

divided into three equal parts to be employed as follows: one part in defraying the expenses of the publication of a popular science series and standard works of fiction, both Icelandic compositions and translations of foreign works; one part in supporting the scientific study of the nature of Iceland and in the publication of works dealing with the natural history of the country; and one part in purchasing works of art for the art collection, and in prizes to those who publish drawings of buildings, house furniture and patterns for home industries on national lines. The *menningarsjóður* is administered by the *Menntamálaráð Íslands* (The Promotion of Culture Council) created under an act of 1928, and comprising 5 members, all elected by *Althingi* for a term of four years. Besides administering the *Menningarsjóður* the Council has been entrusted with various other duties, as e. g. the superintendence of the art collection and the purchase of works of art; the distribution of the art budget and scholarships to Icelandic students at foreign universities, etc.

In 1928 an act was passed under which a *broadcasting station* is to be opened at Reykjavík in the course of the present year (1930). The station is owned and worked by the State, the expenses defrayed from a tax on listeners' receiving sets. The broadcasting service is managed by a *Radio Council* (*títvarpsráð*) of five members, elected for two years at a time; one (the chairman) being appointed by the government; one by the university; one by the synod; one by the association of the People's School teachers, while the listeners' society, if numerous enough, has an advisory right in the election of the fifth member. There is also a government-paid managing director, acting as executive officer.

There are also a few *societies* in Iceland which work for the diffusion of general culture and science; they enjoy a financial support from the State, but are mainly dependent on subscriptions for their revenues and must in consequence be founded on a broad basis. The subscription rates are comparatively low and the number of subscribers (many of whom are to be found among the common people) is very large in proportion to the population. This shows that culture is not the exclusive property of the educated class, but is in no small degree shared by the general public.

The oldest of these societies is: *Hið íslenska Bókmenntafélag* (The Icelandic Literary Society), founded in 1816. Besides an annual, containing short articles on various cultural questions, contributions to dis-