

extent for the preference for contemporary heroes and heroines.

But in all this modern reading the classics are not neglected. Dickens is read more particularly by older children, but Kipling and A. A. Milne are writers whose works have an extremely elastic age-appeal, and will never date.

Librarians have found that books containing the rudiments of different trades and callings such as farming, science, industry and engineering are extremely popular with boys, many of whom slowly build up their own laboratories with the aid of books on chemistry and science. This type of reading is being encouraged by the authorities, as it is felt that, apart from helping children to find their true vocation, it will provide constructive interests for the

Radio's Part

"Children Need Books: 1944 Children's Book Week": Talk by the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister—main National and Commercial stations, Monday, November 13, 7.0 p.m.

"Children Are People": Talk by Sydney Greenbie, Representative in New Zealand of the American Office of War Information—main National stations, Wednesday, November 15, 7.0 p.m.

"Children's Book Week": Talk by G. T. Alley, Director, Country Library Service—1YA, Thursday, November 16, 10.45 a.m.; 2YA, Tuesday, November 14, 11.0 a.m.; 3YA, Wednesday, November 15, 11.0 a.m.; 4YA, Friday, November 17, 10.45 a.m.

leisure time of those who in later life have to undertake unsatisfying work of a routine nature. Books like *The Microscopic World* are never on the library shelves for long, and are often taken in preference to story books.

With the widespread recognition that what a child learns voluntarily he retains much more readily, a great deal of care is being devoted to the production of educational books, with the result that there is a vast difference between the text-books of even 10 years ago and the modern, interesting and alive books, with fascinating and colourful illustrations that will be introduced into New Zealand schools as soon as supplies become available. The children of the last generation tried to learn history from stodgy-looking books with narrow margins and close type, which contained a bare record of events and the dates of kings. Now they read the stories of other peoples as story books, with bright illustrations and a touch of humour added, and learn geography from a story about a small boy in Alaska, or from a book such as the recently-published *Paddle to the Sea*, which traces the adventures of a toy Indian canoe round the Great Lakes in Canada and plots its course on a map. The diagrams and illustrations are excellently done, and include the lock system of the canals, Indian weapons, Canadian landscapes, and a realistic painting of a forest fire. By the time the little canoe has sailed down the St. Lawrence River to the sea, the young reader has unconsciously covered a complete geographical study of the area.

When children have once met books such as these, their demand for the old type of improbable stories practically disappears. It is unfortunate that the difficulty of importing and the present prohibitive prices make it impossible for parents to buy these books in any numbers, but the main libraries stock

them, and the Country Library Service has an excellent collection, which is available for the use of children in towns of 10,000 population or less.

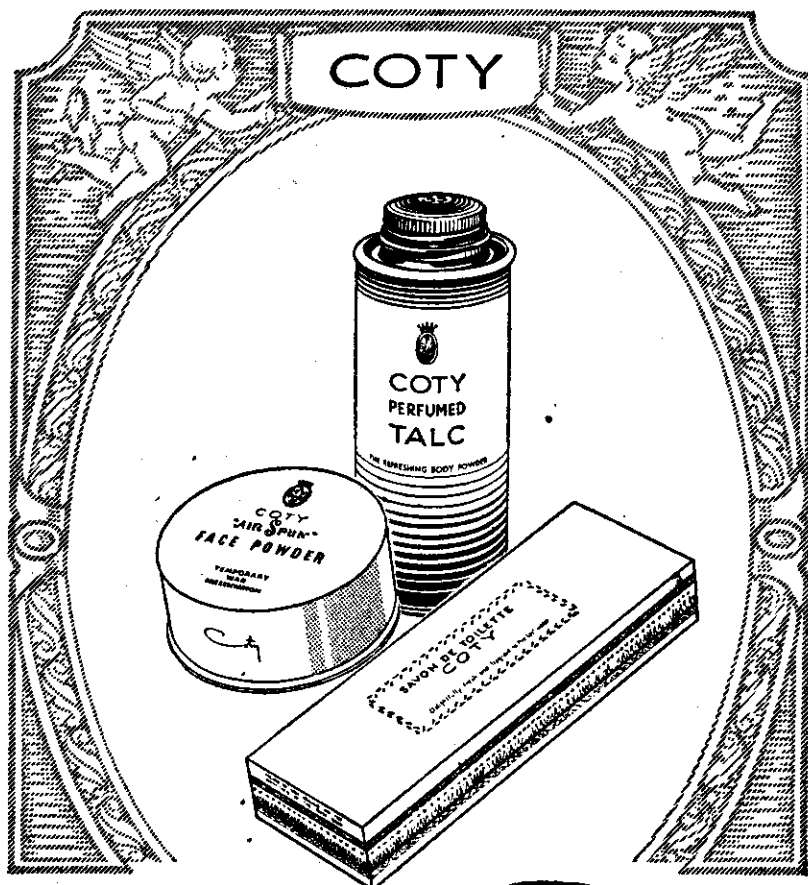
During Children's Book Week this type of literature will be on display at the libraries, as much for the benefit of adults and local body members as for children, in order to stimulate an interest which will result in practical measures when the books are again available.

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