

A LIBERAL IN EDUCATION

Grace Barstow Murphy Compares U.S. and N.Z. Systems

MOST of the overseas delegates to the South Pacific Science Congress held recently at Christchurch are now home again, in their own countries. Two still remaining in New Zealand, however, are Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, Chairman of the Department of Birds in the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and his wife, Mrs. Grace E. Barstow Murphy. Mrs. Murphy attended the Science Congress as delegate from the Society of Woman Geographers, of Washington, D.C., but she also follows her husband's ornithological career with keen interest, and while in New Zealand accompanied him on many of his expeditions.

But unlike the scientist of popular tradition, her vision is not confined to what is beneath the microscope or within the limits of the viewfinder. She seemed to me typically American in the way her enthusiasm flowed over into the everyday business of living, and, like most Americans brought up in the sound traditions of the Parent-

Teacher Association movement, she is particularly interested in, and knowledgeable about, education. Above all, she said, you can't very well bring up three children and not be interested in education. While in New Zealand she spent as much time as she could spare from scientific pursuits in visiting schools (she was particularly impressed by the high educational standard in our small country schools) and most of the time I had with her was devoted to a discussion of the differences between American and New Zealand education.

"I think a great advantage you have in New Zealand is that your whole educational system is centrally controlled. This makes for a high standard. In the States the schools are controlled by local boards, and so much depends on the enlightenment of the community. A few schools are bad, most are very good.

Democracy in the Classroom

"It may be that we have gone a little further than you in making our children responsible for their own discipline. I noticed here your school patrols at pedestrian cross-

ings—that's the sort of thing I mean. But we carry it further into the realm of student government, though I know you have made a beginning with this. Student discussions and open forums are taken very seriously in the States. And though of course like you we have our labour laws to prevent the exploitation of children's industrial earning power, you do find children encouraged in the performance of responsible jobs at an early age."

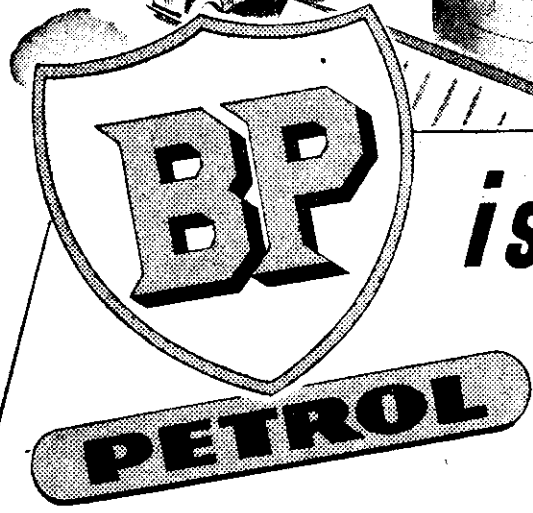
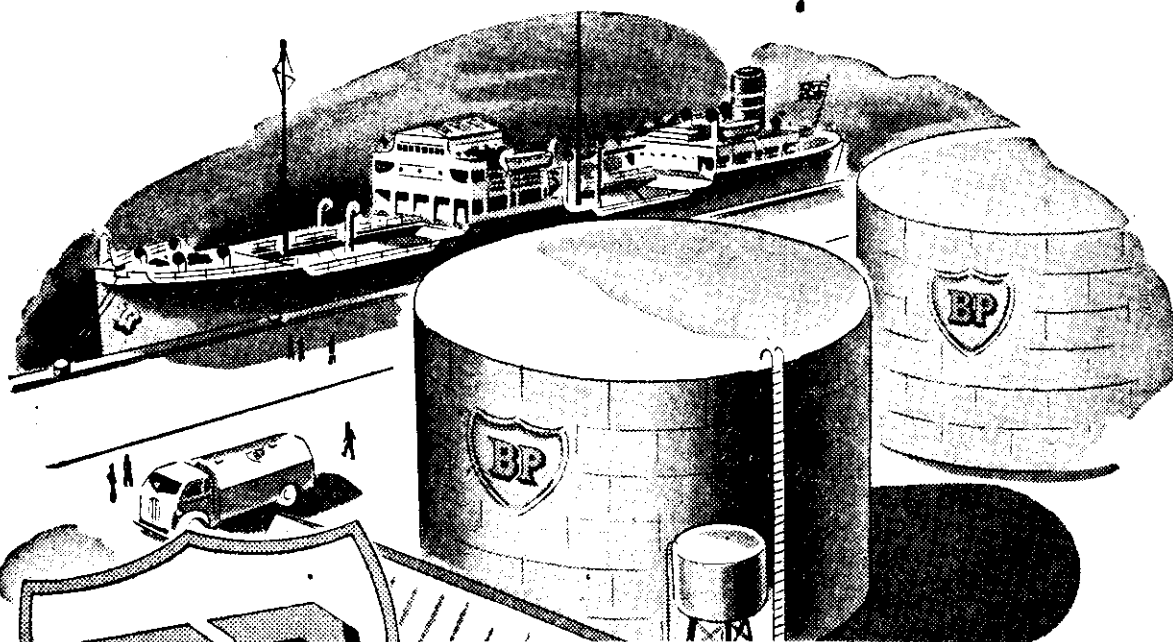
She instanced the case of her own daughter Alison who at the age of 15 was commissioned by a publisher to write a travel-book of her experiences when she accompanied the family to Ireland. Alison's book sold its first edition in a few weeks, and, said her mother, it had some literary merit in spite of being a best-seller. Again,

in the United States there were special children's theatres, with child actors playing to child audiences, providing satisfactory creative work for the children at an age when in New Zealand they would have fewer opportunities for it.

It seemed to me, from Mrs. Murphy's account, that much more is done for the children outside school-hours than is the case here. There are many children's concerts given by leading American orchestras (our own NZBS Orchestra has made a very successful start with this). There are special children's museums



"*THERE* may be real danger in sending girls out into the world emotionally immature"



*is preparing
to serve
you*

THE BRITISH PETROLEUM COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND LIMITED

BP15

SMALLWOOD'S PIANOFORTE TUTOR The World's Best Tutor Price 3/6 per copy ALL MUSIC SELLERS

SIMPSON'S COMPLETE MANUAL OF
SCALES AND ARPEGGIOS FOR PIANO

Arranged in convenient form for the
student to memorise.

Advanced Aural Tests are also included,
making this Scale Manual invaluable to
Teachers and Students.

Price, 3/- per Copy. All Music Sellers.

Publishers:
J. ALBERT & SON PTY. LTD.
2-4 Willis Street, Wellington

FEET HURT? IT MAY BE WEAK ARCHES



Arthritic or rheumatic-like pain in the feet or legs; tired, aching feet; callouses; sore heels or excessive fatigue after standing or walking, often are traceable to weak or fallen arches. Dr. Scholl's Arch Supports and exercise will give you quick relief. Expertly fitted at all Dr. Scholl dealers.

Dr. Scholl's Shops:
9 Willis St., W'gtn.
136 Broadway,
P. North.
123 Cashel St.,
Chch.
20 Moray Pl., Dun.



Dr. Scholl's ARCH SUPPORTS