

"What is the Effect of Radio Serials on the Minds of Our Children?"

I FOUND it most interesting reading your views on this subject, and most of you had commonsense ideas to put forward. In the finish I came to the conclusion that, as in all things, with careful guidance there was enough good in radio serials to counteract any evil, and as entertainment is scarce for so many of you in the remote country districts, I think the verdict was in favour of them, provided of course that they were carefully chosen, and not of the very dramatic type. "Tiggetty Boo," of Kati Kati, has set her ideas out very clearly, and to her is awarded the first prize, while second prize goes to Mrs. C. Spedding, of Christchurch.

First Prize:

INDISCRIMINATE listening-in to the radio, like the reading of any kind of books available, is not in my opinion a good thing for any child. Children have such pliable, plastic minds, full of the searching eagerness to learn, easily influenced, moulded, and so easily marred. We can't expect them to differentiate between what is good and what is not when it comes to retaining anything mentally. For the absorbing minds of children are apt to accept so much they hear, or read, or see, as sober facts, and to be influenced thereby. So that, when considering the influence of radio serials that so often end up on a note of excitement, we must remember that unless they are carefully chosen, little minds can be adversely affected by them. It is important also to consider the type of child we are dealing with—the mind of a sensitive and highly-strung child for instance can develop a taste for constant excitement or morbid fear by being able to listen to programmes that, though most unsuitable for them, would have a much lesser effect on a more phlegmatic nature. Yet, because of such effects it is not wise to altogether deny a child something that other children are generally allowed to enjoy, for such an attitude may cause rebellion. I think, taking a middle course, and allowing children to listen in to the fresher, cleaner, and more wholesome type of serial suitable for their ages, a wise parent can direct and advise their choice, and so the



children can be entertained. The thing we most need to guard against with radio serials is over-stimulation of a feeling for constant excitement, a state of being keyed up to a pitch over a story, and allowing this to become an obsession. It is wise to teach children not to become too absorbed, or to lose their perspective in the importance of such serials. Sooner or later they will probably want to listen in, so how can we expect our young folk to retain a well balanced view unless they are taught good listening, as well as good reading, or anything else?

Children need the guidance of a wise and sympathetic elder. Given supervision in radio serials I feel they derive much pleasure and little harmful effects, so long as they listen in moderation. Sophisticated grown-up serials, fantastic, murderous, or gangster types of serials should be taboo. Little people with vivid imaginations, sensitive, highly impressionable ones should be carefully looked after in this regard. They can so easily develop fears that stay with them without our realising the cause. Treat the children as intelligent, responsive human beings, don't over indulge, don't use too much restraint, and they can learn so much from the radio that the effect must be good.—Tiggetty Boo, Kati Kati.

Second Prize:

ARE the children of to-day influenced by radio? Probably no more than by films, or the books they read, but certainly the influence is there. There is no doubt that radio has a fascination for the average child, but why cannot we direct their interests in the correct channels? Certainly there are one or two serials that really do con-

tribute to the education of the child, but when there are so many great works on our bookshelves waiting to be dramatised for every child, why should third-rate entertainment be put across? Most of the programmes are clean entertainment, but they stop there. They teach our children nothing of advantage at the same time. Radio is a great medium for advancing the intellect of the child to-day—let us not waste it.

Then there is that menace—the "thriller." Too many of these are put on before the average child's bedtime. Most of them are degenerate, far-fetched efforts, surely not put across for a reasonably intelligent adult of today. And then, do we need more horror these days when we switch on the radio? We do not! We want a rest from it all, or if we must have thrills, there are plenty of true, stark facts without the ravings of perverted imaginations.

Give us please, the dramatization of living and lasting works, well acted,

RESERVE YOUR SKIN against the burning SUN and WIND . . . guard against freckles . . . and never be ashamed of your hands. Use Lemon Glisco, the effective Skin Emollient and non-greasy Powder Base. 1/7

Woolworths, McKenzies, and Toiletry Counters.

LEMON GLISCO
SOOTHES HEALS SOFTENS

Primrose Pty., 779 Colombo St., Christchurch