

ed up by my countrymen all will work out well. If it is picked up by the guards it cannot be traced and we will try again."

"Very well," answered Gregson.

Finishing his glass Wiseman said, "I will meet you here one week from tonight; I will expect your report then; and now I must be getting along."

"I think I will go too," said Gregson, rising.

Wiseman picked up his hat and they strode out together. They walked along the street to the corner, where Wiseman stopped, and said, "Here's where I turn off."

"That is where you are wrong," said Gregson in a quiet but authoritative voice.

At this Wiseman turned in surprise. The surprise was even greater when he saw the automatic in Gregson's hand.

"You will come with me," said Gregson in the same tone.

"Very well," answered Wiseman, seeing he had no choice.

Wiseman stood before the Chief of the Counter-Espionage Bureau, still menaced by Gregson's automatic.

"But this man is a convicted murderer," stammered Wiseman.

A smile played around the corner of the Chief's mouth as he answered, "That is where you are wrong. You see, Heinrich Weisner, we have known for some time that you were a secret German agent, but we were unable to obtain proof enough to place you in custody, until Art, here, thought up this scheme. The headlines of the *Bugle* were entirely fictitious. However, the next edition will carry a more interesting story, that of the capture of Germany's most powerful agent in Canada."

—BRIGHTON MacDOUGALL, '47

TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN ...

Up to date histories speak in glowing terms of the accomplishments, scientific and otherwise, of our age. Among the contributions listed, modern science has given society three instruments which have a very powerful and far-reaching effect in moulding the popular mind. These instru-

ments are the radio, the movies, and the national and international press. Still, with all its talk of freedom and enlightenment our age has foolishly enough surrendered or rather bestowed the task of nurturing these qualities on hands of doubtful reliability. The recipients of this charge are those entrusted with the management of probably the greatest of these moulders of the popular mind named above. That one is the radio.

Much as we have gained by radio we have also lost at least one important thing, and that thing is resourcefulness (at least in entertaining ourselves). In most of our homes the radio is on most of the time. If it is not on when we, the younger generation, come in, we turn it on mechanically or from force of habit. Whether we believe it or not we are so dependent on it for entertainment that we have lost much of the art of entertaining ourselves. We know how dull the modern youth would find a visit of two or three weeks with a relative who lived in some out of the way community and had no radio. Before the radio era people did not have to fear such dullness, for they could always make entertainment for themselves, and this fact made for a much happier way of life.

But now we have the radio, and since its benefits, at least potential, far outweigh this disadvantage, it would be foolish to forgo it in order to eliminate this disadvantage. But the advantages may remain merely potential. Radio is one of those recent inventions which have an immense power in moulding the popular mind. But the fact that it has this power does not make it good. It has to be used for good before it becomes a force for good. Is the radio of today a force for good? Let us see.

We have all seen a radio schedule, or if we have not we have listened to a radio often enough to be familiar with the average content of its programmes. We know that the main part of its time is given to dance orchestras, soap operas, comedian's programmes, and the like. True, there are some programmes, such as operas, on a higher level. But these occupy only a small portion of the time. In the United States network programmes the opera on Saturday afternoons and a few evening programmes of concert music are almost the only features of a cultural nature. The C.B.C. does better than this, but we are fed the United States networks most of the time and when we are not we are so

enslaved to their type of programme that we tune in on their network rather than our own if at all possible. We are enjoying absolutely legitimate entertainment, but too often to the detriment or neglect of necessary cultural pursuits.

Although the statements made above are not supported by any actual statistics—a detailed study of which time would not permit—a few facts cited in an article entitled “The Level of Thirteen-Year Olds” by Wm Orton in the *Atlantic Monthly* of January, 1931, will do much to bear them out. Although the article was written some time ago, the amount of time given to non cultural and sponsored programmes of low intellectual level and the consequent neglect of more educational material has increased, if anything, since 1931 so as to render his observations and statements more true, and not, as might be objected, more out of date and less true. Mr. Orton explains that at that time on a major United States network only eight hours a week were devoted to programmes having any cultural content. Moreover, he quotes the vice-president of the N.B.C. as cautioning radio owners and advertisers not to overestimate the intellectual level of their audiences, and advising them, “Put your programmes on the level of thirteen-year olds.” His instructions have been and are today well carried out. This should not be.

The radio cannot claim that it has to cater to the people. A little example from the movies will illustrate this. The recent film success “Going My Way” was a good picture. It had good characters, a good moral, and not the usual low type of humor. People raved about it, in spite of the fact that it was not the shallow type of picture they were used to. That clearly proved that the movies do not have to cater to the popular taste—they determine it. This is as true or truer of radio, because, although the movies are generally conceded to make a greater impression because they appeal to the eye, the radio has an influence only slightly weaker over a group of patrons far more numerous than that of the movies.

But the harm done by the mismanagement and misdirection of this powerful influence is not only negative but also positive. That is, the managers or trustees of this force not only neglect to broadcast matter which they should, but they substitute for it nonsense that is not always to be “laughed off” but rather to be feared and condemned. The

bulk of this harmful broadcast material consists of serials and soap operas. Most of such serial programmes as are broadcast today are of a highly emotional or sensational nature. Against such programmes may be levelled the charge sometimes hurled by the only-too-rare ordinary man of common sense against the comics (?) propagated among the younger generation. That charge is that the youth of today is exposed through these channels to such intense emotional experience that upon becoming mature he discovers that he has lost the ability to get "a kick out of" ordinary true to life thrills and hence has been robbed of the legitimate pleasure due him from life. And while more mature minds are not affected so much by this literature and broadcasting, they are not completely immune from their harm and soon have the sensationalizing habit of these forces thrust on them.

Evidently such conditions need alteration. Powerful forces with high potential for good, being used instead to deteriorate masses of people, should be harnessed to that good. The logical body to assume responsibility for such a move is the government. Our government recognizes its duty to promote cultural plans for the improvement of its people by the very fact that its cabinet includes a portfolio of education. It could use no more powerful force for education and the promotion of culture than the radio. And lest, as people would probably object, it exceed its rights by seizing complete control of the radio, it could render the private owners accountable to a board of educators for the character of their broadcasts.

However, whether this plan be adopted or not, something should be done to remedy the situation, for the use of such forces as radio for inane purposes will obviously bear no worthy fruit. And future ages summing up our times from the proper perspective will appraise them differently from those who now regard them from the muddled point of view of present time. Truth may then oblige them to say of us and our times: "Though endowed with much at the beginning they passed little on to their successors. They forgot that "From those to whom is given much is expected."

—JAMES KELLY, '46