

(continued from previous page)

not associate beauty exclusively with marble statues that have lost their vivid colour in the lapse of ages, or with representations of far-away cities and landscapes that it will probably never see. For if beauty is not discernible at Lyttelton, it is vain to look for it at Lugano. Nor would it be difficult to find artists who would conduct children over local art-exhibitions, or who would bring collections of paintings to the schools.

I shall not enter here into any discussion of the possibility or desirability of extending our instruction in the actual practice of art. I shall only plead for a more psychological approach in these matters, and shall give it as my opinion that far more people could design, model, or paint than are in any way aware of it, that representation is practically an instinct, and develops naturally in a large proportion of individuals if it is not killed by unsuitable art-instruction, and that many of us might be pleasanter and less neurotic if we had artistic interests.

Art Galleries

Having said something of the function of education in promoting art-appreciation, I shall now say something about the part that might be played by art-galleries. Now it is not at all easy to be enthusiastic about our New Zealand art-galleries, or to feel that they measure up to modern needs. The things unsatisfactory about them are too numerous to mention: they are remote, stuffy, static, and academic without possessing the art-treasures that might excuse such defects. Though they contain some fine individual works, their general selection is not what it should be. They have failed lamentably in their primary functions of providing a comprehensive store-house of local art; an overseas visitor anxious to see how New Zealand looks to the New Zealanders would find little in them that might not be better seen in Glasgow or in Birmingham. And even the overseas canvases for which so much has been said are not as interesting as they might be. For they have not been picked out by people who were keen to spot genius in unlikely places, but by people who were determined above all things to play safe.



Now even the merest money-making art-dealer could tell you that the wholly safe and reputable art of one generation is necessarily the dull and faded art of the ensuing generation. And unfortunately, there is much too much dull and faded art in our galleries which might very well be retired to basements.

The Art of Showing

And I should like to comment further on the fact that we have much to learn of the modern art of showing pictures. For one isn't showing pictures properly if one crowds them in oppressive masses and gives the beholder all the labour of separating and seeing them. The old crowded gallery, where everything was displayed and nothing altered, and where there was no principle in exhibition but historical or local links, is something that should be

(continued on next page)



In fighting infection in your own home, learn from the hospital. Against the germs that cause infection modern science has a modern weapon. In our great hospitals, in surgical, medical and maternity wards throughout the country, surgeons, doctors and nurses protect their patients - and themselves - with 'Dettol'.

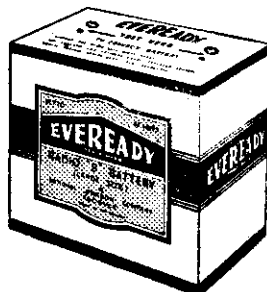


Reckitt & Colman (New Zealand) Ltd., Bond St., Dunedin. D.44

To owners of PORTABLE RADIO SETS



No. 762
'B' Battery



No. 770
'B' Battery

Although Eveready Portable Radio No. 762 'B' Batteries are not at present available (because the entire output is required by the Armed Forces) your set can still be operated with an Eveready Battery of larger size.

Ask for the Eveready Superdynamo No. 770 'B' Battery. While not so convenient as the special Portable Battery, the Eveready 770 will give you longer life and the same high standard of reception.

Eveready Batteries for Portable and Home Radios and for Torches must sometimes take second place to the needs of the Army, the Air Force and the Navy. So please remember...

The Fighting Forces First!

EVEREADY
TRADE-MARK



A National Carbon Company Product

ER/44/B41