

SESSIONS BY CHILDREN

22B's Interesting Experiment

THE current session from 22B of programmes compiled and compiled by children between the ages of 8 and 16 has revealed some interesting facts to the programme organiser—that children don't succumb to mike fright as adults do, that the average child has a better knowledge of music and musicians than most people imagine, and that he has no particular desire for jazz.

One reason for the child's coolness in front of the microphone is that wireless has always been familiar to him. To the present generation of children there has never been a time when there hasn't been a wireless. Or perhaps the reason is that children have more assurance anyway. Whatever it is, the organisers of the session are still marvelling at the self-possession of the entrants. Typical perhaps was the fourteen-year-old boy, who, five seconds before he was to broadcast leaned over the microphone and asked casually, "I suppose one is permitted to be a trifle nervous?" and then sailed through his programme without a tremor.

Some of the children may have submitted classical programmes because they wanted to show their good taste, but the majority seem to have had a genuine interest in their subject and to have delved into innumerable sources to get material for their programme notes. And they are not satisfied with any artist or recording: in each case they stipulate the particular one which in their opinion is superior to all others.

Their programmes have covered many of the great composers, but they have also offered a wide range of variety programmes. There have even been programmes on hymns, and one which stressed the moral of keeping silent during war time. One contributor, aged ten, let her imagination go. "It is dusk. An old lady sits drowsily on the veranda. Her head begins to nod over her crochet work and soon nothing can be heard but her gentle breathing," this child wrote. "She dreams of a distant land, Spain, with its sun-drenched hills . . . its joy and sorrow . . . brown-eyed,

carefree children rollicking in the dusk . . . the matador with his red coat is showing his skill in the ring. She smiles softly as she remembers one bull." Then came the instructions: "Play Ferdinand the Bull."

The children have had access to 22B's library to compile their programmes, and those concerned in the session were ready to give them advice.

But, the organisers told us, "the children haven't wanted advice. They have given us advice."

A hundred programmes have been received so far, and of all these, only three or four have needed any re-editing before they could go on the air.

This session of programmes compiled and compiled by children can be heard from 22B on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.



READERS who saw our recent announcement of the results of the Armed Services Literary Competition, conducted by the AEWS will remember that one soldier won first prizes in two sections and came second in another. He was Sgt. John Gundry, of Auckland, whose portrait we print here. Sgt. Gundry took the first prize for a Narrative Poem, second prize for a Lyric Poem, and was equal first in the radio-play section.

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the kernel of the fundamental problem that the world must solve and must solve now. If war is to remain with us, then nothing that we can achieve can possibly be permanent. Indeed, it is not too much to say that if the world has to face another war such as this, it may well lead to the final destruction of civilisation itself and of everything that man has won for man in his upward struggle from the apes. But if war can be exercised, then there is nothing that man cannot hope to achieve.

May I commend to you, with all the earnestness at my command, a simple proposition but a profound truth—that nothing can be politically wise unless it is morally right. There is nothing new in this principle—the only thing that might be new about it would be its practical application. There are many who will smile on it as simple and childish or platitudinous, but I say to you that it is the essence of what I have learnt in 20 years of hard and practical experience. May I add also that it is, in fact, the principle of which the foreign policy

of our Dominion has been based for many years past.

If the nations of the British Commonwealth, side by side, with the great and powerful United States of America and our other Allies, can give a lead to the world in the adoption of this principle at the peace table, and afterwards, long afterwards, because a lengthy period will be required before the world can settle down after this turmoil; if they are prepared to found their policies upon the immutable laws of right and justice and not upon a short-sighted view of self-interest or expediency; if they are determined in all cases and at all costs, through a system of collective security, to oppose the wrong and resist and punish the wrong-doer, wherever necessary by the application of armed force, then I am convinced that success is within the power of man, and that with a settled peace the prospect for our children and their children should be a happy and promising one. If we depart from this simple truth we shall, I fear, fail again just as miserably as we failed last time—and we shall deserve to fail.

Aye, Aye, Sir



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