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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 registration and borrowing of books. A second is to treat these young people with the same courtesy and consideration which is accorded 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 obviously for him to act like a child—he will inevitably do it. Treat him as an individual 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 conclusions 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

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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 children's room books? Will the librarians themselves 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 untinged 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. Unfortunately 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 viewpoint often disregarded.

The fact that "the best public libraries were in those towns where the municipal authorities had assumed full responsibility for those institutions" 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 authorities 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 Marseilles, then penetrating into Abyssinia, he then is for quite a long spell in and about the unknown parts of the Red Sea, where he sees life in many shades and hues. He has adventures galore, and enjoys them all.

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