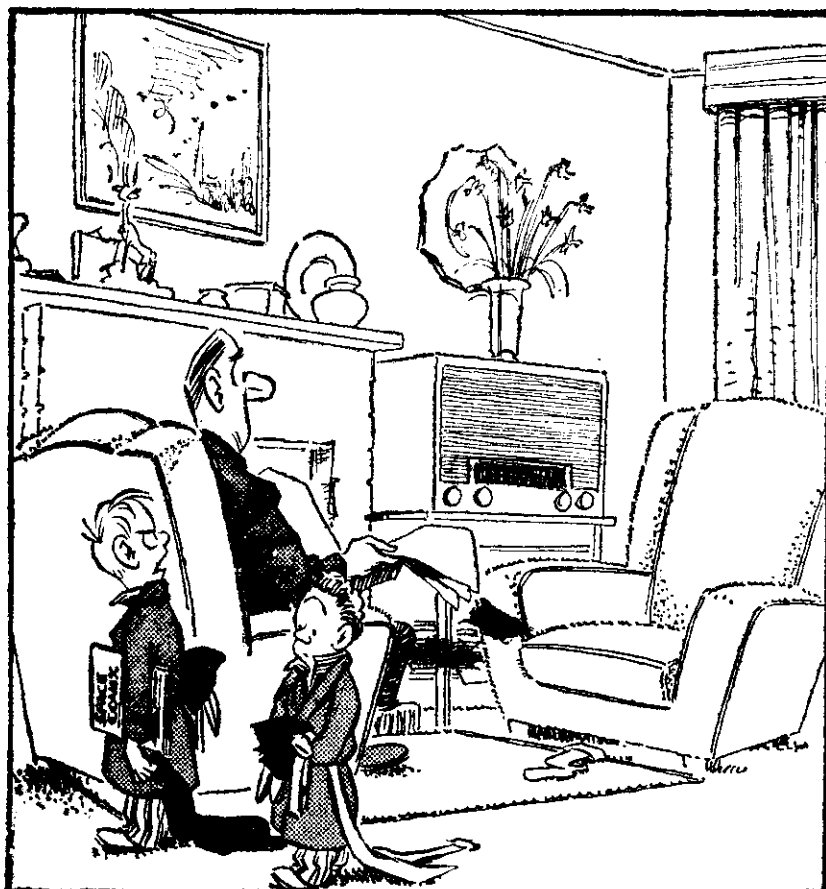


## Lodge Listens . . .



"When I'm big an' my children want to watch something on the interplanetary sonar-video screen, I bet I don't make them go to bed"

ingly tied up: Lin gets her ambition of fulfilling her mother's role as house-master's wife, the hide-bound elder housemaster goes more than half-way to welcome his son-in-law successor, the guinea pig himself sees doors opening to his long-desired Foreign Service career, and in general the principles of sane social progress are suitably vindicated. Then I realised that it was because, fifteen minutes before, Olive Lucius, the Housemaster's wife, had gone up to bed. Her vital playing had the effect of centring my interest in the housemaster's family, while the Guinea Pig and his personal problems, when not impinging, remained peripheral. And this was quite as it should be, since to Home Listeners of the NZBS the democratisation of public schools is not such a vital issue as marriage, true love, and careers for women.

—M.B.

### Fashions in Reading

THE conclusion of the interesting 3YC session *Writers in Eclipse* provokes the reflection that the theme could be handled again at some future time. There are always European writers whose work is obscured by the fashion of the moment, and in each notable writer are beauties not to be found elsewhere. Apart from Mr. Troup's persuasive boost, Balzac will have come to a slightly wider public through Kathleen Raine's translation of *The Lost Illusions* within recent years. Despite this, I must concede his greatness rather than feel it directly. Beddoes, too, has been resurrected by the elegant little Muses Library. I suppose for Cobbett

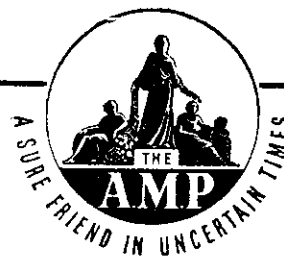
and Surtees we must turn to the libraries, though I thought as I listened to the four talks in the series which I did hear that a few bibliographical facts would help enquiring listeners who prefer to buy books where their interest has been aroused.

### Making Ends Meet

WITH *Question Mark* the controversial subject emerges from its cloud, and because such topics are uppermost in people's minds they are better informed and have more concrete suggestions to make than on less vital matters. "Should Food Subsidies be Abolished?" is, of course, a really burning topic. One member of the panel, suggesting that white bread was subsidised while the Department of Health advocated the use of brown bread, overlooked the fact that wheat itself is the object of the subsidy. The economist on the panel, while disapproving of subsidies and believing that the child allowance ought not to be increased if they were removed, made the fine point that food is not the beginning and end of welfare. But surely the provision of basic necessities does, in innumerable instances, mean that extra money is allotted to the cultural life he so much supports. Indeed, having listened to more than one economist, I have the feeling that they are not touched by that constant struggle to make ends meet which still, in the lives of those in the lowest income group, makes life mean and hard, or drives the wife out to work when her influence in the home is most needed.

—Westcliff

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 13, 1954.



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