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Parents' Responsibility

TN one of our cities in the last few weeks there has been the very disturbing revelation that some New Zealand children have been learning about sex in a wrong way from other adolescents, and not from their parents. The parents have been reported as having been entirely unaware that their children were indulging in wrong practices. The parents will be terribly upset, and you must sympathise with them. Nevertheless, there is this query! Did those parents honestly try to protect their children against the dangers of sex, by giving information faithfully as questions were asked, from toddler years to the teens?

All parents are secretly anxious that their children should master sex, and, when grown up, achieve satisfactory, happy marriages. But not all parents are willing to undertake that giving of knowledge, called sex education. Some hope the schools will do it for them, or church groups, or that the children will "get as they did. haphazardly. Wel!, the knowledge of the process of human reproduction comes to everyone sooner or later, but-and it's a big "but"-the

This is the text of a talk on sex education broadcast recently from ZB, YA and YZ stations of the NZBS by DR. H. B. TURBOTT, Deputy-Director-General of Health.

way in which this knowledge is gained is all-important. The right way is not from formal instruction in the first instance. Many committees and commissions in many lands have studied the problem, and all are agreed that the home, and not the school, is the place for sex instruction. All are agreed that depending on chance information in later years from adolescent companions is the surest way of acquiring misinformation and ending up with a proportion of tragedies, and spoilt lives. All are agreed that any harm arising from sex comes from ignorance, from not knowing the right things. Many parents are frightened of this task. Fulfilling it, however, is the only safeguard a parent has. You can't tell your child too much, for safety lies in knowledge.

The way you give sex information is important. It is best begun by dealing (continued on next page)

LISTENER" **CROSSWORD**

(Solution to No. 712)



Clues Across

- 1. A sure try (anag.).
- 7. Fur in mixed bales.
- 8. Part of the piano in Ted's studio.
- 9. Postscript about a promise to pay.
- 10. The end of respect and the beginning of rumour.
- 11 and 17 across. This dance apparently repeats itself.
- 14. "Stone walls do not a ---- make" (Richard Lovelace).
- 16. Courteous,
- 17. See 11 across.
- 20. "--- there the man. with soul so dead, Who never to himself hath said. This is my own, my native land!"

(Scott).

- 21. Grown crookedly. 22. Makes merry.
- are the uses of adversity" ("As You Like It," Act 2, Scene 1).

24. It creeps (anag.).

Clues Down

- 1. Pert ants (anag.).
- 2. Eric's toe, when out of joint, may be meant for the initiated.
- 3. Countenance.
- 4. Crestfallen.
- 5. First class.
- 6. "I wandered lonely as a ---" (Wordsworth).
- 11. In a stupor.
- 12. Patching mixture which may be worn or drunk.
- 13. Postscript about a confused sister.
- 15. A female relative is found in the middle of this leisurely walk.
- 18. "The isles of —, the isles of Where burning Sappho loved and sang" (Byron).
- 19. The middle of this crustacean is not

No. 713 (Constructed by R.W.H.)

