

# Education as a Social Activity

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Jesus told intriguing topical stories on a walk between one village and another.

"What educates young people to-day after they leave school? The radio, the films and the newspapers. Or rather these provide the raw material for education. Because a thing doesn't become part of your experience just because you see it or it happens to you. No, you have to think it over after it has happened if it is to educate you, if it is to become part of yourself, your *growing* self. And how does that happen? Usually through discussing it.

"So our idea in British clubs — no matter what organisation it is that runs them — is to start by giving the members the chance to do what they want to do, and then to seize whatever opportunities offer as they come along to make them discuss things that rise out of their activity. For example, people may begin by doing nothing but dancing. But if they are still doing nothing but dancing after six months under your leadership, you are a badly poor leader and teacher. What the starting point is doesn't much matter — provided it is your club members' *real* interest. Film groups, for example,

don't need to spend much of their time seeing 'educational' films in the club-rooms. They can be mostly going in parties to commercial films. And it doesn't much matter there either if a lot of the films they choose to see are bad ones. A bad film has as many talking points as a good one. The essential thing is to talk about what you see. Because the only way to increase your awareness and to raise standards of taste is to bring your reactions up to the level of consciousness."

## Radio Discussions

And could the same principle be applied to radio listening, I asked.

"In two ways at least," said Dr. Brew. "Either you can discuss what you have heard on the radio, or you can listen in to discussions that are so on the nail of your own problems that you identify yourself with the voices and it becomes your own debate. We got 4½ million people listening to our *To Start You Talking* series — more than to any other straight talks series, except, of course, the Brains Trust. We didn't keep them quite 'straight.' In the middle of the talk called 'Browned Off,' for instance, the situation the speaker was describing suddenly began happening. The boy of the family, and his sister, both came into

the kitchen in one of those fits of depression that adolescents quite normally get. Mother tried to worm the reason for it out of them which made them clamp up like oysters, because of course there was no reason, no reason that could be explained. And then Dad, the jolly sort came in and tried to jolly them out of it — which simply made them mad with him . . . and then the speaker's voice came back and discussed the incident we had just overheard. The other talks in the series also dealt with adolescents' personal relations, because that is what matters to adolescents. Lots of parents must have listened too, because many wrote in thanking us for illuminating their family problems.

"That's education to me — illuminating problems, my problems. No one can 'keep abreast of the times' to-day. They move too fast, on too wide a front. But we can keep alert enough to recognise the implications of events as they happen. And we do that best by sharpening our minds on each other. An educated man, I reckon, is one who can entertain himself, entertain a stranger and entertain a strange idea. But being as internally rich and as supple as that requires constant exercise. We must get ourselves and our young people as keen on mental agility as they now are on physical agility."

—A.M.R.

## TEST CRICKET BROADCASTS

THE first cricket Test, MCC versus Australia, at Brisbane, will start on Friday, November 29. For those listeners who wish to receive the commentaries and summaries direct from Australia, here are the New Zealand times of broadcasts from Station VLQ:

Friday, November 29, 1.55 to 2.15 p.m.

Monday, December 2, 2.45 to 3.0 p.m.

Tuesday, December 3, 3.15 to 3.35 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4, 4.15 to 6.0 p.m.

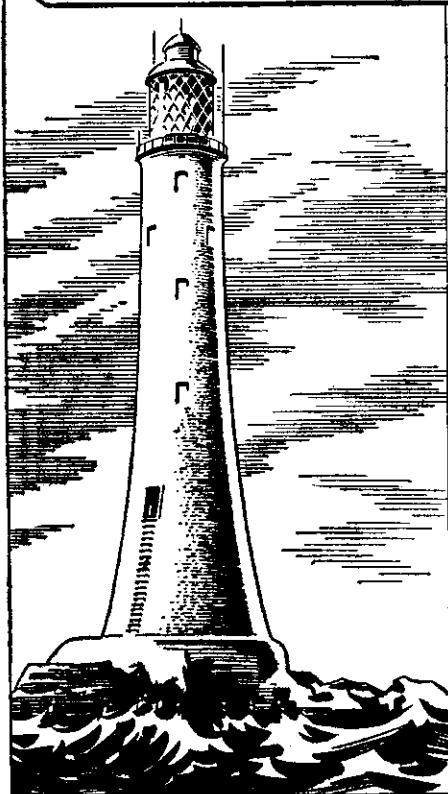
Thursday, December 5, 6.15 to 7.20 p.m., and 7.40 to 8.5 p.m.

Saturday, November 30, 1.55 to 2.30 p.m.; 2.45 to 7.30 p.m. (in the "Sporting Panel"); 7.45 to 8.5 p.m. (final commentary from the ground)

On each day there will be summaries of play from 8.30 to 8.37 p.m. and from 9.55 to 10.0 p.m. Station VLQ operates on 9.66 megacycles until 8.15 p.m. and from 8.30 p.m. onwards on 7.215 megacycles.

Listeners relying on the NZBS for news of the Test will be supplied with regular progress reports and commentaries from the Main National stations. The times of these will be found set out in a panel on Page 42 of this issue. The ZB stations will also broadcast sports-flashes of the play as news comes to hand.

## FAMOUS LIGHTHOUSES



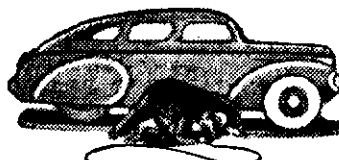
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### THE "BISHOP"

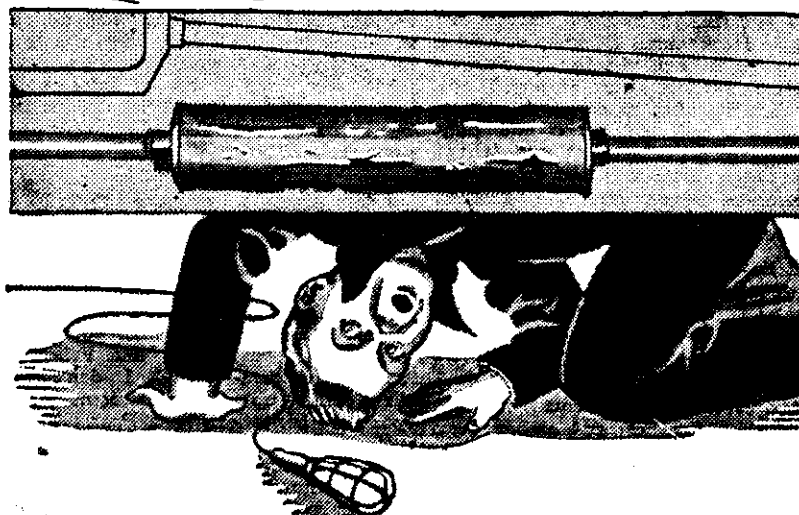
*Rising sheer out of the sea beyond the Scilly Islands, the "Bishop" light is the western sentinel of England. Until this light was built in 1878, the Bishop Rock was the scene of many maritime disasters, worst of which occurred in 1707 when three vessels of Sir Cloudesley Shovel's fleet foundered with a loss of 2000 men.*

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