



SHELL MOTOR OIL

IN SEALED BOTTLES

You can be sure of SHELL

THE SHELL COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND LIMITED
(INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND)

23

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

BRITISH AND AMERICAN FILMS

Sir,—I have often wondered why it is that some people cannot help showing such a resentful, vicious and jealous spirit towards the Americans. I have come to the conclusion that it is either that we hate and despise those to whom we are indebted, or else it dates back to the American War of Independence, when we realise they had a case, yet stubbornly refuse to admit it. If it were merely apparent in the case of some of our boys whose girl-friends had shown a preference for a better man, it could be readily understood, but it seems that the green-eyed monster shows its ugly head in many more cases than in those directly affected.

Such a spirit of animosity never draws sympathisers. On the contrary—it draws attention to the viciousness and pettiness of the attacker and one develops more respect for the victim of the attack. Such is the case in G.M.'s criticisms of American films. I have noticed time and time again his anything-but-subtle, below-the-belt digs at American films, and compared this with the undying eulogy he slavishly bestows on the poorest of British films. I have read his glowing accounts of British films with allegedly excellent acting and superb photography—have seen them, and could not help noticing the deplorable photography and actors who throw their whole heart and soul, oratorical ability, and love for overdone melodrama into what should be a simple little scene until one begins to feel most uncomfortable and aware of oneself, as if one is listening to an over-dramatic elocutionary item. They counteract their stiffness and inability to act by vicious swearing (which evidently they consider necessary to prove they are men) and altogether cause one to bear in mind the fact that "a person is an actor when he forgets how to act." Strangely enough I have not seen a British film minus swearing, and never seen an American film with it. I am not a wowser—but don't consider it necessary for a convincing picture.

The fact that the British nature is more introverted and self-conscious than the American is probably due to the inability of British people to forget themselves on the screen or stage and to act easily and naturally. Perhaps we would understand this and overlook this, if only the photography, the story and in fact the whole picture were better. As it is, most of us prefer American films, especially when they seem to be able to produce characters so much easier on the eye than do British films.

I am a New Zealander of four generations—very proud of my country—but sometimes, when I think of the glaring smallness of spirit and hateful resentment shown by a number of our people, it makes me feel ashamed of my own country people.

In the meantime I shall continue to see American films. I very proudly add my name to my heartfelt opinion.

R. EVANS (Auckland).

OHAKUNE SCHOOL

Sir,—I listened recently to Dr. Turbott of the Health Department giving his daily talk and describing the bad conditions prevailing in some of our New

Zealand schools. If he had wanted a classic example—an old school (fifty years in fact) with no facilities for washing hands after visiting toilet or before eating lunch, not enough seats so that children sit on the floor, and not enough latrines—he could very well have chosen Ohakune Primary School. What is the use of us mothers teaching our children hygienic habits—training them in healthy ways when it is all negated by their behaviour at school?

New schools have been built in Wanganui, and old schools modernised there. Aren't farmers' children to be considered at all? There is a big railway settlement here too, so conditions will get steadily worse as the number of pupils increases.

E. C. HOLLAND (Ohakune).

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

Sir,—Now that the war is over, it may be possible to secure some new records for the Christchurch broadcasting stations and give some of the old recordings a rest—especially those records of singers who tell us, with all the sloppy sentiment they can muster, how Christopher Robin said his prayers. For years we have had this ghastly, smug child served up to us. It wouldn't be so bad if Christopher would only say his prayers. Instead he wanders off into so many asides that one feels like giving young Chris a heavy smack on the ear. For his age, he takes far too much notice of his nurse and her dressing-gown. Admittedly, the boy has to learn; but not while saying his prayers.

Maybe our programme organisers have nostalgic yearnings for the days of their childhood; maybe our Government, in its infinite wisdom, thinks that Christopher is good for morale. The fact remains, we've had a bit too much of the child. Give little Chris a holiday.

LISTENER (Christchurch).

MAIDEN AUNTS

Sir,—One cannot help but conclude that Henrietta Wemyss wrote with her tongue in her cheek. She would do well to remember that her family may have a different viewpoint, and to them she is far from the imposed upon personage she would like you to think she is. My experience of Maiden Aunts is that having no family of their own, they make it their mission in life to see that you get as little pleasure as possible out of yours.—SISTER OF MAIDEN AUNT (Mosgiel).

COMPLAINT FROM SCHOOL

Sir,—As I am a Sixth Former, I read with interest R. G. Stone's letter of complaint. My suggestion is that he should sit down to his lessons—I presume it is his lessons that occupy his evenings—at 4.30 p.m. Thus he would have time between 8.0 and 8.45 p.m. to satisfy his "insatiable" appetite for orchestral music. I would also like to point out that the NBS cannot cater for every sixth former as well as for the man in the street.

C. G. POTTINGER (Khandallah).

A healthy future for your baby

ANKORIA
ALWAYS SAFE BABY FOOD

THE NEW ZEALAND CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY CO. LTD., ANZAC AVENUE, AUCKLAND