



Spencer Digby photograph
PROFESSOR H. BELSHAW

continued effect of these conditions is that in a country such as India there is enormous human and economic waste. One authority estimates that before the war over 22 per cent of the national income of India was needed to rear children who died before they made a contribution to production, as against about six per cent in England and Wales, and even less in New Zealand. So the high mortality, especially among juveniles, imposes a heavy economic burden on under-developed countries. There is therefore a considerable item on the credit side of improved health, in increasing the labour force in proportion to total numbers, and in reducing economic loss.

Sickness also means a great deal of lost time. On a rough estimate three million people throughout the world die from malaria every year, but 300 million suffer from it. Almost half of Ceylon, one time seat of a great civilisation, is now sparsely settled because of war and malaria, and 60,000 square miles in India, three-fifths the area of New Zealand, is lightly settled by shifting cultivation because of it. So malaria control programmes in which the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations are assisting may bring large areas of land into cultivation. But the problem goes further. People who are subject to malaria, dysentery, bilharzia and other endemic diseases, and who are underfed, are lacking in energy and unresponsive to change.

For the reasons given improved health measures are necessary, not only to reduce economic loss and increase the effective supply of labour, but also to make people more energetic and receptive to changes in technology and organisation. Over the past ten years I have spent a great deal of time in under-developed countries in Asia and Central America, much of it in the villages. I am so convinced of the grave obstacles to economic development resulting from endemic and epidemic diseases and from under-nourishment, that I regard improved health and nutrition as essential means to promote economic improvement.

By the use of D.D.T. and other insecticides, mass vaccination and im-

proved village sanitation and water supply, many health improvements can be brought about at comparatively low cost. But, of course, the consequent acceleration of the rate of population growth does pose a dilemma; for it increases the required rate of growth of capital and of improvements in technology and organisation. If these can be speeded up so that national output grows faster than population for a decade, the problem can be solved. Asian countries will then be able to find more capital out of their own resources, they will have become accustomed to the process of change which development requires, and they will be getting closer to the time when family limitation is socially and economically feasible and slows up the rate of population increase.

But they will require help in the form of international capital and technical assistance to get this process started and be put in the position of helping themselves.

Community Arts Service Theatre

(Regional Council of Adult Education, Auckland)

Autumn Tour, 1955: Shakespeare's "THE TEMPEST"

ACTORS and ACTRESSES are required for a four-months' tour mainly in the country districts of the Auckland Province. Accommodation provided on tour and reasonable wages.

Apply with details of age, height, experience and training, enclosing photo, to:

THE PRODUCER, C.A.S. THEATRE,
21 Princes Street, AUCKLAND, C.1.

24 YOUNG LIVES LOST LAST SUMMER

a little forethought could have saved them

The sad record of drowning accidents last summer shows that of the 81 victims, 24 were children under ten years of age. Even more terrible is the recorded fact that 14 of these children were babies under five years of age! This waste of young life . . . with the personal tragedy and suffering it brought to the families concerned could have been avoided, if adults had learned to recognise the danger spots and had done something about them. Nearly all these accidents were preventable and we must all face up to the fact that we all have a personal responsibility to safeguard, as far as possible, these young lives. Let's all realise first of all that even the shallowest area of water . . . only a few inches deep . . . can be a potential hazard to toddlers.

HOW DID THESE ACCIDENTS HAPPEN?

Most of these small children drowned in the vicinity of their own homes . . . in water-tanks, ponds, creeks, wells, sheep-dips . . . one fatal accident even occurred in a goldfish pond. Because such areas offered no danger to grown-ups, they were not recognised as hazards to youngsters.

CAN SUCH ACCIDENTS BE PREVENTED?

Yes. Search out, learn to recognise, the potential danger spots in the vicinity of your home. If possible, get such danger spots fenced off or covered in. Even a fish pond can be covered with light wirenetting, making it perfectly safe without detracting from its appearance. If this is not possible, fence in a play-area, preferably within sight of the house. Children are safer under your eye.

WATER WISDOM FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Have your children taught to swim at the earliest possible age. More important still, see that they acquire water wisdom.

Make sure they understand the dangers of river currents, heavy surf with its undertow, and the risks involved with such artificial aids as inflated tyres and water toys. Teach them never to swim alone and to stay between the flags on patrolled beaches. As soon as they can absorb it, have them taught life-saving and artificial respiration. Above all, teach them that the taking of unnecessary risks in or near the water isn't a sign of courage. It's foolishly chancing their own lives and the lives of others.

With a little thought this summer, you could save a young life. It could even be one near and dear to you.



6.F.55

SUMMER DRAMA SCHOOL

The N.Z. Drama Council will hold another stimulating Residential School for Actors and Producers at Massey College, from 10th to 19th January, 1955.

Highly qualified tutorial staff headed by Frank Newman, English professional producer.

For details apply

The Secretary, N.Z. Drama Council,
P.O. Box 857, WELLINGTON.

Issued by The National Prevent Drowning Committee on behalf of the Internal Affairs Department.