

GIVE THIS JOURNAL TO A FRIEND

Linwood Library Gazette

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

Vol. 2 No. 11



September 1937

DO YOUNG PEOPLE WANT BOOKS ?

By MARGARET C. SCROGGIN,

School and Reference Assistant, the New York
Public Library.

I shall begin by saying flatly, "Yes, young people do want books," and I shall spend the rest of my time in justifying this statement. By implication, I am concerned with the whole group of young people from thirteen to eighteen years of age; in my discussion I shall limit myself to the large number of boys and girls who have been called somewhat euphemistically, "reluctant readers."

No one asks of the good readers, "Do they want books?" They are the joy of teachers and librarians. They are the reading aristocracy, the divine remnant. Their interests are definite, their requests specific, their ability, too often, the deciding factor in library book selection.

It would be a great relief if we could say of the other group, "They do not want books." As it is we usually act as if they do, but we are subject to periodic pricks of conscience; then we indulge in tabulations of non-library-users, deplore the influence of radio and motion pictures, and shake our heads over the future of democracy. Yet there is only one certain way of discovering whether these boys and girls want books. That is to bring them to the library and to buy books which they can and will read. The library must do this if it is to be truly a public library.

For a number of years in a branch of the New York Public Library I worked as librarian and club leader with boys and

girls who were "reluctant readers." During the past year, as assistant in the New York Public Library in charge of work with trade, vocational and continuation schools (which receive the "reluctant readers" when they leave junior high school), I have discussed books and the library with many groups whose attitude toward both has ranged from the politely indifferent to the frankly hostile. In talking to these boys and girls informally about their own interests and their varying experiences with reading and libraries, I have learned a number of things.

Reasons for "Reluctance"

The term "reluctant readers," like any other general term, is misleading for it groups into one class boys and girls whose reluctance is due to different causes. Some of them have been so discouraged by required reading beyond their ken that they are conditioned against books in general. Some of them, good readers in the children's rooms, have been unable to make the transition from fairy tales and simple children's stories to fiction with an adult point of view. Some of them are so limited in reading ability that they cannot find books which are mature enough in contents to interest them but at the same time simple enough in vocabulary. Some of them have had unpleasant encounters with library regulations. Some of them, surprisingly enough, have never belonged to the public library. Each one of these "reluctant readers" must be considered individually so that his particular problem can be solved. The encouraging fact is that, with the exception of the very lowest IQ's, every one of these boys and girls

Your Watch

WILL KEEP BETTER TIME IF IT
COMES FROM

PETERSENS

Our Mr E. E. Wiltshire will be pleased to
allow all Linwood Library subscribers
TEN PER CENT CASH DISCOUNT

Petersens Limited

JEWELLERS

248 HIGH STREET, CHRISTCHURCH

PICTURE FRAMING

For Artistic Work
Quality and Service

H. FISHER & SON

275 HIGH STREET
(Near Bank Corner)

FOR YOUR NEXT PAINTING JOB try

W. T. FAITHFULL

35 years' practical experience.
ESTIMATES SUPPLIED FREE.

All work guaranteed.

We specialise in indoor decorating.
363 WORCESTER STREET
Near Stanmore Road.

Suits, Costumes, Coats, School Uniforms, etc.

Tailor made to order.

Correct Style, Perfect Fitting, Best Lining.
Personal Service. Moderate Terms.

J. BLACKLOCK

Ladies' and Gentlemen's Tailor
Residence: 79 BUCKLEY'S ROAD
Workroom: CANBERRA BLDGS.
Cashel Street
(Near Corner Linwood Avenue)

reads something. By reluctant we too
often mean reluctant to read what we
think they should read.

Despite the different causes for their
reluctance, it is possible to consider the
group as a whole in suggesting practical
steps to be taken in winning them to the
library. One important step is to cut the
burden of library red tape and regulations
as much as possible to facilitate registra-
tion and borrowing of books. A second is
to treat these young people with the same
courtesy and consideration which is ac-
cording to the adult readers. It is amazing
how the boy or girl will respond to such
consideration. Most discipline cases in the
adult department are the staff's own fault.
Expect a boy to misbehave, watch obvi-
ously for him to act like a child—he will
inevitably do it. Treat him as an indi-
vidual worthy of attention—nine times
out of ten he will reward you with his
friendship. When boys and girls sense
the friendly attitude of the library, they
do come willingly.

Young People Want to Read.

A librarian cannot observe hundreds of
boys and girls each week without coming
to definite and, probably, legitimate con-
clusions about their wants and needs. It
is after much observation of the behaviour
of classes ranging from the dullest that I
say with such assurance: if only the right
books are opened to them, practically all
boys and girls will read. How shall we
know the right books? I shall answer
that question obliquely. There would be
fewer "reluctant readers" among boys and
girls if there were fewer "reluctant
readers" among teachers and librarians.

If these boys and girls from trade,
vocational, and continuation schools may
be taken as a fair sample of the slow
readers, the answer to the question "Do
young people want books?" is certainly
"Yes." They want stories and they want
information. They do not instinctively
turn to books or ask for them because they
do not appreciate the usefulness of books
or realize the resources of libraries until
we reveal them. They do want books but
they will never get them unassisted.

The basic question for us to ponder
deeply and answer honestly is really not
"Do young people want books?" but "Does

the public library want all the young
people?" Does it want them enough to
treat them as adults worthy of respectful
attention? Does it want them enough to
cut red tape for them? Does it want
them enough to buy out of depleted funds
light fiction and duplicate copies of child-
ren's room books? Will the librarians them-
selves read the books these boys and girls
like, take a genuine interest in them not
as "reluctant readers" but as individuals,
give them sympathy and understanding
untinted by intellectual snobbishness? The
librarians, who have answered these
questions with an honest "Yes" know that
young people do want and need books.
And the others will never even realize that
there are such questions.

FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR

The August meeting of the Canterbury
Branch of the New Zealand Library Association
was held in the Boys' High School on August
19th, when Miss W. Neal, who visited the United
States for a year's course in library training,
gave an address on Children's Libraries. Un-
fortunately the "chair" was unable to be present,
but the address was evidently both interesting
and comprehensive. The idea of a library being
considered by schools as just a workroom, with
books as the tools therein, and that when the
tool had been used to its limit, to be discarded
is not only very practical but gives one a view-
point often disregarded.

The fact that "the best public libraries were
in those towns where the municipal authorities
had assumed full responsibility for those institu-
tions" is another justification for the ideals of
the New Zealand Library Association, and which
some day will be in operation in Christchurch.

It is implied here that the municipal authori-
ties must realize the proper value of the public
library to the community. We are sorry that
Christchurch is losing the services of Miss Neal,
but our city's loss is Dunedin's gain, and there
are very many persons in Christchurch who wish
her every success in her new sphere, and will
follow her activities in the southern city with
keen interest.

Red Sea Nights, by Wm. J. Makin. A story
of action and movement, commencing at Mar-
seilles, then penetrating into Abyssinia, he then
is for quite a long spell in and about the un-
known parts of the Red Sea, where he sees life
in many shades and hues. He has adventures
galore, and enjoys them all.

GREEN'S HAM and BACON

is unrivalled for
QUALITY and FLAVOUR

TRY

GREEN'S SAUSAGES

Pure, Nourishing, Economical

T. H. GREEN & CO. LTD.

Established 1862

REMEMBER !

The constant publication of this Gazette
is rendered possible by the support of the
advertisers.

This shop has consistently advertised and
merits your support in return. For
quality of goods and excellence of ser-
vice at no higher cost, try us and be con-
vinced.

FOR GROCERIES PHONE 36-680

A. SORRELL & SON

(Members of the Target Stores)
CORNER WORCESTER STREET AND
OLLIVIERS ROAD, LINWOOD

Stanley L. Hall

Chemist - Linwood

(Opposite Linwood Library)

OPEN SATURDAY NIGHT
7 TILL 9

Shop Phone:
35-350

Night Phone:
34-177

Residence: 137 Rolleston Street

THE DAPHNE CAKE KITCHEN

330 STANMORE ROAD
FOR QUALITY AND SERVICE

Socials and Dances catered for.
Patronise the local Kitchen for
satisfaction.

A. ASTON - - - Proprietor

D. HARRIES

SHOEING AND GENERAL BLACKSMITH

Motor Car Springs repaired.
Oxy and Electric Welding.
No job too small and none so far too big.

329 STANMORE ROAD

AVON SERVICE STATION

NORTH AVON ROAD
Prompt service and civility.
Punctures repaired.

D. G. McKENZIE - - - Proprietor

F. J. NEALE

THE VALUE BUTCHER

270 STANMORE ROAD Late M.M.M.

SIDES MUTTON, LEGS, CHOPS GRAVY BEEF
and MINCE.

"MADISON" TOILET SALON

Mrs M. FORSYTH wishes to an-
nounce that she has now opened
her up-to-date Toilet Salon at
378A WORCESTER STREET

Latest Eugene Machine, 10 volt.
Absolutely shock proof.
Phone 36-437

Linwood Library Gazette

The Official Organ of the
Linwood Public Library

Vol. 2 September 1937 No. 11

We were pleased to receive recently a suggestion from a subscriber relative to the labels on magazines. He pointed out that our blue labels, pasted on the covers of magazines not only disfigured the pictures but made it difficult for readers to remember if any particular magazine had been read by them previously.

We have acted upon the suggestion, and in future all magazines bearing blue labels will have a much smaller surface covered by these necessary disfigurements. One "Blue Label" magazine may be taken by subscribers in lieu of a book, or two "Red Label" magazines if so desired. "Red Labels" are attached to magazines that have served a term of usefulness in the "Blue Label" section. It has been decided to later reduce the size of red labels also.

Our correspondent also suggested that the "Blue Label" magazines should be placed in a more easily accessible position. We, of course, realise the desirability of this, but with our shelving space being so congested, this course is impracticable at the present time.

We thank our subscriber for making these suggestions, and take the opportunity of reminding other subscribers that

Our readers' opinions upon any matter relative to Library matters are welcomed.

Address all correspondence to "The Editor,"
Linwood Public Library.

Telephone

36-774

If you have some Electrical Problem which other firms
have not been able to solve satisfactorily bring it to—

A. E. STRANGE

404 WORCESTER ST., E.1., - - - LINWOOD

helpful suggestions are at all times welcomed by the committee. It is perhaps not realised by some members of the library that ours is a community institution, controlled by a committee elected by members themselves. The committee is anxious to do all in its power towards the successful management of the library, and appreciates a helping hand such as has been extended in connection with the matter of magazine labels.

Community effort such as exists in our own Library has recently brought in its train a host of commercially-minded folk who have recognised the possibilities of making money by catering for readers of fiction. These so-called "Book Clubs" admit "members" upon payment of one shilling. The shilling is "for life," but the promoters refrain from saying this means the life of the club, which, if history repeats itself, will be very limited.

The sum of sixpence is charged by these commercial "clubs" for each book taken by members; that is if members desire recent fiction. If they are content with cheap reprints of books published many years ago, the sum of threepence is charged. This appears to be very cheap until one counts the number of books read in a year; then it is the reader realises he could get better service from his public library at a fraction of the cost.

NEW NOVELS

By Our Reviewer.

Act of God. By F. Tennyson Jesse. The setting for this novel is in a small fictitious town called Fraxinet, situated in the south of France, in which the Virgin is supposed to have appeared to two children, and upon whose evidence, after due enquiry, the miracle was accepted by the Church, and the town became a shrine for pilgrims. A drama with a tragic ending is introduced when Colonel Erskine discovers an earthly origin in a cousin named Vera, a widow, whose foolish vagaries are well told. The curé, M.

AULSEBROOK'S Latest Sensation

"KRISPY" Cracker BISCUITS
(Slightly Salted)

"FAME BUILT ON QUALITY"

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.

JOHNSTON'S FRUIT MART

709A GLOUCESTER ST. Cnr. Woodham Road.

We are pleased to give our help in the publication of this magazine, and at the same time advise residents of Linwood that it is our purpose to supply only the choicest Fruit, Vegetables, Confectionery and Dairy Produce. We shall be pleased to give prompt delivery to phone orders. No order too small or too large to receive our best attention.

MRS A. M. BULLEN, Proprietress Phone 41-517

ARE YOU THINKING OF BUILDING ?

If so, consult

A. F. W. JONES

Builder and Contractor

Flat Specialist.

FINANCE ARRANGED.

PHONE 36-872

A. S. WHITTA

CYCLE DEALER 374A WORCESTER ST.

For workmanship and good service in Cycle
Repairs we defy competition.
A trial will convince this is no idle boast.

The Suit with the Prestige

Tailored to your order.

**CROWN TAILORING CO.
LTD.**

132 Manchester Street

MISS E. A. PREBBLE A.T.C.L.

Teacher of Pianoforte, Elocution, Theory. Pupils entered for Exams. and Competitions if desired. Elocution Classes, Junior Girls, Wednesdays; Senior Girls, Fridays; Boys, Saturdays. Parents, attend to your child's musical education now, while the fingers are pliable, and the mind is free.

Studios: WEBLEY'S and 150 STANMORE ROAD

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

H. B. JONES & CO.

(W. R. CAVERHILL, Proprietor)

168 HIGH STREET (late of 609 Colombo Street)

LOCKSMITH AND TENNIS SPECIALIST

Motor Car Locks a speciality. Prompt service guaranteed.

COTTRELL BROS.

FOUR SQUARE STORES

For GROCERIES, FRUIT and DAIRY PRODUCE

All of the very best. Phone us, we'll do the rest.

Two Busy Shops:

Corner STANMORE RD. & ARMAGH ST.
Phone 41-988

Cabodrus, a friend of Erskine's, is a truly religious man inspired with a living faith, and is the true hero. The summing up of the 'Times' Literary Supplement says "Miss Tennyson Jesse has handled this little drama with great ability, enlivening it with pictures of the society that haunted Praxinet, giving texture to her narrative by the well-matured opinions of those of her characters who are capable of expressing them. 'Act of God' is a short novel, but it has substance and quality, a parable of belief, and unbelief, and the strange mystery of Life."

'Probationer Pat', by Winifred Carter, is a book that should appeal to feminine readers. Pat O'Brien, a wild Irish Colleen, is the chief character in the book. She lives with her father in a dilapidated old house called Ballycross Castle, and is his constant companion in everything until after a trip to London on business while Pat stays at home to look after the farm and especially the horses. On his return he brings back unexpectedly a stepmother for Pat, and this breaks up the old comradeship and engenders a hatred for her father's new wife. From here the story tells of the constant friction between the two, and how a friend, Lady Monnigan, takes Pat to London, procures her a position as probationer in a hospital at Great Gables. Her experiences with the staff, good and bad, and especially the two doctors, Michael Wallace (the hero), Victor Dereham (the villain), and how it all turns out happily in the end are for the reader to find out. Surmise to say the story is simply and well written, full of Irish humour and pathos.

'Highland River', by Neil M. Gunn. The book is one of the higher class of novels, and as the Literary Supplement says, "is not easy to review, for its artistic point is that of poetry or music rather than prose. Mr Gunn's technique has steadily improved, and the scenes of boyhood by a river and among a fishing community of the Highland shore of the great Moray Firth are projected with crystal clarity, sharply defined, like objects seen in a slightly diminishing mirror. The strange focus is intensified by a counterpoint of images drawn from Kenn's late experiences, as a gunner in the War and as a research worker in physics that drift in and out of the recollections of boyhood. When the man returns again to the place of his childhood he tracks to its source the river that seems to him to penetrate the country from whose body and soul he was fashioned." To readers of light fiction only the book may not appeal, but those who like something deeper "will find something here that they will remember as a piece of beauty, creative in the most real sense of the word."

SOME RECENTLY PURCHASED FICTION

Ace of Knives.....Leslie Charteris
Act of God.....F. Tennyson Jesse
All Her Days.....W. Cumming Tate
Armour of Light.....Cosmo Hamilton
Bird of Light Plumage.....Diana Patrick
Blackshirt Takes a Hand.....Bruce Graeme

PLUMBING

C. & J. Colville Ltd.

303 CAMBRIDGE TERRACE

PHONE 32-283

C. BARRETT

LADIES' AND GENTS' HAIRDRESSER AND TOBACCONIST

709 GLOUCESTER STREET (Cnr. Woodham Rd.)

All Clippers and Brushes used in Saloon sterilised.
Best brands of Tobacco and Cigarettes in stock.

LAWN MOWER SPECIALIST.

Lawn Mowers sharpened and set, called for and delivered. Scissors, Knives, Saws, all Garden Tools. Cycle Repairs and Accessories. Soldering, Brazing, and Welding, etc. Expert Work only and guaranteed.

C. H. BURROWS

284 WORCESTER STREET

MISS TRAILL

Dressmaker

213 Worcester Street

W. NEWELL

COAL AND FIREWOOD MERCHANT

We have the following Coals:—

Abermain, Pelawmain, Westport, Newcastle
Kaitangata, Moody Creek, Burke Creek, Blackball.

331 GLOUCESTER STREET.

Phone 35-718.

Carla's Marriage Emmeline Morrison
The Case of the Dangerous Dowager

Erle Stanley Gardner
Chowra's Revenge F. E. Penny
Clouds of Glory..... John Moore
Cowboy Lynd..... R. A. Bennet
A Cumsha Cruise E. Laurie Long
Envoy Extraordinary..... E. Oppenheim
Forgive Us Our Trespases..... Lloyd C. Douglas
The Frightened Man..... Gerald Verner
Gentleman Harry Retires..... Philip Lindsay
Gunsmoke Girl Cleo Woods
Highland River..... Neil M. Gunn
In the Flashlight..... Ottwell Binns
Ivory Ladies Gavin Holt
Leisure of Living Nellie M. Scanlan
The Marsh..... Ernest Raymond
The Master Spy Arthur Gask
The Mystery of the Tarn..... Carolyn Wells
Nothing is Safe..... E. M. Delafield
Nurse to Dives Paul Trent
Ostrich Man..... Andrew Soutar
Owner Gone Abroad Ruby M. Ayres
Probationer Pat..... Winifred Carter
A Regency Rascal..... W. P. Drury
Seagull and Seapower D. and M. Dixon
Sea Spy..... E. Keble Chatterton
The Silver Cord Valentine
The Soothsayer..... E. W. Savi
Storm Ranch Denver Bardwell
A Strange Destiny..... Carlton Dawe
The Striped Umbrella Guy McCrone
Summer Spell..... Sara Seale
Sunset at Noon Ruth Feiner
Terry Orcutt's Guns..... Chas. H. Snow
These Names Make Clues..... E. C. R. deLorsa
This Way to the Stars..... Eliz. Carfrae
Treat Them Gently F. E. Bailey
Victoria Four-thirty..... Cecil Roberts
West of the Pecos..... Jane Grey
Woman Called Willow Joan Kennedy

BOOKS RECENTLY PLACED IN THE NON-FICTION ROOM

Road Through Kurdistan. By A. M. Hamilton. The narrative of an engineer in Iraq. One who knew the Kurds described them as "Shedders of blood, raisers of strife, seekers after turmoil and uproar, robbers and brigands; a people all malignant, and evil doers of depraved habits, scorning the garment of wisdom, but a brave race and fearless, of a hospitality grateful to the soul, in truth and in honour unequalled, of pleasing countenance and fair cheek, boasting all the goods of beauty and grace."

What a wealth of paradox, yet words hardly calculated to reassure a new engineer. In spite of all the worries the job entailed, and overcoming all the obstacles of nature and the elements, this great scheme held a wonderful fascination for him and later stirred the imagination and brought also the co-operation of the very people whom he thought his worst enemies—the Kurdish tribesmen themselves. A stirring episode of life on the outposts of Empire.

J.H.

YOU ALL KNOW

that the LINWOOD LIBRARY is one of the best in New Zealand. Well, without fear of contradiction, we claim to be the best butchers in Linwood.

Give us a trial order and you will be convinced that our prices for quality meats are unbeatable.

CLAUDE FOSTER

THE QUALITY BUTCHER

333 ARMAGH ST., LINWOOD
Phone 34-164

ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH YOUR
GROCER? If not

J. E. FORBES

29 HARROW STREET

will be pleased to give you service and civility. We call and deliver promptly. Town prices. China, Hardware and Brushware stocked.

RING PHONE 35-232

MATHESON'S

High Class Boot and Shoe
Repair Service

CNR. BARBADOES AND ARMAGH STS. still maintains highest quality leather and materials. Lowest possible prices. Same day service. All repairs finished by up-to-date machinery combined with skilled workmanship by a competent tradesman, ensures for you a perfect fitting repair. Hand sewn work a speciality.

Sand and Sun, by Michael Terry. A very interesting account of two gold prospecting expeditions with camels in the dry lands of Central Australia, 1932-1933. Mr Terry had as companions Stan O'Grady and Ben Nicker, two stout, reliable comrades, and two black "fellows." Leaving Erldunda Station, in Central Australia, north-west of Ordnatta, they journeyed mostly by untrodden paths to Lake Mackay, in Western Australia, returning to Central Australia, then launching out again to Western Australia, finally finishing at Warron-bia. Mr Terry's description of their many trials and dangers is given in terse and vivid words, and, being blessed with a native gift of humour, the story is not without the lighter and brighter side. When leaving the Alfred and Marie Range in Western Australia he noticed some marks on a desert eucalyptus, and to his surprise read Lasseter 2.12.30. Further on more evidence was found of that prospector's work. But no one has ever found the reputed reef of fabulous wealth which Lasseter claimed to have discovered. The most important result of their first expedition was the discovery of potassium-nitrate. This discovery is of immense importance to agricultural work in Australia if interest in it can only be aroused. For its possibilities are of tremendous value as the base of many fertilisers, and also from the fact that nitrate is not available within the Empire as yet. This is a most interesting and enjoyable book.

The Valley of the Assassins, by Freya Stark. Miss Stark has given us here a work that has gained glowing eulogies from the critics and the English Press, also gaining recognition of her work and achievements from the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Asiatic Society.

Those who enjoyed "The Southern Gates of Arabia" will find here the same charm in greater variety.

The Siege of Alcazar, by H. R. Knickerbocker. The books on the Revolution in Spain have yet to be written, but this one is written by an American journalist who was granted every possible facility to see as much as he could on the Rebel Front. He writes forcefully, and through him we make acquaintance with war in its naked horror. The relief of Alcazar will long be remembered as one of the grimmest events in this struggle. Writing from the Rebel front, we gain a slight insight as to how the struggle is carried on, but it is worth while noting that, while the Moors are mentioned, very little is mentioned of either Italian or German troops fighting Spaniards in Spain.

Three Lives and—Now, by Stephen Foot. Quite a different book this. The author was employed by a famous oil company, first in Singapore then in Mexico. When war broke out he became a staff officer in the Tank Corps. After the war he was an assistant master at his Alma Mater. Then "Now" is recorded. At last he had found that direct service of God was the greatest thing of all. A "human" book.