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which will eventually deliver us from these recurring catastrophes, it is because of all this that they are disconcerted at such cold-blooded maltreatments as "Miserere" complains of in his letter. They feel it is not too much to ask that if our radio is to feature any fine artistic effort it should be given at least sufficient respect and thought to avoid the necessity for such an interruption. "Miserere" is to be congratulated on his wise and timely remarks.—D.M. (Wellington).

Sir,—I agree with "Miserere." The chimes and the Silent Prayer are good in their place, but I do not think it necessary to interrupt such a programme as an opera. The ordinary people of today, I think, do not know enough of the classics—classical music and drama, particularly; it would do them more good to read, and to listen to such things than the sensational serials which occupy so much of our evening programmes. Nevertheless, I do not think that the prayer should be totally disregarded; we should think of what our soldiers are sacrificing—they are sacrificing their lives so that we can hear such operas, among other things; and those of us who want to pray, and there are, no doubt, a great number, can do this in their own time. If it needs to be broadcast, I think the most appropriate time would be after the newsreel.

"CLASSIC," Palmerston North.

#### DR. SUMMERSKILL

Sir,—After reading the somewhat belittling interview with Dr. Edith Summerskill which your paper published, I was interested to read "What the Doctor Ordered" in the current number. The article is presumably meant to be *amusing*. I find it in extremely bad taste.

I agree with Dr. Summerskill when she infers that women in New Zealand do not take a lively interest in public affairs. However, I cannot agree with the sneers implied in "What the Doctor Ordered." Perhaps it was published with a view to finding out if New Zealand women are really as comatose as they appear. I am afraid that this is true to a great extent. But there is a minority of thinking women who are gradually coming to the conclusion that it is time they stirred their fellows to action. It has been proved, I think, without doubt, that women are worthy of a place in the administration of any country. Dr. Summerskill was right when she said that we have not had to fight for our political rights in New Zealand, and that this fact has made us apathetic. However, I feel that the time is approaching when women will come forward to take their rightful place in public life.

If women the world over would only realise their power, such catastrophes as world-wide wars could surely be avoided.—JOAN E. HARKER (Ponsonby).

#### NEW ZEALANDERS IN ROME

Sir,—This evening I heard a broadcast upon the subject of the New Zealanders in Rome. These talks by your commentator are usually good, but the one to-night was bad. The speaker referred to St. Peter's, Rome, as "the centre of Christianity." That is false. Rome is the centre of one Christian church only.

"VERACITY" (Dunedin).

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, SEPTEMBER 8



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