

—not in the classroom, not with teachers, but by arranging all sorts of activities and developing all sorts of potentialities: art, drama, music. What small boy doesn't whistle as he goes down the street? That shows he likes music; only his liking for it must be brought out and given a chance to express itself. He likes jazz and boogie woogie now, but he probably has it in him to enjoy other and more worthwhile music—given the chance. We try to give him that chance to express himself, to act and to draw, and to make things, and to talk and to play chess or anything else. Yes, sport is a good bait, but the real club soon becomes an extension of family and home life into a wider circle."

Voluntary Helpers Are Needed

"When you began most of the work with clubs was done voluntarily. Is that still true or indeed possible to-day?"

"No. It is not by any means all done voluntarily to-day. There isn't the leisured class to-day for one thing. But club work must be a vocation. The National Association of Boys' Clubs have a college, St. Pierre, at Chepstow in Wales, where men are trained in the technique of Club leadership. It is quite a short training—six months—but it is varied. For instance, all trainees are given the historical background of the working boy, the legislation which concerns him, Health Insurance and so on, so that the club leader is equipped to advise a boy. The trainees are by no means only university men. We have a number of ex-servicemen at present interested in this type of work. But, may I add, we are quite certain that we cannot depend only on full-time salaried leaders. We must also have as many voluntary helpers prepared to give unselfish service in the interests of the community."

"What about New Zealand? We have virtually no leisured class to draw on for youth leaders."

"But you don't need a leisured class. You just need people prepared to give service voluntarily—and they would enjoy it too," said Mr. Henriques.

"We met plenty of splendid young teachers, for instance, in Christchurch," said Mrs. Henriques. "They were full of enthusiasm and new ideas. If they were prepared to give an evening or two a week"

"Look at your Repertory Societies. Surely some of the enthusiasts would enjoy running a Drama group in a club?"

"Or you could find a local craftsman, say a carpenter, who would run a woodwork class in his spare time."

"Or someone who is keen on, say, chess to start a chess group."

Yes, I thought, or a Mr. and Mrs. Henriques to give the preliminary shove.

"And it IS being done, but not enough."

Neutralizing the Delinquent

"And of course clubs are a good weapon against delinquency," I commented.

"Much more than that. The average delinquent does wrong because he has nothing better to do. We try to offer positive ways of using leisure, which are better than just going to the pictures and races and boxing matches. We do prevent delinquency. The delinquent just gets swallowed up in the club."

"But you have had hard nuts to crack at times?"

"Oh yes. They have cracked us too!"

But before I could follow that up, I was at the end of my time, and I still had questions to ask about picture clubs, the increase of delinquency during the war, New Zealand institutions for delinquents, and so on. I did, however, mention the last and Mr. Henriques gave an unqualified reply.

"I have seen only your Burwood Girls' School as yet," he said, "but that is the best institution for girls I have seen. I believe the girls there under Miss Scotter are really being educated away from their delinquent habits."

And with that Mr. and Mrs. Henriques were wafted into a car and driven to their next appointment.

—S.S.



ON THE JOB: The NZBS Mobile Unit at Port Chalmers on Otago's Centennial Anniversary Day, when recordings were made of the celebrations

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