H.E. Meller: Leisure and the changing city, 1870-1914. Routledge and Kegan Paul 1976, £ 7.50

The theme of the book is how cultural and leisure related institutions developed in Britain during the end of the last century. Drawing on material from the city of Bristol as a case study, the author tries to describe how the changes came about, what factors played some part and which groups were related to it. By doing so she tries to link the development of activities and institutions to both, the municipal authorities and private voluntary organizations. A few data relating to early statistics on the kind of books borrowed from libraries and the occupation of library borrowers and visitors are presented.