



Women and the Home

Radio is the slender wire that brings the world and its affairs into the tiny kitchens and living rooms which hitherto had isolated so many housekeepers in the performance of their duties
—Margaret Bondfield

Children Matter To Mrs. Heymann Says "KAY"

I HAVE met a woman to whom children matter—in the real way that is so rare. And—rarer still—she does something about it.

If you go to the Exhibition you will see, in the Women's Court, an array of animals made of papier maché by Mrs. Heymann. They are made with sticks and paper, starch paste and imagination. They are lively and individual. But if you should be lucky enough to find yourself part of her "Puppet Show" audience you will realise the especial magic of the creatures she makes. You will meet her "Punch," her "Magician," her "Schoolmaster," her "Tony and Tiny," her "Crocodile" and her "Vulture"—a jolly crew borrowed from any and every tale, familiar characters but in strange new adventures. They will seem to come alive. But—what is so much more important—the children, also, will come alive. The most self-conscious, sullen or stolid youngster will find himself strangely liberated. For one brief and joyous half-hour he will be himself.

Much is required of him. Indeed, without him the Show could not continue. For every adventure that befalls this curious pack of players requires, for its happy ending, the co-operation of the audience.

This is the very stuff of life for the children. They are swung back and forth in a world of glorious unreality—of exaggerated, yet simple, emotions. They deal in danger. And in common sense. In loyalty—and in achievement. It is a glorious nonsense tale, but come to life.

When you meet Mrs. Heymann you meet a woman with expressive hands, mobile mouth, perfect teeth and the friendliest eyes in the world. She has two boys of her own. Stefan, the youngest, showed me "His Book." It is a long narrow book of blank



Two of Mrs. Heymann's puppets: "Magician" meets "Crocodile"—and looks as though he doubts his magic in the face of those yawning jaws

pages on which his mother has pasted "cut-outs" that illustrate his first kindergarten rhymes at home in Germany. The elder boy, too, has his book—but it is in line-and-wash illustration. All his small childhood is there to remember—every member of the household and all his baby activities—a record to value.

I asked Mrs. Heymann how it all came about—this Puppet business.

"Ah," she said, "I went once to my boy's kindergarten where a show—a little impromptu, amateur show—was given by the teachers. I was enthralled. I saw the enchantment it had for the children, and realised the great psychological value of such jolly fantasy.

"When we returned home my children wished to explain it all to their grandmother. But they could not reconstruct the tale without puppets, so I used my fingers and we went again through all its incident from beginning to end.

"Then, when we had decided to leave Berlin and make New Zealand our home, I thought I would like to know more of this puppet-making and do it, perhaps, in your country. So I went back once more to the kindergarten and asked to be taught all they knew. That is all.

"And now I do it here," she added with a smile. "Your children in New Zealand make such splendid audiences. They are so responsive. Even the big ones. I am always very delighted that they like it so much. Happiness—even for an odd half-hour—is so important when one is a child."

It struck me that Mrs. Heymann is of the stuff that educationists are all too rarely made of.



Mrs. Heymann in her sun-room—it is also her work-room—sets about the making of yet another puppet. Her materials, as you see, are of the simplest—an odd piece of stick, scraps of paper and a bowl of thick starch

These Should Interest You:

Talks prepared by the A.C.E., Home Science Tutorial Section, the University of Otago:

"A New Room But The Same Furniture": Monday, December 18, 1YA 3.30 p.m.; 2YA 3 p.m.; 3YA 2.30 p.m.

"Holiday Time Meals": Thursday, December 21, 1YA 3.30 p.m.; 3YA 2.30 p.m.; Friday, December 22, 2YA 3 p.m.

"The Care of Pets at Christmas Time": Mrs. A. D. Houston. Monday, December 18, 2YA 7.30 p.m.

"Glamour Girls of the Ancient World": Miss Elsie K. Morton. Tuesday, December 19, 2YA 10.45 a.m.

"Enjoy Your Holidays": Mrs. B. J. Marples. Tuesday, December 19, 4YA 7.30 p.m.

"Christmas in June": Mrs. Carrie Wallace. Thursday, December 21, 2YA 10.45 a.m.

"A Contrast in Christmases — England and New Zealand": Miss Nelle M. Scanlan. Thursday, December 21, 3YA 7.35 p.m.

"Perfume Factories on the Riviera": Miss Elsie K. Morton. Saturday, December 23, 2YA 10.45 a.m.



WEEKLY RECIPE

TASTY LUNCHEON DISH

Take the required quantity of silver beet or spinach, wash and cook in very little water till tender. Strain, chop and place in oven-proof dish. Pour over two or three beaten eggs and a little milk. Add a small piece of butter, salt and pepper, and some finely grated cheese. Put in oven till set.