

continue to make free use of the Library for study and reference purposes. To these and all other applicants assistance has been cheerfully rendered when desired. The question of assisting readers in special cases, naturally brings up the question of assisting readers in general cases, and especially to supervise the books drawn by young people. It is perhaps almost needless to say that this is already done so far as time will permit ; but when, as is the case at certain times, the crowd is so great that books are handed out at the rate of perhaps five a minute, it is manifestly impossible to do more than see that the card and book numbers are correct, without looking to see what the book is or who is getting it. However, I fancy there has been little complaint on this score, while two forces may operate to still further lessen complaints ; (1) let parents remember the responsibility resting on them and take some slight interest in seeing what their children are reading ; (2) let the Library Board continue its present policy of excluding books of Fiction of a distinct immoral tone. As, however, what is moral or immoral, or at just what degree of immorality the line ought to be drawn, will always be debatable questions, another plan, if it was thought desirable, might be tried, by the issue of a special card for those under 16 years of age. On these special cards books in the Fiction Class would not be given, and moreover, books given on these cards should not be changed for one week. This would serve the double purpose of keeping Fiction from young people, and of meeting the complaint quite frequently heard, that books from the Library interfere with the children's school studies.

#### **THE READING ROOM.**

Of almost equal importance to the Book Department are the Reading Rooms. Hundreds of people come to read the London Times and other papers, or some of the literary or technical journals, who seldom or never take books from the Library. The general reading room contains an excellent representation of the literary, art, and technical journals of the day, with a liberal supply of daily papers.

This room is occasionally over-crowded, and at once the "small-boy" problem suggests itself. When the room is crowded,