



**T**HE other day I wrote about parents' attitudes to their children, and now someone sends me an article from an English paper. It's by Ethel Mannin, and headed, "There's A Lot Of Sloppy Sentiment Talked About Mothers."

Some of her remarks concur absolutely with mine. She says, for instance: "Strictly speaking, parents have no right to expect gratitude for what we feel impelled to do for our children, since what we do we do for our own satisfaction fundamentally, and our virtue must be its own reward."

"I've been a good mother to you all these years," is always unfair, even when true. It is a kind of emotional blackmail."

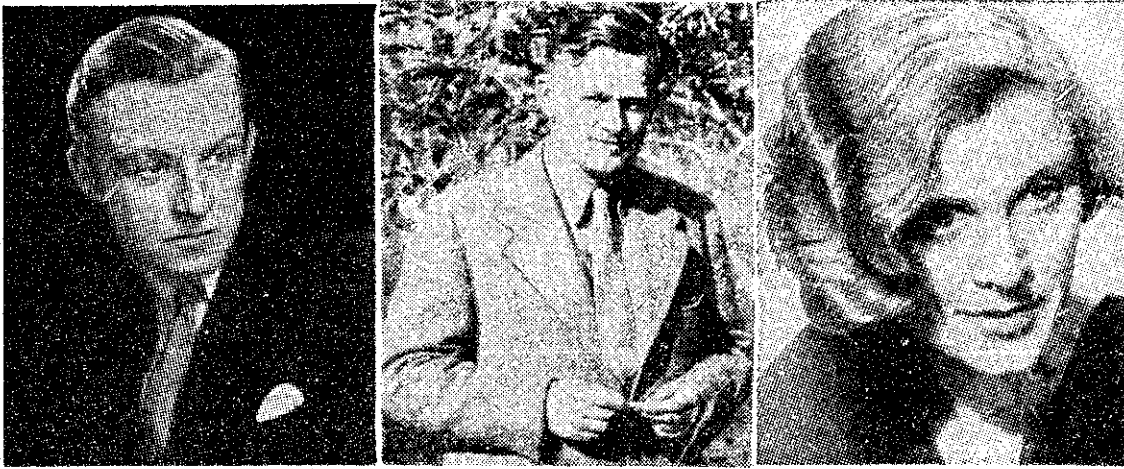


**ETHEL MANNIN** has other interesting things to say on the same subject:

"Most of the sentimentalising about mothers to-day is done by effeminate young men, in print and out of it. As soon as a young man starts 'adoring' his mother all over the place, there is something wrong with him: he is mother-bound. I am not for a moment suggesting that a man should not love his mother. A reasonable amount of filial devotion is good: for one thing, good sons make good husbands."

"But the old adage that 'a boy's best friend is his mother' is outrageously untrue. All things being equal, a boy's best friend will always be the girl who sincerely loves him and who is loved by him. The perfect

## 3 New Zealanders 3 Stages of Development



**T**HERE are stages in the development of New Zealanders who have the yen to succeed in one field or another in England. There's the first exciting, rather frightening struggle when you eagerly lap up any crumbs that might fall from the tables of the great; the coming, like the first snowdrop, of small success; bigger successes, when you become celebrity-conscious, because the celebrities (in a different way), are becoming conscious of you; then the sunshine of real money and real recognition.

Three successful New Zealanders at three different stages of development are Merton Hodge, playwright; Hector Bolitho, writer; Marie Ney, actress. And their homes reflect this.

Merton Hodge's flat in Ebury Street, near Victoria Station, is liberally scattered with autographed pictures of people famous in art, on the stage, on the screen.

Hector Bolitho's drawing-room at his home at Saffron Walden, in Essex, has only two autographed photographs, one of Queen Marie of Romania, the other of a member of the British Royal Family.

Marie Ney's drawing-room at her Halsey Street house in London has but one autographed picture—and that of her husband, who is in Malaya.

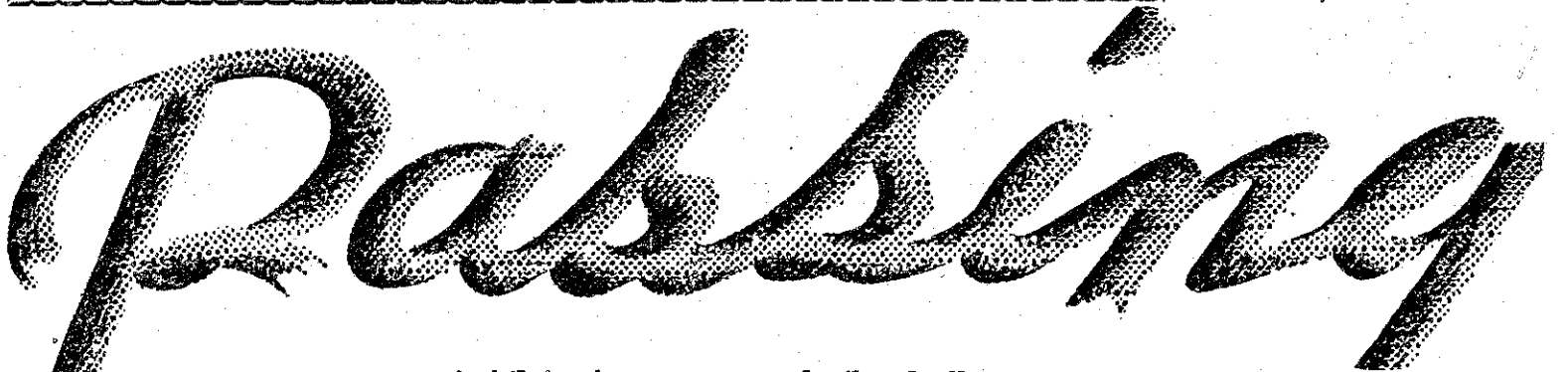
tional development is concerned. The working-class lad is off with a girl at 15 or 16, and completely independent of his mother for affection—he would think it 'soppy' to be hanging round his mother, 'adoring' her to the exclusion of interest in the opposite sex.

"It is all very much healthier. The mother who is proud of the fact that her son 'never looks at a woman' but is content to stay home with her, is the unfortunate man's worst enemy, her love a poison in his blood."



**"B**UT the harm of 'smother-love' is not merely confined to sons. There are mothers who cling so close to their daughters that the poor girls never get a chance to turn round and look about for husbands for themselves. These mothers are fond of insisting on what 'tremendous pals' they and their daughters are—'more like sisters than mother and daughter,' they like to assert.

"It is a lie, of course; a mother and daughter can never be like two sisters, no matter how much the mother may 'kid' herself—there must always be the difference of their generations, and the biological fact of their relationship, with its influence on the reactions of each to the other."



ment of their wives.

"It is not uncommon for daughters to be similarly mother-bound. Either they do not marry because they cannot bear to leave their mothers, or, if they marry, must have their mothers everlastingly around—to the irritation of their husbands and consequent domestic friction."

family, dwell on her emotions.

"Mother-love, in short, is not all that it's cracked up to be!"

friendship will always be that between the happily-married husband and wife.

**"C**OMPLETE understanding between mothers and sons is impossible; they are of different generations, and the flesh-and-blood tie makes it impossible for them to be subjective about each other.

"A mother can be a very good friend to her son, within the limits of their relationship, but it is all too fatally easy for the mother who has her son's interests at heart to overdo her solicitude and endanger both his material happiness and psychological well-being."

**"T**HEN we get mother-bound men. Either they never marry because they cannot think of woman's love except in terms of mother-love, or they marry women a great deal older than themselves as mother substitutes; or, if they make a normal marriage, they continue to put their mothers first in their lives, to the neglect and ultimate resent-

**"M**OTHERS can be a real menace as well as a great comfort. They are menaces when they keep the relationship between themselves and their children on a perpetually emotional plane.

"I would say, without hesitation, that the worst mothers are to be found in the middle and upper classes. The working-class mother is necessarily a good deal more matter of fact; she hasn't the time for being anything much else."

"The mother-darling stuff is cut out in the lower-class home; there is almost a horror of family demonstrativeness; the family affection is there all right, but it is casual, undemonstrative... and all the better for being so. Higher in the social scale, the mother has leisure in which to brood on her

**"T**HE young people stay at school longer, and so remain longer under her influence. They grow up more slowly, and only belatedly come into contact with realities."



GENERAL WINSOR

Been through several wars—now he's for moral rearmament.

"Consider those overgrown schoolboys, undergraduates, young men—according to their physical development, but mere children so far as their emo-

**E**VERY time I mention the Oxford Group I get a lot of letters defending the movement or denouncing it.

The other evening I decided to look up the history of the movement and its instigator, Dr. ("Call me Frank") Buchman.

Lately, the Oxford Group has been back in the news with its plan for moral rearmament.

**DR. BUCHMAN** appeals for peace with the proposition that God alone can change human nature.

Logically follows the changed nation, the changed world. Moral rearmament claims to have no sectional political colour, no planned economic basis, no formal social outline, no currency theories.

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