

MAKE YOUR OWN TOYS AND DOLLS

(From an A.C.E. Broadcast)

NEW ZEALAND, as everybody knows, is soon to receive some hundreds of Polish children uprooted by the war. How long they will remain in New Zealand no one at present knows, but it will be long enough to present an entertainment problem. The younger ones will require toys, and already listeners to 2YA have heard an appeal for toys broadcast by Mrs. T. C. A. Hislop. They have also heard an A.C.E. broadcast on the making of toys, but it is one thing to listen and another to remember. Here are some of the practical hints given in the A.C.E. talk, with a reminder that further information can be obtained by writing to the A.C.E., University of Otago.

And of course, we do not forget that charity begins at home. What is good for the Poles is good for New Zealanders.

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OFTEN we find young children owning most expensive toys which neither interest them nor help them to develop their latent capabilities. These expensive mechanical toys are of interest to older children and to the grown-ups, too; but young children are interested in doing things themselves, not in watching the toy do it for itself.

There is really nothing simpler to make than the soft toys which are the ideal toys for the infant and crawler. One which most of them love is a ball made with bright coloured sections. If it is not too firmly stuffed it will be soft and cuddly and yet have the advantage of rolling, which makes it so much more entertaining than a toy that just "stays put." It is a good idea to cut a lining and stuff this. Then the coloured outer cover can be taken off and washed when necessary. This cover can be made of knitted wool or flannel, or indeed of any scraps of woollen or cotton material. Soft toys, such as ducks and bunnies, dolls, humpty dumpties, don't require any skill in making, and the chief things to aim at are that they should be gay and soft and preferably washable.

We have typed directions for knitting a duck, humpty-dumpty, an owl, a rabbit, and an elephant, and could supply them at 1d each, plus 2d postage.

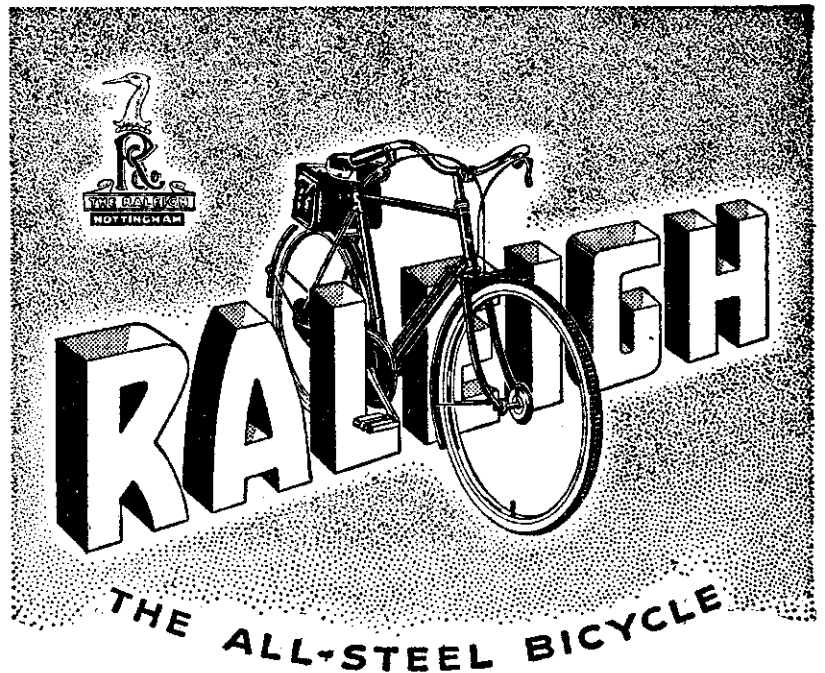
Lifelike Toys

When the child gets a little older, he likes more lifelike toys. These do require a certain amount of care and skill in the making. First there is the pattern—books on toymaking can be bought at most booksellers. If you cannot get a copy, the A.C.E. may again be able to help you, as we have a fair collection of toy patterns at 6d each.

Having got a pattern, the next thing is to collect the materials. You'll need some firm kind of cloth that will not

(continued on next page)

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