

# LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

## SCIENCE AND FAITH

Sir,—I don't wish to prolong this correspondence, for volumes may be filled with the mental gymnastics of those who are seeking truth from two different directions. But I wish to make plain to all interested that faith, in the spiritual sense, is not wishful thinking, or the acceptance of dogma on a "take it or leave it" principle.

Now I have a great respect for that mine of practical knowledge, the Oxford Dictionary, but when it defines faith in the religious sense as "spiritual apprehension of divine truth apart from proof" it is definitely misleading. It is that "apart from proof" that I object to. Whatever kind of faith the compilers of the dictionary had in mind, it was not Christian faith, for one of the characteristics of the latter is that of assurance—we know and are sure of what can only be spiritually apprehended.

I am grateful to Mr. Ruffell for clarifying the position for us, but when he quoted the Letter to the Hebrews (and we must be careful not to charge St. Paul with something he did not write) he should have finished the sentence "the evidence of things not seen" which Dr. A. S. Way translates more fully as "that which satisfies us of the reality of things beyond our ken." This faith is not merely credulity, or unquestioning acceptance, but the result of thought upon certain facts and experiences, phenomena, which demand an explanation—an explanation more fundamental than that which a materialistic interpretation can give. And what I tried to point out was that this process of thought is as legitimate and as worthy of consideration as any other.

But the truth is the same, only some of us make blue-prints of it, others seek to transcribe its full glory in engraving or oils.

WARREN GREEN (Ngaruawahia).

## PLANNED PROGRAMMES

Sir,—Your correspondent Robin Rockel said several things that I had thought of saying myself. While trying out programmes in search of entertainment for an invalid (for whom the Classical Hour is often too highbrow) I have become conscious of the often incongruous mixture of fare presented. One difficulty is the lack of the "happy medium" type of entertainment during the afternoon; or if it is there how to know when and where to find it. Many programme headings indicate very little: for example, "Favourite Entertainers," "Celebrity Artists," etc., have been known to delight with a half-hour of choice vocal and instrumental music, but are just as likely to bore with worn-out humorous sketches or irritate with crooners and jazz. An extra word or two here and there on the programme pages would help. If shortage of space is the trouble, why not bar advertisements from these pages? Also crooning and modern dance music could be reduced; at present it crops up all over the place to the exclusion of much that would be far more acceptable to many people.

Please don't think we get no pleasure from our radio. It comes in snatches here and there, which is perhaps all one can

expect when so many tastes have to be catered for. But if improvement is possible please let us have it; as if the present state is trying for the nerves of people who are well, think what it is for ailing ones.

"HERE'S HOPING" (Nelson).

## MUSIC FOR ALL TASTES

Sir,—In the letter from "Highbrow," January 26, the remedy suggested to cater for various tastes in music and entertainment, is, I think, a very good one. For by reserving one station for classical music, there would be two other stations at least, in the main centres, for variety or dance music. In this way there would be a complete programme without annoying interruptions, which could be heard at any time, holidays included, by those who wish to

enjoy good music without constant switching from one station to another.  
E. M. THORPE (Tasman).

## THE WORLD WE WANT

Sir,—Your correspondent Helen Wilson touches upon a subject that should be the most important to New Zealand's welfare, and yet if you hear anything of it at all it is just a fizzle or you hear no more. From inquiries I have made from various people I conclude that the public, while admitting the consequence of a future decline in our population, feel entirely unconcerned. It seems to me that things will keep on that way until some novelist or newspaper editor brings home to us a vivid picture of the consequences for our children.

"UNEASY" (Havelock North).

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