

Home is Home the World Over

By Florence P. Eadie

ON A TRIP around the world places and things were ever a great delight but best of all were the people, the natives we saw and met. Frequently people meant family groups or family members—as in Fiji, Ceylon, Spain and Holland.

In Fiji, on our way to a village market, a taxi-driver, a bright lad in a gay suit, took us to his home just off the main road for coconuts. We met the four brothers and a sister in their humble home surroundings — three small grass huts raised from the ground, presumably living quarters with little in them. At one side there were two black pots over smoldering fires and nearby, chickens and goats. We saw something of the pride and respect of the two elder brothers for each other and their responsibility for younger brothers and sister. They considered their taxi-driver brother a fine fellow—after all he was driving a car, meeting people from many places and had a sponsor in U. S. A. who soon might make it possible for him to go there where everything sounded wonderful. The elder brother was pretty special too to the driver. He farmed. He grew sugar cane and coconuts and upholstered car cushions in his outdoor workshop with large sewing machine, sheltered by an open port cover. They were kindly, hospitable, clean and an enterprising, interesting family group.

We found the market a most fascinating sight with natives wearing colourful clothes,

These Spanish farm lads like to go to the field with their father.



the sellers sitting on the ground and displaying their fruits and vegetables on tables or the curb. Like small markets everywhere, it was a place to visit as well as to buy and sell. We just could not resist taking a close-up peek at a wee babe in a mother's arms — a lovely baby with dark skin — clean, happy and healthy looking. Later the mother let us take a picture of her young family.

In Colombo in Ceylon it was a rare privilege indeed to be entertained in the intimacy of the family home. We will always remember the sincerity and simplicity of the hospitality with family members on hand to make it a family party and with special traditional dishes. Children showed us some of their precious possessions just as they do here in Ontario on such occasions, while other older ones contributed in so many ways to our enjoyment.

Over 300 mothers and homemakers from 26 counties enjoyed the magnificent reception given by Sir Wilfred and Lady de Soysa in their beautiful garden which was a veritable fairy land with exotic flowers, shrubs and majestic trees with hundreds of coloured



This Fiji mother was proud of her two boys and lovely dark-skinned baby.

lights. It was more than a reception — it too was a family affair — homey, friendly and altogether delightful with family members, sons, daughters and grandchildren sharing to make it so.