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Tribute to Poland

NEW ZEALAND'S participation last week in Poland's National Day was not a mere formality. The Poles are allies who have suffered unspeakable things for four years while their friends have been impotent to help them. It will most likely prove in the end that they have suffered more than any of the United Nations including even Greece and Jugoslavia. But last week for the first time since the war began they celebrated their National Day with reasonable grounds for believing that when it comes again they will be free. Therefore the people of New Zealand, as the Acting Prime Minister put it, felt "proud to associate themselves in spirit." Their homage was spontaneous and sincere. They honoured the courage shown in this war, the invincible will to survive through all the wars of the past. Nothing could have been more genuine, nothing more natural. But one thought must have kept recurring to all those present who had political imagination; first a thought; then a question; then perhaps a doubt. What would Poland be when Europe was re-established? Would the 35 millions who now cry out for deliverance like it when it came? Would they accept it gratefully and co-operate whole-heartedly, or would religious, political, and racial clouds gather again where we hope now for a clear sky? It is not necessary, perhaps not advisable, to say more than that. The facts are plain enough to most people; plainest of all to the Poles. A genuinely liberal Poland has a great if still anxious future. A reactionary Poland could lose both its future and its friends. For we must face the painful fact here as it is being faced in London that there are Poles, as there are Americans and Englishmen, who want a settlement in Eastern Europe that would sooner or later bring conflict with Russia. No true friend of Poland will encourage such dangerous dreams.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

KARITANE NURSES

Sir,—Might I, through your pages, draw the attention of your readers to one of the relics of social snobbery in our democratic society. Karitane nurses undergo a course of training lasting 16 months, for which course they have to pay a fee of no less than £40, plus 30 shillings linen fee and at least £12 for uniform. During this period, they have only two weeks' holiday, while their leave is restricted to but one really late night every three months, and one moderately late night every month; further leave is, in effect, at the discretion of the matron. They work an eight-hour day, indeed, but usually they work 13 days of every 14. During the course, they receive no pay whatsoever, but their board and lodgings are allowed. Contrast this with the state of ordinary nurses, who receive some pay, who have one day off a week, whose uniforms are supplied, and who, moreover, pay no fee. Contrast it also with the training of other servants of the community: the schoolteachers, for example, who are at least paid £70 per year.

Sir, surely such community service deserves monetary reward. These conditions are unjust to any girl, whatever her financial situation. A more serious objection, however, is that poorer girls are quite excluded from any hope of becoming Karitane nurses. Is this the century of the common man?—DEMOCRACY THWARTED (Vogeltown).

SILENT PRAYER

Sir,—I think it is time the interruption heralding "silent prayer during the chiming of Big Ben" was abolished. Those who pray surely don't need it, and those who don't pray neither need it nor want it.

TENNYSON (Invercargill).

WHY BACH SAYS NOTHING

Sir,—As I wondered what opinion Mr. Bach would have about two poems which recently appeared in your journal, I sent him a copy. His reply is enclosed:

*If those who do not sing, Sir,
But, as they term it "bing," Sir,
Suppose that when they flee at me
and I have nought to say,
That I cannot reply, Sir,
They're wrong, I can. But I, Sir,
Am not a man who flogs an ass
because it likes to bray.*

*Let me state furthermore, Sir,
That noises I ignore, Sir,
Are such as these: a puppy's yap,
a cat's yowl in the dark.
And, finally, as "nit," Sir,
Is best described the wit, Sir,
That tries to make a butt of me.*

Yours,

John Sebastian Bach.

JOSEPH C. McEVROY (Dunedin).

BACH'S VOCAL MUSIC

Sir,—This letter is to express my appreciation of a recent Elizabeth Schumann rendering of the Recitative and Aria from Bach's "Wedding Cantata." Over the last few months I have listened consistently to the Classical Hour from 2YA, and although we hear an abundance of Bach's instrumental works, I am sure other listeners will join with me in wishing for a good deal more of Bach's vocal solos. In the recording which I mentioned was one particular point of interest—the clavichord

was used predominantly in the orchestra accompanying Elizabeth Schumann. I hope we shall have more of Bach's vocal works with accompaniments played on the instrument of his day.

MARIE YULE (Wellington).

A NAPIER BROADCAST

Sir,—A word of appreciation. The Church Service broadcast by 2YH, Napier, on Sunday, April 16, was quite outstanding. It seems a pity it was not more widely advertised. The Maori people everywhere would have enjoyed the singing, and their Bishop's address. We enjoy *The Listener* each week, so do the soldiers to whom we pass them.

I suppose we are too busy to be critical; it's always so pleasant to sit and listen when we have the opportunity, and we can always find something which appeals to us. But how I miss "My Cavalier!"

Thank you for making *The Listener* so interesting and instructive. We wish you all you wish yourself, including space, much more space!

—HOUSEHOLDER (Hastings).

TO REPLACE 12M

Sir,—Now that the Americans have taken control of Station 12M, lovers of orchestral music, and to a certain degree, classical music, will find a very disagreeable blank in their 7.0-8.0 p.m. programme. Prior to the American occupation, some very good orchestral items were given over this station, enabling many weary business people to enjoy an hour's music, conducive to peace of mind and restfulness. I am not disparaging the American programme, which, naturally, is broadcast mainly for the American Armed Forces, but merely suggesting that, with the loss of more or less good music from 12M, perhaps Stations 1YX and 1YA could broadcast a few more really presentable orchestral works, without any loss of interest for the average listener.

I know a whole radio programme cannot be altered to suit the whims of one insignificant office-worker, but maybe my lament, which, perhaps, is echoed by many more, might produce some effect on our remaining Auckland stations. Or will it? I sincerely hope so.

B.B. (Auckland).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Paul Nicklinson (Hunua): Why tell us?

"Interested Listener" (Putaruru): Dropped for the duration.

J. Healy (Whangarei): Full marks for your arithmetic; but (1) If there were no advertisements the subscription rate would be trebled at least; and (2) If your second plan were adopted, the biggest printing works in New Zealand would take a fortnight to print us and the Post Office three weeks to distribute us.

"Old Timer" (Warkworth): Passed on to appropriate authorities.

LL.B. (Eastbourne), R.S. (Wellington), "Boston Tea" (Ohoka), N.F.P. (Gisborne), A.S.L. (Dunedin), "Point Blank" (Milton), and several others: Letters appreciated, but we would blush to print them even if we had space.

A. C. Keys (Auckland University College): The subject has been sufficiently discussed. We shall, however, print your letter if you will quote the sentence or sentences in which we expressed any opinion at all about the quality of the debates or the desirability of broadcasting them.