

LISTENER

Incorporating N.Z. RADIO RECORD.

Every Friday

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Into Japan

BEFORE this issue is printed Allied troops will have entered Japan. Before they leave again the world will perhaps know whether they should have entered in silence or behind fire and smoke and the roar of guns. Everybody is happy that peace has come; but very few are happy about the way in which it has come—or is coming. The fact that Japan's war leaders are not contrite does not matter: very few criminals ever are. Nor should we be surprised that her political leaders are playing the war-leaders' game—from the Emperor down: lying, bluffing, obstructing, face-saving. That was bound to happen the moment it was decided to end the struggle before the Allies entered Japan itself. But it is disturbing that nothing has happened yet to bring the truth home to the Japanese people that they are sunk in irretrievable disaster—their fleet blown out of the sea; their air force shot out of the sky; their armies routed on every front; their merchant marine no longer capable of carrying their dispersed troops home. They know something in Hiroshima, something wherever cities have been devastated on a grand scale; but Britain knew things like that, Russia, and all the Allied nations of Europe, and now they are celebrating victory and using their enemies as a footstool. To make the Japanese people realise where their leaders have led them would not have been easy whatever turn events had taken, but it would have been easier if the war had swept through their cities and over their farms and left them without strength to fight on. The cost of that would have been hundreds of thousands of casualties on both sides, and was not to be thought of if it could be avoided. But the fact that it did not happen leaves the conquerors with a difficult choice—relentless severity where the people themselves will feel it, or mercy and generosity in a long gamble with time.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

CHILDREN AND FILMS

Sir,—I sympathise with "Small Fry" in her dislike of having children's entertainment filched from them, for I can remember back to a childhood where cinema played no part. If the present-day children were set down in the same environment, picture theatres would have to close on Saturday afternoons, though I suspect that if the children of those days were placed into a present-day child's environment the children's courts would have to increase a hundredfold and would have to work day and night.

I doubt if cinema entertainment can compensate for any of those lost freedoms, but "Small Fry" perhaps thinks so and that the present programmes are adequate. She is entitled to her opinion, but in condemning indiscriminately those who want them improved she does not realise that she is depriving other children of entertainment, for there are children (and many of them) who prefer the better type of picture.

A correspondent writing on radio serials points out that the undiscerning listener would probably enjoy a better serial as much as an inferior one, and I am sure that is doubly true in regard to children. I have never heard the rowdiest audience of children caterwauling a picture of any merit. What seems significant to me is that the child who reads trash and frequents undesirable pictures, saved probably by love of drama, can still appreciate the good and truthful and beautiful when it comes his way; but it is the adolescent who suffers when this undeveloped or thwarted imagination and dramatic sense deteriorates into a love of the sensational and the inability to make the effort required to appreciate better things.

TICK TACK (Dunedin).

THE FRIENDLY ROAD

Sir,—I wish to support the request of your correspondent, Peter Graham Fuldsch, for an extension of the "Friendly Road" service of song on Sunday mornings. The bright, harmonious music interspersed by cheery bits of philosophy from "Uncle Tom" in this session, give to listeners a feeling of happy uplift. I know many people who would welcome an extension of this feature, especially elderly people who depend so much on radio programmes.

C.M.L. (Christchurch).

FREEDOM OF THE AIR

Sir,—During a recent broadcast of a Church service from Wellington I listened to half-an-hour of verbal venom poured into the microphone by the reverend gentleman in charge. It was directed against what he termed "the atheistic theory of evolution," and directed his listeners to place no belief in it, but to regard the Biblical conception of a six-day Creation as the only tenable dogma.

Now that is all right so far as it goes, and it is not the purpose of this letter to ask how many agree with him. My purpose is to protest most emphatically about the fact that not five minutes of broadcasting time will be given by the authorities to a movement like the Rationalist Association to present a case opposed to any religious person or organisation. We pride ourselves

that we live in a free country, with a free press, freedom of expression, freedom to worship as we choose, yet no permission will be granted to state the other side of the case in religious matters. The excuse of avoiding controversial matter cancels itself out by the fact that broadcasts from pulpits, couched in such provocative language, are permitted. R. HULBERT (Waipukurau).

JACK SHERIE (Mt. Maunganui).

CHURCH BROADCASTS

Sir,—I read with interest the article in your valuable journal, "Broadcasts of Church Services." May I express very warm appreciation of the morning weekday devotional services. The selection of speakers is excellent, and I am sure they were bringing a great blessing to very many in our land. I think that the broadcasting of services should be continued as at present, as this is appreciated by very many, and is especially valuable to those in the lonely places.

The question of "radio personality" was raised. Admittedly that is a very valuable gift, but also what is most important is that the speaker on the air be burning with the glorious message of God's love, and he will be appreciated without a doubt by a large unseen audience.

A. F. BENT (Blenheim).

COMMUNITY SINGING AT 4YA

Sir,—When community sings are on at Dunedin they keep chopping and changing from 4YA to 4YO. For the good that they do and the money that they raise I think they should be entitled to the full hour of broadcast, especially when it is just once a week they are on. We Southland people cannot get anything but the main YA stations and sometimes with very poor reception. The same thing happens when there are any race meetings on at Christchurch or Dunedin. Surely the news broadcasts could be transmitted to the auxiliary stations instead of the Community Sings or the Races.

Southland always pulls her weight when there is a War Loan on, so surely we are entitled to "a fair go" in this matter.

"BLITZ" (Gore).

DIET AND HEALTH

Sir,—I have just read with very great interest your reviewer's remarks on Guy Chapman's little book *Prevention and Cure of Common Ailments*. His opening sally as to the book being good and bad in parts can be applied (I hope I am not being unkind) forcibly to his own review. To be very brief, may I point out two outstanding faux pas.

Vitamin D: He agrees with Chapman's advice as to the advisability of going to the bottle for this vitamin—at any rate during the present period of rationing. Can he show me any normal diet (liberal amounts of butter, eggs, and meat thrown in) which will supply enough D for optimum nutrition. And then he says it is probably very sound using unsaturated fats for certain types of eczema, though perhaps too early to make a definite pronouncement. Now the fact that medical men haven't been awake to the possibilities of curative dietetics, and are shamefully behind in this branch of

science does not mean that there are not others applying this new knowledge and obtaining cures with monotonous regularity. A balanced diet, with stress placed on the hygiene of the liver and thyroid, and partial or total replacement of saturated fats by the unsaturated (need not be dripping or lard, I find peanut and olive oil better) has been found 100 per cent. curative in hundreds of cases passing through Dr. Chapman's hands and those of his co-workers. Finally, may I offer up a plea for "stereotyped" diets—give me monotony and regimentation every time, if variety means the sort of ghastly recipes published in your column by "Aunt Daisy."

PENROD TERRY (Avondale).

THE ATOMIC BOMB

Sir,—Without wishing to take away your hope (since you need it to live) we would like to criticise the reasoning in your "leader" drawing optimistic conclusions from the atomic bomb. War, you suggest, may henceforth appear so terrible that mankind will no longer resort to it. This it has never been in modern times, you say, since it has claimed, at most, a mere 10 per cent. in the countries worst hit. "We make war because wars, so far, have proved relatively harmless."

Your contention reminds us of the communiques we sometimes hear: "The casualties were negligible." They may be few; they are never negligible to those who suffer them. The confusion here (as in your leader) seems to be between the individual and the community. Some would go to war even in face of certain death, but the vast majority of us speculate on that 90 per cent. chance for us and ours of getting through. We are insufficiently conscious of the cost to those who pay it. Otherwise we would realise that any other solution to international disputes is preferable to war. As individuals, of course, we do not "make war," but consent to it; but because we are persuaded that the alternative to war is something worse. This belief is possible because we are unable to foresee the cost, which, in any case, we hope will fall on others, especially the enemy.

This brings us back to the atomic bomb. Does it not open up the prospect of increased suspicion, more feverish arming, and the determination that the enemy, if he cannot be kept down, shall receive a crushing blow before he can get one in on us?

We would suggest that real hope does not lie in ever more horrible ways of waging war. It lies in heightened individual sensibility. If we were sufficiently keenly aware of the terrible cost of war we would be readier to face the sacrifices needed to maintain peace. What those sacrifices are—for, let us make no mistake, there would be some—opens up another question.

M. and R. GOODMAN (Kaiaua).

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN

Sir,—I am disappointed that the operas of Gilbert and Sullivan are never broadcast in their entirety. Surely it would be possible for a single opera to be heard occasionally? Judging by their popularity over many years I am sure listeners would be agreeably pleased.

T.M.C. (Akaroa).

(They would be; but not if they had to pay their share of the copyright fees.—Ed.)