

Young Folk Today
Pass Up Favorite
Books of Parents

'Pilgrim' Progress, 'Robinson Crusoe,' 'Water Babies'
Seldom Called For.

What are the young people of today reading?

Are they reading the books that you and I, Mr. and Mrs. Parent, read in our boyhood days, when, with reluctance, we laid aside our Grimm's Fairy Tales and the like? Are they reading the grocery to buy ten pounds of sugar for mother to put up five bushels of peaches or to buy a quarter's worth of beefsteak for company dinner?

Oh, no!

Long since have these books occupied a lonely place on the back shelves of the public library, or remained altogether in the back of the book store. I went to the library the other day, and asked for a copy of "Little Brown Baby," "Bird's Christmas Carol," or "Swiss Robinson" the librarian would have to scratch her head, look at her reference card, then blow the dust off the book, and hand it to the said parent with thoughts wondering of "who is this old-fashioned book?"

Possibly there is not a parent in Indianapolis who, at some time or another, has not been wholly wrapped up in the strange and mysterious doings set forth in "Arabian Nights" or who has not, at some time, seen as a great soldier as he followed the narrations of George Washington, Napoleon Bonaparte or Abraham Lincoln.

OTHER OLD FAVORITES

GO INTO THE DISCARD.

"Pilgrim's Progress," De Foe's "Robinson Crusoe," Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women," which was the favorite of the girls when the mother of today was about 10 years of age, and "Water Babies," all were read from cover to cover, time and again by the boys and girls of fifteen, twenty and twenty-five years ago.

But along with the passing of the past, with the "big, full-masted" sleeves, the wide bottomed "trailing" skirt and the "Merry Widow" hat, these favorites of father and mother have, long ago passed into oblivion.

Clerks at the public libraries are authority for the statement that these old old favorites have never been read.

The young people of today are not interested in what the fancies of the Arabian Nights did. Probably all they know about the Sailor is what they glean from the popular play.

"Water Babies" no longer hold enchantment for the young mind, for they are now more obsessed with the history of the "Ate A Pie" fraternity or this or that. That's truer than with the fancies that were born in the mind of Charles Kingsley. It would be safe to say that nine-tenths of the children of

today do not know who Charles Kingsley was. He might have been author of the prohibition enforcement law as far as many people could tell.

AND FRIDAY—WHAT'S IN LITERATURE?

The nearest many of the modern young people could come to telling what "Friday" had to do with the history of literature, is that Friday is the day before gets his check. Little they know about "Robinson Crusoe" and his man Friday.

But ask the girls who Lucille is, and not one of them will fail to tell you that she is the famous designer of beautiful gowns. They all know the title of the book in which she is mentioned time and again.

But the impression must not be gained that the young people of today are all frivolous and ignorant as to the history of the nation's famous men and women. Not at all.

They now read such books as Woodrow Wilson's "History of the American People," and books telling how to vote.

This change has largely been brought about by librarians, who through the different methods of teaching in the public schools. For the past few years teachers in literature and history have been recommending certain books for pupils to read, in order to acquaint them

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