

c7/66 (15)

Swansea  
Feb: 28<sup>th</sup> / 71

My dear Sir

I have been unwell for the last week or two & ~~and~~ cannot attend the library meeting on Wednesday. The object of it, I understand, is to ascertain what is the debt of the institution and how it is to be paid off. We were supposed to have a surplus within the last twelve months and a committee was appointed to select books. Nothing could shew more clearly the necessity for ascertaining exactly the position in which we stand with a view to a cautious expenditure. The debt, I think is about £12 - Unpaid subscriptions of the last or former



years are trifling - at least that part of them that is likely to be paid. I have looked at the subscription list on the board for this year and should not consider it worth above £8 or £9. - Buckley says he is the only subscriber at Sisdillon, and I certainly don't expect he will pay the sum with which he is credited - £2. - Dr. Pilgrim's subscription, again, according to the Rules is only 5/- but his name is down for £1 annually. I doubt his being acquainted with those Rules. For there is no reason why he should pay four times the requisite amount. I suppose a dozen persons paid £1 annually, some time after the institution was opened.

Ten shillings was the actual subscription and all beyond as gift - for no one, unless he chose, need pay it. Not only have these donations generally been withdrawn but the subscriptions along with them - and hence the present want of funds. As the public take so little interest in the library it is unsafe to assume that any will continue to contribute £1 a year. We



The Mercury ought to be retained. Next to it - if they can be paid for - I should place the Illustrated London News and the Sunday Magazine.

The above is simply my opinion which might have been altered on some points if I had attended the meeting. But the debt, under any circumstances, I consider it is directionable