



CHILDREN of St. Clement Danes School, London, reading in a public library next door to the school. Eventually every school in Britain will have its own library

(continued from previous page)

very difficult to replace them. Replacement affects the supply of new books. Owing to the need for re-printing, the total number of new books that can be published is only one-third of what it was. Paper is limited and has to be made to go round. "You can imagine what a headache all this is to the publisher. He's only got so much paper," so he has to sit down and think how best to allocate it—fiction and history and biography and travel and technical books, and so on, and so much for new books and so much for re-prints. And we have the Government urging us all the time to produce more for export. Bear in mind that part of the British publisher's paper ration depends on his ability to maintain his exports. So we need all the support the readers and booksellers of New Zealand can give us."

### The New Author

We asked Mr. Howard how the new author got on in these conditions. Was it more difficult than it used to be for the new writer to break into the market? "If a man's stuff is good it will get into print, generally speaking. In regard to subsequent editions, authors are apt to be touchy. One effect of altered conditions is that a publisher has to print more in a first edition to make the thing pay. If previously he reckoned 2,000 copies sufficient, he now finds that he must make it 3,000. But the type of new writer who suffers definitely is the man on the border-line of quality. In the old days we might say of a first manuscript: it's questionable if it's good enough, but the writer shows promise, and if we publish two or three of his books he may improve and we'll get a winner. We can't do that now."

### Books on the Air

How had radio affected reading habits? There was no evidence either way, he said. He supposed radio must have had some effect, but he thought generally not an adverse one.

We also brought up the serialisation and dramatization of books for radio, and mentioned that in New Zealand the

broadcasting of certain classics had greatly stimulated book sales. "Serialisations are very different from dramatized versions," said Mr. Howard. "I know one author who objects very strongly to the latter while approving of the former. It has been suggested to him more than once that he should allow one of his books to be turned into a 20-minute radio drama. He argues that the effect of that, while ruining his books for listeners, must be to discourage them from becoming readers. And I agree with him. In any case, if such adaptations are made, the script should always be submitted to the author before being broadcast, for his approval or rejection. There should always be ample time for this. Full-length, or even slightly abridged, serial readings cannot harm a book and may even help the sale. Furthermore, the author can expect substantial fees."

Mr. Howard was impressed with the standard of book production in New Zealand. He mentioned the Centennial Surveys series arranged by the Government in the centennial year. "And your bookshops, large and well-stocked, with airy attractive window displays, are a treat."

—Staff Reporter.

### Composers' Contest

FIRST prize in the fifth annual piano-forte composers' contest held under the auspices of Charles Begg and Co. Ltd. was awarded to L. D. Austin, of Wellington, for his *Two Improvisations*. Second prize went (for the second time) to A. R. Tremain, of Feilding. The judge, Frank Hutchens, of the Sydney Conservatorium, described the winning composition as "gracefully pianistic and flowing, combining charming ideas and an excellent sense of piano idiom and graceful decoration of melody." In his general comments Mr. Hutchens said that he felt the standard generally was higher than last year, but added that entrants in many instances seemed impervious to the inspiration they could get from their own land, so rich in beauty and legend. The winning piece will be published.



"That wouldn't have happened with O'B Football Boots!"

There are still not enough O'B Football Boots for all the players who want them.

Order your pair early this season. They're "worth a try."



"WITH THE STUDS THAT CANNOT HURT THE FEET."

# O'B FOOTBALL BOOTS

MADE BY M. O'BRIEN AND CO. LTD., CHRISTCHURCH.

O'B11




*The Safe Pleasant Pine Disinfectant*

FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD NEEDS

**SANPIC** Regd.

RECKITT & COLMAN (New Zealand) LTD., BOND STREET, DUNEDIN.



Relieve Asthma, Bronchitis, Colds, Coughs, Catarrh.

All Tobacconists and Chemists, or from

**JOHNSTONE & BRINDEN LTD.**

Nathan's Boud Bldg., 47 Customs St. East, AUCKLAND, C.I. (P.O. Box 133)

Packets, 10 - 1/1. Tins, 50 - 5/4

**SURAMA**

MEDICATED CIGARETTES

## OF DURABLE INTEREST

**ANATOMY OF THE FILM**, H. H. Wollenberg, 15/3 posted. Based on the author's Cambridge University lectures, this is a serious study of Cinema in all its aspects, assisted by numerous illustrations.

**SPANISH PAINTING**, Philip Hendy, 13/3 posted. A brilliant and instructive survey of Spanish art up to Picasso, skilfully relating text to plates, of which there are 37, 5 being in colour.

**THE WISDOM OF THE HEART**, Henry Miller, 12/- posted. A selection of wide-ranging essays on art and life, containing much deep probing and philosophical reflection.

**A SURVEY OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC**, Cecil Gray, 16/3 posted. First published in 1924, this book remains an outstanding contribution to the criticism of twentieth-century creative activity in music.

WELLINGTON CO-OPERATIVE BOOK SOCIETY LIMITED.  
**MODERN BOOKS** 48A MANNERS STREET, WELLINGTON, C.I., N.Z.