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Mr. McQueen: Which means, I take it, that the principal will keep one eye on the content of university courses when he is helping children to plan their school courses.

Mrs. Lloyd: In other words, if a girl intends to go in for home science, say, at the university, she'll include it in her school studies so that when she's accredited she'll have got in the groundwork while she's been at school.

Dr. Beeby: Yes. Of course she ought to take home science anyway, being a girl.

Mr. McQueen: Similarly a boy proposing to study home science or medicine or dentistry or engineering at the university will take science at high school. Now a further point. What is to stop a school recommending a pupil who has taken what I'd call a fancy course with a lot of unusual subjects that are not as a rule included in university work?

Dr. Beeby: There is a double safeguard against that. First the Director of Education won't necessarily accept all those pupils who are recommended. Second, if a pupil is recommended for accrediting and not approved, he or she will have to sit for the new examination. Now there are 14 subjects from which three must be chosen, but if a pupil has studied subjects outside that list it may be difficult for him to bring himself up to the examination standard.

Mr. McQueen: All in all, then, those who are really preparing for university work are going to do very much the same work as they have done in the past at secondary schools.

Dr. Beeby: That's what it amounts to. The difference will be with the many children who never intended to take university work. In the past they've all had to follow pretty much the same course—the Entrance course—but now with the wider scope offered by the School Certificate they'll no longer have to study a foreign language, for instance. Only those who have some aptitude or taste for a language will study it.

Mr. McQueen: We've made it appear that a good deal will now rest on the principals of schools, haven't we?

Dr. Beeby: In each of the university colleges a special liaison officer is stationed to do a number of things in connection with accrediting.

Mrs. Lloyd: Is there going to be any bother over the transition stage? What, for example, is going to happen in 1944?

Dr. Beeby: Provision has been made to meet the special needs of those who will sit in 1944.

Mr. McQueen: But I'm afraid that would take too long to explain. Besides, it might confuse some of our listeners. What I mean is that we'd be discussing special cases, and they're often misleading.

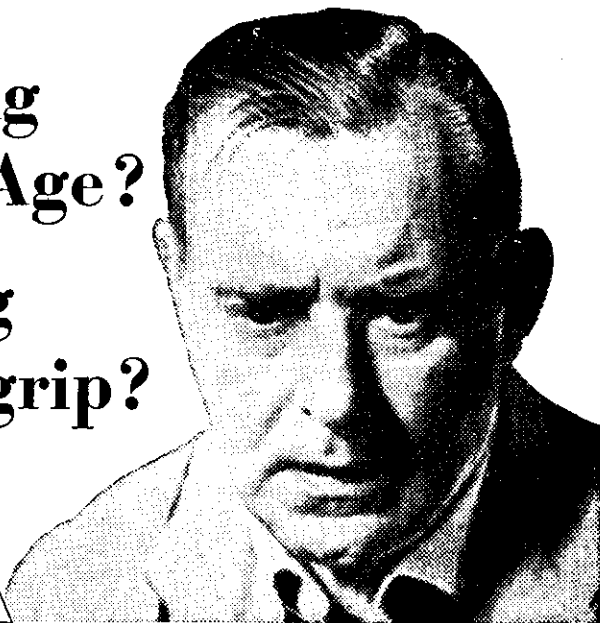
Mrs. Lloyd: As long as they're taken care of it's all right. Anyway, parents of those children can get accurate information from their principals, can't they?

Dr. Beeby: That's the best way. If there is any doubt about that, they could write to the University of New Zealand—or to the Education Department.

Mr. McQueen: That's a fair offer. And thank you for your explanation of accrediting.

Dr. Beeby: I am very glad of the opportunity. The ideal of any educator is parents who understand what it's all about.

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