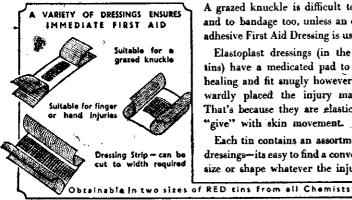


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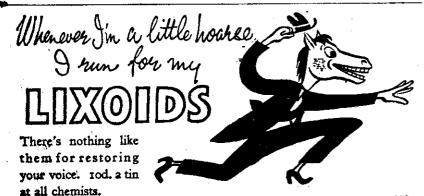
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### Radio Review

# Talking and Discussing

can be just as unsatisfactory as can any other kind of broadcast. There were the occasions when Mr. Davin patronised Mr. Sargeson in public. It's hard to say which was the more regrettable -that Mr. Davin was willing to adopt this tone with his fellow-craftsman, or that Mr. Sargeson seemed incapable of turning the tables on him. I found it all rather embarrassing. I recall, too, a discussion on contemporary music in which the speakers disputed about what "contemporary" meant, which could well have been de-

cided beforehand. I also remember a consideration of organised games and physical fitness in which the speakers got side-tracked on to character - training because, I felt. they hadn't really thought hard about

their subject before agreeing to discuss it publicly.

What a contrast was the last (the only one I heard) of the series on Infant Welfare from 3YA! Here there had been many years of preliminary thought, since the speakers were Dr. Helen Deem, Dr. Muriel Bell, and Mrs. I. L. G. Sutherland, with Mrs. H. R. Hume the unobtrusive chairman. Mrs. Sutherland was the informed critic, the questioner of the established order (the Plunket System). The others were the defenders, and providers of expert comment. This combination gave us the free interplay of minds which is discussion at its best. A wide range of questions was canvassed - diet, some aspects of child psychology, self-demand feeding, similarity between the symptoms of under- and over-feeding, the dogmatism of certain Plunket nurses, and a research into the causes of prolonged crying. It turned out that to the research worker who was quoted "prolonged crying" meant crying for more than three minutes, compared with 30 minutes for certain doctrinaire parents and nurses.

And so it went on. I expect hundreds of mothers and fathers were kept on their toes, as we were, by the parry and thrust of skilled opinion on these important domestic matters. At the end Mrs. Sutherland deplored that so many topics had been quite left out. That's where a discussion differs from a talk. The latter can include everything, and so it almost invariably includes too much, and nothing is remembered, Furthermore, the talk takes less time, and so it tends to be altogether too indigestible. Also unless he is very skilful the speaker in a talk has difficulty in gripping his audience, whereas the speaker in a discussion must perforce try to hold his fellow-speakers and they him, so that all tend consequently to hold their unseen audiences.

Still there remains the problem of whom to choose for discussions; and if only a fraction of them come off as suc-

ISCUSSIONS poorly done cessfully as the Child Welfare one that I heard, we should count ourselves lucky. ---A.B.

### Things to Come

ONE of the most attractive regular features of 1YA's programme is Owen Jensen's Monday night Music of the Week session, in which he discusses outstanding items in the coming week's broadcast music. His manner is excellent for this kind of thing-friendly, colloquial, not over-technical, never patronising, and steering a careful course between the preferences of extremists.

Wisely, too, he varies his programmes, sometimes analysing a major work in some detail, sometimes using performers to illustrate themes from works they are going to play, sometimes giving on several pieces just enough comment to

sharpen anticipation and deepen enjoyment. In one recent session he drew attention to the final Auckland broadcast of the Musica Viva Chamber Players, discussed the Haydn piano trio they were to play, adding some stimulating remarks on the difference between the often-bracketed Haydn and Mozart, sketched a background for a 1YC programme of Schumann and Brahms, and wound up with a "preview" of a new Sonata by the Auckland composer Georg Tintner, which in-cluded an account of a discussion with the composer himself.

### No Defendant

THAT adolescents can on occasion be at least as censorious as their elders was shown in a discussion in the Let's Talk It Over series. Here three exceptionally articulate Auckland schoolboys united to deplore the influence on the juvenile mind of thrillers and shockers in print and on the radio. It was a good, fruitful discussion which, for verve and keeping to the point, might be taken as a model by many adult panelmembers; and it had its moments of conscious humour. The general conclusions of the group as to the malignant effects of shockers, especially in their radio serial form, would please, I imagine, most parents and teachers. I wondered, however, just how representative the opinions were supposed to be. I felt it was a pity that one unashamed and unrepentant adolescent thrilleraddict was not there to present his case. After all, as G. K. Chesterton wrote, For whatever other reason the errandboy reads The Red Revenge, it really is not because he is dripping with the gore of his own friends and relatives." --J.C.R.

### Torch-Bearers

I HAVE heard of several listeners who get all burned up over 2YC's Torch of Freedom programme, and recently I have found myself among their number. At first I had grave doubts about (continued on next page)