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programme. It brings the Bible down to human level. For too long now the Bible has been something floating ethereally out of reach."

SCHOOL TEACHER:—"It was a shock to me to hear that programme on the Children's Hour. It is not the least bit suitable for children, indeed, it might have a very bad effect on back-blocks children who can't go to Sunday School. They will always connect Christ with that particular voice. It puts the Bible stories in the same class as *Jimmy Allen* and *Coast Patrol*, and in their minds they will probably be an inferior serial as far as excitement and interest goes, at least."

HOUSEWIFE:—"I believe I did hear it one night, but I was so busy getting tea that I couldn't stop to listen. What a bad time to put on a programme like that."

LAWYER:—"Sorry, haven't heard it. Our radio's too big to move, and it's in a room with a coal fire, so in these days of coal shortage we're sitting in a room with a gas fire and no radio."

TOBACCONIST:—"Yes, I've heard a few, and think them all excellent. But I've asked several friends what they think—and none of them seems to be listening."

DETECTIVE:—"I've been on duty and unable to hear it, except once, and then I liked it. But my son of 12 has heard them all—his teacher first drew attention to the programmes in class—and he has been absorbed and impressed. No, they haven't been above his head at all—but then I really think he is mentally a bit above the average for his age. All the same, I think most children, if they listened, would take much more from these plays than from reading the same passages in the New Testament. After all, if you come across, say, the mention of leprosy in the Bible it is pretty hard to explain to a youngster just what that disease meant in Biblical times without first explaining all the surrounding circumstances—the lack of hospitals and medical knowledge, the superstitious beliefs of the day, and so on. But Dorothy Sayers translates things like that into our own times. And why not? Is the 17th century language of the



ELIOT MAKEHAM (Matthew).

Authorised Version any more intrinsically sacred than the language of a modern translation?"

ANOTHER MOTHER:—One woman put forward a rather curious view. She said that if Christ were to be represented on the stage or the screen, that would be all right, because children would know it was only an actor, but to have the voice on the radio, where children are inclined to imagine it is the real voice of Christ Himself, is "a wicked thing."

A JEW:—He raised the question himself. Unfortunately, he raised it in a crowded cafe, where conversation was difficult. But the discussion went something like this:

He: Have you listened to these religious plays by Dorothy Sayers?

We: Yes.

He: What do you think of them?

We: We find them interesting.

He: But the woman's crazy.

We: Why?

He: Writing plays round such a subject!

We: Why not?

He: Who wants them?

We: The thousands who listen.

He: But they don't want that.

We: What do they want?

He: History. That's neither fact nor decent fiction.

We: A lot of people think it's both.

He: They've never been to Palestine.

We: Dorothy Sayers has.

He: I don't believe it.

We: Why not?

He: There's not a real Jew in her book.

We: There's a Whitechapel Jew.

He: No. Her people are all out of books. Not a real one among them.

We: Do the plays offend you?

He: No. Well, yes, but not because I am a Jew.

We: Why, then?

He: Because they are false to history and to life.

We: But clever?

He: Not even clever. Dull and dead—like stuffed birds.

We: But they have provoked you?

He: Not at all. None of that nonsense gets near me.

RETIRED MINISTER:—"It is very good history, very good art. The dialogue is excellent, the background admirably filled in. So far as I am concerned I remain a spectator. I am not moved; and the reason I think, is because all the chief characters but one—Matthew, who is almost a figure of fun—speak and act like English Public School boys. I can't help wondering what will happen when the servant girl tells Peter that his speech betrays him. Will she say, 'You are Charterhouse, aren't you, or is it Rugby?'"

SCHOOLBOYS AND SCHOOL-GIRLS:—A somewhat extensive series of questions among boys and girls of primary school age brought one almost general answer—"They talk just the way we do." And the point is, that was disturbing to most of them.

METHODIST MINISTER:—"I think they are excellent, both in the writing and in the presentation, for the way they make the story come to life," said a Methodist minister, who believed that his opinion would represent the views of the younger generation of Methodist clergy.

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