

crucial ones. In this period the child's character and many of his future habits are formed. This is the time to instill in him a love of books that will form the basis for his later reading habits.

"Children rely on their parents to lead them in the way they are to go. If a child never even sees his parents reading and, more important, has never been read to, his chances of becoming a reader or of learning to read easily are almost nil. Why should he? He has no idea of the pleasures to be found in books.

"And if you want the best for your children in this complicated world today, a good education is a must. A love of reading ensures a head start in this race, and it is up to you as parents to provide the necessary leadership."

What sort of books do our people ask for? In an article in the Ontario Library Review, Miss Evans says:

"It is fascinating to observe how the adult picture has changed over the last five years. Prior to that rural Ontario asked almost exclusively for sweet and simple annals. But now? Non-fiction in increasing numbers, angry young or old men, and avantgarde literature in all fields. Fortunately the day of mediocre requests is past and these days at least every third application for a travelling library is accompanied by inquiries indicating that we are catering to a thoughtful and often exacting public. The result is that our book collection has been improved and expanded to meet the more enlightened demands made upon it. But it still contains a good deal of recreational reading and is not, by any stretch of the imagination, a store house of knowledge on which to base a province-wide reference service."

We learned that many people are asking for



A corner of the Travelling Libraries premises where books are selected, packed and prepared for shipping.

books about Africa and the head library is sending out "Profile of Nigeria" by Leonard S. Kenworthy; "A New Earth" — an experiment in colonialism; "a book about Kenya by Elspeth Huxley; "Meet the Congo and Its People" a book for younger readers by John Gunther. We were interested, too, in the wealth of books in stock about the Canadian North: Farley Mowat's "People of the Deer", "Coppermine Journey", "Ordeal by Ice", "The Desperate People"; "Schoolhouse in the North" by Marjorie Hinds, "The Mysterious North" by Pierre Berton; also Farley Mowat's book about Newfoundland "Grey Seas Under". And it was interesting to hear that the Travelling Libraries Branch has a station at Moose Factory serving 1,000 Cree Indians.

The central library's shelves would delight any nature lover. Just passing along the corridors we noticed "Outdoor Rambles" by Stuart Thompson, "Wings in the Wind" by Anne Merrill, "Cache Lake Country—Life in the North Woods" by John J. Rowland, with illustrations by Henry B. Kane "Where" (We had to stop and open the book of course to read this) "timber wolves roam the hills on the long winter nights and spring brings the big Canada geese and the song birds and in summer the moose and the deer come down to the lakes and bears feed on the blueberry barrens."

We cannot begin to list the good new books nor the good old ones in the Travelling Libraries' stock; but it is safe to say most of them are there or if not they will be provided if they are asked for — from Morley Callaghan's new "The Many Coloured Coat", Jessie L. Beattie's "Split in the Sky" and others, to Stephen Leacock's classic "Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town" and an excellent anthology of Canadian poetry, "The Oxford Book of Canadian Verse" in English and French edited by A. J. M. Smith. The fact that the library maintains a stock of about 75,000 books, all considered worth circulating, gives some idea of the supply we have to draw from.

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THE PATIENT SCIENTISTS

Bertha Gerneaux Woods

How they have learned the secrets of the ether!
Ships in the clouds, afloat as on a sea;
Voices through miles of distance singing, captured,
Brought to our homes to gladden you and me.

How selflessly they seek profounder meanings
Hid in the clump of moss—the iron ore!
How they have found in energy the secrets
God smiled to know a billion years before.

Counting their lives not dear, so they discover
Some bit of truth through eons all unguessed,
Something to make the lives to come the richer,
Ere they themselves shall shut their eyes and rest.

Ah, still the Lord God walks with noiseless footfall,
Visits the workshops of these patient men—
Smiles on the test tubes, the revealing lenses,
And "It is good," He murmurs once again.

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