

108. Various recommendations were made to the Committee for altering these classifications or increasing the number of certificates, as, for instance, by introducing a certificate "for exhibition to persons over sixteen only" or that the film was suitable for audiences consisting solely of children. Opinion amongst witnesses was also divided on the question of whether the duty of keeping children away from unsuitable films devolved on the management of the theatre or upon the parents of the children concerned. Another matter much canvassed in evidence was the tendency of attracting attention to a questionable film by the over-advertising of its unsuitability for children and the danger to adolescents involved, particularly if, up to a certain age, they had been compulsorily excluded from attending other than "U" Certificate films. "Horror" films also came up for discussion, and the Committee attended a special screening of selected samples of film which the Censor had found necessary to excise.

109. Upon these difficult problems the Committee can only make the broadest recommendations:—

- (1) It does not feel that there is any need for an alteration in the classes of certificate now used and believes that censorship in New Zealand is wisely used in the public interest.
- (2) It regards as impracticable the suggestion that the exhibitor should be subjected to penalties in cases where, despite the Censor's warnings, children seek to attend performances unsuitable to them. This is so much a matter of parental control that the most the Committee can recommend as against the exhibitor is that for films carrying the "A Special" Certificate—*i.e.*, unsuitable for exhibition to children—no children's prices shall be fixed, so that children attending the performance pay adult rates. At the same time, the Committee draws public attention to the purposes for which censorship exists and urges all sections of the community to regard it as wise guidance of which the public should take full notice in the interests of their children.
- (3) The Committee recommends the Censor to view "horror" films with special disfavour; the evidence shows that most sections of the industry are aware that these films can be positively harmful, and it is said that their production is declining. The exercise of the strictest censorship will still further tend to reduce to a minimum the exhibition of this type of film.
- (4) The power is vested in the Censor to approve or disallow the posters and other advertising matter used for publicity purposes. The Committee recommends that this power be more strictly exercised, and if the difficulty of dealing with it is a matter of staff, adequate assistance to the Censor should be provided.

(c) CHILDREN'S FILMS, CHILDREN'S CLUBS, ETC.

110. When the Committee commenced its hearings, children's cinema clubs were being widely organized by both the Kerridge-Odeon and Amalgamated organizations, as well as by some independents. Conflicting evidence was given by education authorities on the value of these clubs, but, in any case, those run by the Kerridge chain have now ceased operations, and it would appear that the others are no longer of any great importance.

111. On the basis of the evidence given in connection with these clubs and with children's matinees generally, the Committee wishes to place on record its disapproval of the practice of special Saturday morning screenings for children. It cannot but regard these as undesirable. At the same time, it is strongly of the opinion that in all centres where two or more cinemas are operating, one at least should provide special Saturday afternoon screenings for children, and it would recommend that the licensing