

THE LIBRARY YEAR.

An interesting brochure telling of library activities in the City of Moorabbin is now available at the Central (Bentleigh), Moorabbin and Cheltenham free libraries. It is, in fact, a copy of the annual report of the Chief Librarian, Mr. John E. Simkin, to the councillors of this city. The library report in any municipality gives the key to the intellectual standards that one may expect to find there. The report of the Chief Librarian is an important document which covers an equally important facet of the district's history for the year concerned. Here is a brief summary of the information contained in the Moorabbin Free Libraries' Annual Report for the year 1963-1964:

The report of the Board of Inquiry into Library Services in Victoria presented to Parliament by Sir John Jungwirth suggested that an inter-library co-operation system might add improvement to library services throughout the State. Locally, there was an increase in staff and an increase in activity, but services were somewhat hampered by the lack of space for quiet study, a need which could be met if space could be made available in the plans for a second storey at the Jasper Road Library. The capacity of 95,000 volumes for the existing libraries was being reached and the need for additional libraries suggested itself.

Bookstock figures had reached 13,250 volumes; 13,250 volumes had been withdrawn and a number of these had been distributed to the Gordon Boys' Home, Hampton Hospital and the St. John of God Home and the Retreat House. Combined, the libraries were carrying 42,300 non-fiction, 21,500 fiction, 14,200 junior and 4,500 pre-school books, bringing the total to 82,500. New stocks had been built up in several fields, such as library science, education, history, architecture, economy and technology. In the field of Victorian and local history a number of interesting items were acquired, by purchase or donation. These included almost complete sets of the Victorian Historical Magazine and Who's Who in Australia. The value of the historical collection, however, was limited by the area where it could be housed. Several displays were on show throughout the year, covering local history, artists and art groups. The City Historian assisted in this field.