LETTERS TO EDITOR

DELINQUENT YOUTH

Aims Of Parent Education

Sir,—Congratulations on the series of articles by Mr. Donald McLean. May I take up a point or two and develop them in a special direction?

It is now accepted that the most formative influence in the fashioning of a personality is the home—with all that that means. The home, in turn, is fashioned by the husband and wife. It is what they are, as persons, and the relationship between them that makes the growing children happy or miserable, placid or tense, tolerant or intolerant, co-operative or selfish, generous or mean, confident or fearful, adaptable or rigid, controlled or uncontrolled — and so on, with all the characteristics that make up the human being.

It is from the parents, too—their conversation, answers and basic emotional attitudes—that children and adolescents build into their minds the feelings about sex which will condition their sexual behaviour later on.

For these reasons the primary objective of a society that really wants mental health in young and old will be the education and preparation of all, from birth onwards, towards successful marriage. All of the necessary activities of parent education—child guidance, child welfare and the like—fall properly within that comprehensive aim.

This central and surpassing importance of the quality of the marriage itself has been given world-wide recognition by the setting up of an International Commission on Marriage Guidance as a subsidiary of UNESCO, a consultative body of the United Nations.

The chairman of that commission, Dr. David Mace, with his wife, will be in Australia from August to November. Their presence and activities will not only add enormously to our knowledge of marriage guidance in its several aspects, but will drive home the challenge to Governments and the public to put profession into practice and to provide marriage guidance councils with the finance, equipment and resources essential to their constructive work for happy marriages and healthy homes.

(Rev.) W. G. COUGHLAN,
Director, Marriage Guidance Council of N.S.W.
Sydney.

Medical Titles

Sir,—In its search for purity the Medical Board of N.S.W. has overlooked one point.

As well as non-medical degrees the board's fellow medical practitioners should refrain from the use of the title doctor or Dr., as not even one per cent. of the registered medical practitioners in N.S.W. have received a doctorate from a recognised university.

In law, they are registered medical practitioners, who have appropriated to themselves the title of doctor, to which they have no more right than the man who collects the refuse.

Ph.C., M.P.S.
Marrickville.

Sir,—Let me congratulate the N.S.W. surgeon on recognition by the Queen of his services to this State and humanity in this year's Birthday Honours.

But may I add this timely warning—that he be careful not to use his new title, or he might be deregistered by the N.S.W. Medical Board and also, when treating patients, to completely divorce himself from himself and the qualities which prompted the awarding of the title.

There seems to be some evidence that all doctors emanate from schizophrenic stock, and can at will quite easily change personality for time and place.

For example, doctor to patient: "One moment, please. I'm a medical technician. Speak to me in Basic English. I am not allowed to use any of the knowledge acquired in obtaining my B.A. or B.Sc. degree, etc., in my medical practice, as they have no connection with medicine whatsoever."

ANOTHER SCHIZOPHRENIC
Woollahra.

Protestants And Communism

Sir,—Mr. R. B. Lowndes (May 31) states that "the Roman Catholic Church has never voiced its opposition to Fascism."

I would draw his attention to the Papal Encyclicals "Mit brennender Sorge" against the Nazis and "Non Abbiamo Bisogno" of Pius XI against Italian Fascism.

In the latter, the Pope complains that it "snatches the young

Freedom And Cyprus

Sir,—Anyone of open mind who has followed the train of events in the Eastern Mediterranean over the last few months will have noticed the way British diplomacy has gone to work on Turkey to make sure that Turkish objections to the handing over of Cyprus to Greece would accord with Britain's own intentions of keeping that island.

Considering the time it has taken to heal the wounds that Greece and Turkey have inflicted on each other in the past, the subtle callousness of this diplomatic move was quite immoral. Even so late as the end of World War II, when Italy was forced to return the Dodecanese to Greece, there was not a murmur from the Turkish inhabitants of Rhodes, but at that time, of course, it did not suit anybody's purpose to play upon national feelings.

Up to the present, the Cyprus question has remained remote and unimportant to the Australian mind. Only occasionally someone will perhaps feel revolted by the methods of resistance the Cypriots, in their desperation, have been forced to use.

But let us pause to consider a situation of analogous injustice: a foreign Power is in possession of Tasmania and proposes to remain there indefinitely to suit her own strategic purposes.

Would we not expect the Tasmanians to defend their liberty by every means, and would not the Australians of the mainland support them, as Greeks are supporting the constrained Greeks of Cyprus?

Fortunately, the British themselves seem to be growing increasingly aware of the iniquitous policy of their present inept leaders, and one can only hope that this awareness may result in a radical change.

Fortunately, also, history has proved that no oppression can destroy the spirit of Greece, but it is to be feared that in the present instance her traditional friendship with Britain may have suffered a damage too severe to be repaired.

PATRICK WHITE
Castle Hill.

Historical Records

Sir,—The Premier's statement last week about the urgent need for preserving historical material has been welcomed by all who have an interest in the history of this country.

There seems, understandingly, to be some doubt in the public's mind about what actually should be done. There is difficulty over questions of definition—for instance, what are to be considered "relics" as distinct from documents and archives material?

There has recently been a gratifying increase in public interest in historical records in Australia, as the popularity of such features as the Public Library's excellent Responsible Government Exhibition is showing. There are now several organisations which are surveying records of various kinds in this State, and this fact, together with the public's interest, and that of the Government, indicates that the time has come for a constructive, State-wide policy to be worked out.

The great development in British archives facilities in the last 25 years has largely been the result of a sustained and intelligent public interest, combined with an enlightened and liberal financial policy on the part of the Government and of local authorities. The public interest and the authorities' generous attitude have largely been due to the work of the British Record Association, set up in 1932.

This body, representing the Government, local authorities, historians and the interested public, has done much to provide repositories; and through it, the valuable National Register of Archives has been established. A records association in New South Wales could co-ordinate the efforts of institutions and organisations already working in this field, and could ensure the continuing attention of the public and the authorities.

DAVID S. MACMILLAN,
University of Sydney.

Clergy Stipends And Pensions

Sir,—In your account (May 31) of proceedings at the Newcastle Synod, one of the clergy is reported to have stated that the maximum stipend of £650 was so low that "some local parsons' wives could not afford to buy clothes."

No doubt it is difficult in any place to rear in moderate comfort a family on some £13 a week, but what of retired clergy and their dependants having to "make do" on a maximum pension of £193/15/ or of clergy widows on a maximum of £100?

Some idea of the difficulty in doing so has been shown when nearing Christmas the last two years. In 1954, cheques for £5 (and in 1955 for £6) were sent