

Tribute to Montessori

THERE is nothing a child cannot take—freely and spontaneously . . . It is only when we—the adults—force him to be attentive that he became mentally fatigued. Believe in the child. Hear his plea, "Help me to do it myself." These words of Dr. Maria Montessori, spoken to an international gathering held in 1950 to mark her eightieth birthday, will be heard in *Believe in the Child*, a radio tribute to Dr. Montessori, to be broadcast in YA Women's Sessions on Thursday, May 6—the second anniversary of her death. Dr. Montessori's is one of the great names in education. The first girl child in Italy to attend a public school, she decided after graduating from medical school that a teacher could do more than a doctor to help mentally deficient children. On that conclusion she built up her whole educational method, which she soon found would benefit normal children as well; and, though some of her ideas have been discarded, the Director-General of Unesco was able to say when she visited Unesco House in 1949 that every variant of the new education draws its inspiration in some measure from her teaching.



DR. MARIA MONTESSORI reassures a small child before recording a programme in the BBC Studios in 1950

Believe in the Child, which was produced by Unesco Radio, includes the recorded voice of Dr. Montessori and an appreciation of her method by Dr.

William D. Wall, of the Education Department of Unesco. "Her doctrine of belief in the child," he says, "is the sound core of her work."

Trans-Tasman Forum

A QUESTION of hot current interest, "Is Indo-China Our Concern?" is to be discussed across the Tasman by radio-telephone and broadcast in both Australia and New Zealand on the evening of Wednesday, May 5. It will be heard here from all YA stations at 8.15 p.m. Keith Hay, who organises *Question Mark* for the NZBS Talks Section, planned this broadcast for his series; but the Australian Broadcasting Commission, in immediately accepting the NZBS proposal and topic, asked that the duration be extended to 45 minutes, so that it could place the discussion in its weekly *Nation's Forum of the Air* programme, which normally runs for an hour. The NZBS agreed to 45 minutes, though this has meant moving the discussion out of its place in *Question Mark*. Australian speakers for the discussion had not been chosen at the time this issue went to press, but the New Zealand team will be Professor F. L. W. Wood, Professor of History at Victoria University College, and L. R. Palmer, Associate Editor of the *Nelson Evening Mail*. The chairman will be Alan Carmichael, a staff talks producer for the ABS and regular chairman of *Nation's Forum of the Air*.



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