

# No account for (Library) book tastes

Last year's statistical report on Parramatta libraries provided a classic example of the old adage "there's no accounting for taste."

Subscribers last year read books on subjects ranging from "838 Ways to Amuse a Child" to "Teach Yourself Spanish" and "Report on Unidentified Flying Objects."

Also popular were books on the history of magic, inflation and expansion, sobriety and how to enjoy wine.

wine.

Readers also studied ways to grow mushrooms, astronomy, coin collecting and problems of adolescent girls.

## Steam Boat

Others of more inquiring mind wanted to know how to build a steam engine for a 25ft. boat or the correct form of address to generals.

Also in the nautical vein were inquiries for books about English ships of the late 18th Century and details of Oriental boats, principally junks and sampans.

City Librarian, Miss M. Miller, and her staff handled scores of inquiries for books on odd subjects during 1961.

Among the "classics" were:

① Cases of the "deadliness of the female" (historical instances of the influence of women in crimes of men).

② Diseases fatally affect-

⊙ Diseases fatally affecting snakes.

⊙ Proportion of left-handed to right-handed people.

⊙ Trees found in the Sydney area and their burning qualities.

## Increased

Miss Miller, in her annual report to council, refuted suggestions that TV reduced the public's reading time.

She reported loans from all branches increased by more than 36 per cent. on the 1960 figure.

Loans for 1961 totalled 269,716.

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