

CHAPTER VJUVENILE LIBRARIES

Few of our other gains will be of much consequence if we lag behind in our cultural pursuits. In this modern age, labour saving inventions must have the ultimate effect of reducing the work-a-day week and creating more and more leisure time for the average man. It is, therefore, of paramount importance that the youth of to-day are educated to make the most advantageous use of the increased leisure that may well be theirs when they reach adulthood. Mere literacy is insufficient in any country that claims to be to the forefront in advancing civilization and culture. It has been said that, "Of all the human relaxations that are free from guilt, none so dignified as reading."<sup>(1)</sup> With increased leisure it should be possible to ensure increased reading; it is as true in the twentieth century as it was in the sixteenth that "reading maketh a full man."

However, it is essential that the reading habit be acquired when young for it is only by instilling good reading habits into children that a permanent appreciation of books is likely to be developed. In many of the adult libraries in New Zealand the quality of reading is adversely affected by the subscription basis,

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1. Egerton Brydges. "The Ruminator" No. 24.