

## Political Close-up

IT would have been more satisfactory if, with the picture of Communism presented on Page 6, we had been able to present another of Reaction. That would have been fairer, and to some of our readers perhaps more instructive. But the second picture would have been remarkably like the first in reverse: the same plotting, the same mistrust, not as much trickiness, perhaps, but quite as much mischief-making, the same dark fear of liberty, equality, and democracy. For both reaction and revolution mistrust the common man. They mistrust his mind, his motives, and his methods, and are equally determined therefore to control him and not be controlled by him. Everywhere in Europe to-day the sincere, courageous, and unrelenting purpose of the extreme Right and the extreme Left is to keep power out of the hands of the multitude. Their immediate purpose of course is to keep power out of the hands of each other, but after that they wish to keep it from the masses whose ignorance, muddle-headedness, and lack of ruling experience they both despise and fear. We wish therefore that the pen which drew our picture of the plotting Left had drawn another of the resisting Right, and that the two could have appeared on the same page. But one would not have cancelled the other out. Each would have strengthened the other, hardened the lines and deepened the shadows, since there would have been no touches in one or the other cutting across the main lines or blurring the transition from light to shade. The element missing from both is democracy; neither believes in it or is willing to trust it. Ultimately no doubt both may trust it—when the multitude has accepted the philosophy and revealed the motives and methods of which its rulers approve. That might be in two or three generations or in ten or twenty; but the firm conviction of both sides in the meantime is that the people must lose their liberty to gain it. Perhaps it is true. It depends on the people. But the first thing the people must do is to try to understand what games are being played in their name.

# LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

## NOT CRICKET.

Sir,—May I protest against an Americanism which appears to have forced its way into the commentaries on cricket. I refer of course to the word "strike." This is "not cricket"; it is simply Baseball, and to be found only in the addenda, mostly slang, of the Oxford Dictionary. I trust that in future our cricket announcers will say simply "Jones to bat."

TOP SCORER (Ohura).

## STATION 12M

Sir,—The handing back of the American station 12M prompts me to pass on to your readers information which I think will surprise and interest some of them. Since last April one has been able to hear regularly from 12M a session called the "Classical Corner"; and in view of persistent criticism of the American station, and charges that it had given itself over to Swing, it is fair to point out that this programme has been, in my opinion, better than most of the comparable programmes of the NBS. If I remember rightly, this feature opened with Beethoven's symphonies. Recently I heard the Bach B Minor Mass, the identical H.M.V. recordings mentioned by one of your correspondents some weeks ago. Numerous other recordings of similar great music very seldom, if ever, heard from my local National stations have been highlights on this programme. This fact, of course, is not entirely the fault of the NBS, since records, as the girl in the music shop says daily, are "almost unobtainable." But I do not wish that the Americans, when they vacated 12M, had taken their swing records with them, leaving their fine classical library to New Zealand.—"NEW ZEALAND LISTENER" (Devonport).

## "NOTICE TO QUIT"

Sir,—A.M.R.'s article dramatically draws attention to the water-erosion problem but whether the stress on contour cultivation solves it is another matter. It might assist Nature provided the essential cycle of her inexorable laws was followed. Apart from the return of humus, the natural moisture-holding qualities of soil cannot be met. Put that central jewel back and then decide whether the ornamental adornings are really necessary. If we go on taking millions of tons off the land, putting artificial substitutes in their place (many of them inhibitors of the symbiotic plant-bacteria life), and perpetuate the destruction of essential organic manures by sea, sewage, and incinerator—then we can write "Notice to Quit" over the rich farm lands of New Zealand (particularly the cereal-growing areas).—STANLEY S. HAMILTON, B.Sc., B.D.S. (Auckland).

## THE WORLD WE WANT.

Sir,—Your most interesting ballot will no doubt bring you more letters than it is possible for you to deal with. We all long to answer your questions. What disappoints me in the answers is that, with the exception of two, they give no suggestion as to how the reforms they hope for should be brought about. Everyone of us wants peace and we all want—at least in theory—well-distributed prosperity. What we want to know from a ballot is to what extent, in the opinion of the voter, the individual should be

allowed to reap the reward of his industry and ability and, alternatively, to what extent the goods of the world should be equally distributed. However—if we survive—these things will regulate themselves, if only by the process of trial and error. My personal hopes and fears range much further ahead. I hope that before it is too late, New Zealand will awaken to the fact that with our present birthrate we have no possibility of survival, and will take steps to increase our population by endowing motherhood bountifully enough to attract the majority of women to it as their career. What I expect (or fear) is too horrible to visualise in detail—the Rising Tide of Colour swelling and overwhelming us.—HELEN WILSON (Hamilton).

Sir,—I found your article "The World They Want" very interesting and thought Dr. Muriel E. Bell came nearest to the solution with her world organisation for assuring an equitable distribution of the materials of food, clothing and shelter. I would add a world organisation for the production of these goods. That would be true co-operation.

In England a vast organisation is in existence under the name of Co-operation. This was started over 100 years ago by co-operators purchasing the necessities of life and selling them to their own members, any profits on the sale of goods being distributed to the members in dividends. But at the present day these co-operators are producing as well as distributing everything that is necessary for human use and consumption. They own their own factories and the standard rate of wages and the best of conditions of work are maintained. If we in New Zealand would accept the principle of co-operation in the production and distribution of the necessities of life as we have accepted these principles in the Social Security Scheme we should be an example for the whole world. If true co-operation were put into practice all wars would cease and we should have peace on earth and good will toward men.

JOHN HIRST (Kaiapoi).

## MUSICAL APPRECIATION.

Sir,—I liked the suggestion in Radio Newsreel (December 22) that Station 12M give a series on musical appreciation, and I think this is an idea that could be more widely applied.

It is all very well for the musical intelligentsia to deplore the taste and deride the listening ability of the masses, but it seems rather similar to giving an illiterate a copy of Hamlet and blaming him for not appreciating the finer points. For it is admitted that musical appreciation is largely a matter of education; but how many of us (i.e. the masses) have had the opportunity of acquiring this knowledge? I wonder what proportion of the present adult radio audiences were fortunate enough to have musical appreciation included in their school curriculum. Your commentator mentions the popularity of university and W.E.A. classes in this subject, but not everybody (particularly those in the country) can attend such classes, and this is hardly a subject that can be swotted up by bringing a book home from the library.

Therefore if broadcasting stations want as many listeners as possible who can enjoy to the full the programmes put over (I hope I am not overestimating the

## ENCOURAGING THE ARTS

### Dorothy Helmrich in Sydney

DEEP disappointment at the last moment cancellation of her New Zealand tour was expressed by Dorothy Helmrich, soprano, in a letter to a friend in Wellington. "I have been overdoing it, and a rest is overdue," Miss Helmrich says. "In addition to my professional work I have been launching in Sydney a scheme called 'C.E.M.A.', which means Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts. This is sailing along most successfully, but it has been a colossal job." Miss Helmrich, at the moment, gives no indication as to when her projected tour of the New Zealand stations will take place.

object of broadcasting) radio seems an obvious medium for imparting this knowledge; not by offering odd comments here and there, but by giving regular talks starting from first principles on musical appreciation. And I am sure that such a series in admitting its aim was frankly educational would gain more than it would lose. I know there are many adults who listen with interest to any talks on music in the correspondence school and educational sessions which are presumably prepared for children with little or no knowledge of music, and it is along these elementary lines that I would suggest the series for adults should be given.

M.J.S. (Wellington).

## SEX IN PRINT

Sir,—In your review of our book *Meeting and Mating*, you include among a number of appreciative remarks, two expressions that might prove misleading even in their context: (1) "... to teach people how to yield to their sex impulses without incurring the natural consequences." This hardly does justice to the importance we have everywhere attached to parenthood. (2) "... preferably but not necessarily married." We believe, and have argued fully in the book, that marriage provides the only fitting and satisfactory setting for sex relationships. It is much more than a case of mere "preference."—JOAN E. COCHRAN, A. BRUCE COCHRAN.

## PLANNED PROGRAMMES.

Sir,—The policy of the NBS seems to me to be to please nobody. That is to say, it is difficult to have one's taste met, in whatever direction, for anything like half an hour. The reason is the continual and unreasonable confusion of the matter presented: one is jumped from one type of music to another, from record to record of unplanned commonplaceness. To those with any degree of formed taste in music, no matter in what direction, this is exasperating.

Under American control, 12M transmission hours were broken up into sufficient periods of time for the satisfaction of those with a liking for a particular form of entertainment, whether it was Palestrina or Benny Goodman, Bob Hope or Bach. I suggest that a rigid segregation of broadcasting matter into types of entertainment is the way of escape for the NBS from its present slough. ROBIN ROCKEL (Masterton).