

NOTTINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Re-Opening of the Junior Library

by

Miss CLAIRE FOSTER

on

September 9th, 1937

at 3 p.m.

PROGRAMME

1. The Chairman of the Public Libraries and Museum Committee, Mr. Councillor J. A. Shaw, will make a statement regarding the Library, and will then call on Miss Claire Foster to declare the Library open.
2. Miss Claire Foster will declare the Library open.
3. The Lady Mayoress will thank Miss Claire Foster on behalf of the Public Libraries' Committee.

Tea.



The first British Public
Library for Boys and Girls,
opened in Nottingham in
1882.

Nottingham has the great honour of being the first town in the United Kingdom to organise a separate library for boys and girls, and commenced work in this important field as long ago as 1882. The initiative came from a prominent local citizen of those days, Samuel Morley, M.P., of the firm of I. & R. Morley, who offered to provide the sum of £500 that a library for boys and girls, suitably supplied and equipped, might be organised; and his offer was gratefully accepted by the Public Library Committee.

The Library was opened in 1882, in rooms in Shakespeare Street, rented from the Trustees of Holy Trinity Church, and it continued to operate there until 1932 when, for various reasons, the premises were decided to be unsuitable. It was transferred to temporary and very makeshift quarters in the Central Library.

The Committee felt from the beginning that the accommodation in the Central Library for children was very unsuitable, and decided in 1935 that, as soon as possible, a proper library for children should be organised. Work to this end has been proceeding steadily for over a year, and the new library, suitably furnished and equipped, and with its bookstock doubled, is to be opened to-day. The Committee decided that, being a library for children, it ought properly to be opened by a child, and Miss Claire Foster, daughter of Alderman Foster, kindly agreed to perform this service.
