainbridge had been a member of the Committee for only three years, but during that time had done great service to the Institution as a member of the Finance Committee.

The President (Mr. George A. Fielding), the Vice-President (Mr. W. F. Gates), the Treasurer (Mr. M. F. Burke) and the following members of Committee, viz.: Messrs. H. A. Hunt, E. E. Kelly, A. D. Pearce, R. M. Scott, W. H. Tredinnick, Dr. L. S. Latham and Dr. Stanley Wilkinson retire and are eligible for re-election.

The financial statement shows that the year began with a credit balance of  $\pounds 1,484/0/10$  and closed with a debit balance of  $\pounds 243/8/8$ . This was entirely due to the amount spent in improvements and alterations, which absorbed the sum of  $\pounds 2,639/0/9$ , all of which, as will be seen, the Committee has been able to pay out of increased revenue.

When the scheme for alterations and improvements was launched, your Committee arranged, with the Bank of Australasia, for permission to overdraw to the extent of £2,000, but it was not necessary to draw to this limit. The improvements and alterations in the Library cost £2,639/0/9, an increase of £139/0/9 on the estimate of £2,500. The highest amount overdrawn was £1,409/2/0, on May 27, 1940. This amount was gradually reduced, with the result that at the end of the financial year the amount owing to the bank was £244/11/7.

The amount received from subscriptions was  $\pounds 3,279/3/9$ , an increase of  $\pounds 513/8/9$  on the previous year. This is a record for the Institution, being  $\pounds 115/16/-$  in excess of the previous record in 1932.

Salaries and wages absorbed  $\pounds 2,638/10/6$ , an increase of  $\pounds 251/5/$ - on the figures for 1939.

#### FINANCIAL.

Advertising also shows an increase of  $\frac{\pounds 46}{18}/9$ . The amount expended on books, magazines and newspapers,  $\frac{\pounds 1,631}{12}/10$ , includes exchange and is  $\frac{\pounds 20}{2}/1$  in excess of 1939.

Binding shows an increase of  $\frac{\pounds 92}{8/2}$ . This expenditure caused by the reconditioning of books has been more than justified, as it has resulted in restoring very many books hardly procurable at present, and with supplies becoming shorter on account of the war, it was essential that any book that could be saved was worth while. The appearance of the shelves is a tribute to the excellent work done in this direction.

The other items are normal. Due care has been observed in the upkeep of the Institution in all departments.

#### PROGRESS OF THE INSTITUTION.

The following table shows the progress of The Institution during the last ten years :----

	Subscriptions.	Purchase of Books, etc.	Gross Receipts
1931	£3082 2 0	£1829 9 1	£7677 16 0
1932	3163 7 9	1815 14 3	7122 10 4
1933	3092 8 6	1676 10 7	7073 17 5
1934	2763 9 3	1583 6 7	6772 11 4
1935	2708 15 0	1833 11 4	6746 3 3
1936	2655 6 6	1638 4 3	7045 6 4
1937	2648 4 9	1617 9 0	7114 6 7
1938	2675 3 6	1714 12 8	7296 12 6
1939	2765 15 0	1611 10 9	7873 11 4
1940	3279 3 9	1631 12 10	8114 11 1

#### WAR SERVICE.

During the year it became evident that members of the staff might be called upon to enlist. Your Committee, after discussing the matter, adopted the following resolution:—

"For the present, but always subject to modifications, in the event of a present employee enlisting in the A.I.F., the difference between his military pay and allowances and his present salary will be made up by the Institution." In November, the Caretaker (A. C. Mannering) volunteered for Home Defence, for the duration of the war, and was called up. He went into camp on January 1, 1941, for 90 days training. Your Committee brought him under the scope of this resolution and granted him leave of absence. In order to carry on his work, F. Riley, who has been rejected for medical reasons, has been appointed acting Caretaker.

The lectures this year were held in the Library instead of in the Art Gallery. The change proved very satisfactory. The Lecturer was Professor W. A. Osborne, who delivered six lectures, with the title, "Helping the Reader." The series was most interesting, entertaining and instructive, but it must be regretted that the attendance was disappointing. Members are requested to patronize the series this year. A syllabus will be prepared shortly.

The Art Gallery still retains its position as the centre of the Art world in Melbourne. The crowds of visitors who attend the various exhibitions prove conclusively how much the Gallery is appreciated.

On the outbreak of war your Committee, realizing that artists would suffer materially, made a reduction of 33 1-3 per cent. in the rent of the Gallery during the continuance of the war, for which artists have been very grateful. Other concessions have also been made in order to assist war funds.

Shows held during the year were: "The Argus" Photographic Display, the Artists' Red Cross Exhibition, Messrs. Suhr and Miller, H. C. Lloyd, Adrian Lawlor, Travis Webber, John Rowell, P. G. Moore, Septimus Power, John Gardner, Arthur M. Boyd and Keith Nichol, Sir Arthur Streeton, Miss Gates and Mrs. Fleay, Mrs. E. Phillips Fox, Miss Dorothy Dempsey, The Australian Commercial and Industrial Artists' Association, New Melbourne Art Club, Twenty Melbourne Painters, Melbourne Society of Women Painters, The Independent Group, Paraclete Art Group's exhibition of school children's work, and the Victorian Salon of Photography.

## LECTURES.

#### THE ART GALLERY.

#### PAPERS.

#### BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Belfast Weekly News British Weekly Christian Herald Christian World Church Guardian Church Times Financial News Headway Irish Weekly Liverpool Weekly Post Manchester Guardian Methodist Recorder New York Times Reynold's Time and Tide Times (London) Times Literary Supple ment Times' Weekly Travel Bulletin Weekly Scotsman

#### AUSTRALASIAN.

Victoria-Melbourne.

Age Argus Herald Australasian Leader Presbyterian Messenger Spectator Sun News Pictorial Sporting Globe Weekly Times

#### Victoria-Provincial.

Ararat Advertiser Ballarat Courier Bendigo Advertiser Geelong Advertiser **Ovens and Murrav** Advertiser

Rutherglen Sun Stawell News Wangaratta Chronicle Warrnambool Standard

There are very few vacancies for this year.

Your Committee expresses its thanks to the metropolitan press for the publicity given of the activities of the Institution at various times.

# GEORGE A. FIELDING, President. R. W. E. WILMOT, Secretary.

#### SCERETARY AND STAFF.

I have now had two years' close association with our Secretary, our Librarian, and our staff. The Athenaeum is well served by all.

Mr. Wilmot is the captain of a selected team. His leadership and wide experience of men and affairs are potent factors both in the success of the Institution and in meeting unusual difficulty.

Mr. De Pledge worked tirelessly and to excellent purpose in combing out obsolete volumes and filling the new shelves with the 20,000 books our present members feel should be readily available.

All assistants under these seniors deserve the Committee's and my acknowledgement of the whole-hearted way in which they have worked and responded to the special calls of the past two years.

Increase in membership, as well as the widening and the giving of special help and service to subscribers is largely in the hands of the staff. They are encouraged to do this, and they give of their best.

### GEORGE A. FIELDING, President.



# **Magazines & Periodicals Available in the Reading Room.**

New South Wales. Bulletin Smith's Weekly Sydney Morning Herald

Sun Sunday Sun and Guardian

South Australia. The Advertiser The Chronicle

Queensland. Courier-Mail (Brisbane)

Western Australia. The West Australian Western Mail

Tasmania. Mercury (Hobart) Examiner (Launceston)

New Zealand. Weekly News (Auckland)

#### PERIODICALS. British.

Architect Britannia and Eve British Australasian Country Life **Dublin Review** Economist English Mechanic English Speaking World Field Harper's Bazaar Illustrated London News Inquirer Jewish Chronicle John o'Londons Weekly Lancet London Punch Mercantile Guardian Mining Journal Nature New Statesman Public Opinion

Queen Saturday Review Science Progress Sketch Spectator Sphere Sporting and Dramatic News Studio Sunday Companion Sunday At Home **Fablet Fatler** Time and Tide Trident fruth (London) Vogue Women's Journal

#### American.

**Rosicrucian** Digest Saturday Evening Post Scientific American Theosophist

#### Australasian.

A.B.M. Review

Adam and Eve

Australasian Insurance and Banking Record (Melb.) Australasian Manufacturer (Sydney)

Australasian Traveller

Australian Brewing and Wine Journal (Melb.)

Australian Christian World (Sydney)

Australian Stamp Monthly Church of England Messenger (Melb.)

Economic Record

Government Gazette of Victoria

Home

Home Beautiful

Industrial Australian and Mining Standard (Melb.) Leather Journal

Presbyterian Messenger Spectator (Melbourne) The Commonweal

Woman's World

# Magazines for Circulation in the Library.

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PERIODICALS.

#### British.

Argosy Blackwood's Chambers' Journal Contemporary Review Discovery English Digest Fortnightly Review Geographical Magazine Good Housekeeping Gramophone Hibbert Journal Life and Letters Lilliput Musical Times National Review Nineteenth Century Parade **Picture Post** 

Political Quarterly Quarterly Review Round Table Strand Wide World World Review World Digest

#### American.

\merican Mercury
Atlantic Monthly
Coronet
Current History
Esquire
Etude
Good Housekeeping
Harper's
Life
Look
Maclean's

Magazine Digest National Geographical New Yorker North American Review Popular Mechanics Popular Science Readers Digest Saturday Evening Post Science Digest Sciencific American Time World Digest

#### Australasian.

Australian National Review Australian Quarterly Digest of Digests Digest of World Reading Life Digest Walkabout Wild Life

# MEMBERSHIP.

Members have the right to the use of the Lending and Reference Library, the Reading and Smoking Rooms, and to borrow a book and a magazine as often as necessary, and to introduce a member of his family residing in the subscriber's home.

The Subscription Rates are:-

	Quarterly	Half-yearly	Yearly
1 Volume and Magazine	076	0 12 6	1 1 0
2 Volumes and Magazine	0 12 6	1 0 0	1 11 6
3 Volumes and Magazine	0 16 0	176	2 2 0

The Library and Reading Room are **open from 9 a.m.** to 10 p.m. daily (including Saturday), except Sundays, Christmas Day, Good Friday and Anzac Day.