

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

SOIL CONSERVATION

Sir,—In a recent issue of *The Listener* you commented on Mr. Cumberland's book on soil erosion. This was an excellent article and drew very necessary attention to what is perhaps the most important book published in New Zealand during recent years.

You now print a very interesting letter from Dr. Compton, of Havelock North, on reforestation. This is a valuable contribution to the subject. In combination with other evidence these are proofs that the public is at least becoming alarmed at the disastrous effects of erosion and appears to put a higher value on our native forests. We all now realise that most of the high country should never have been fenced so that it would have acted as a buffer against erosion and saved our greatest asset—our very precious top soil. If our top soil goes out to sea at the present rate everything goes; our standard of living will drop to zero because practically all our wealth comes from the soil.

The first job is to take back all high country so that nature may put its own covering of native trees back. The second job is to start nurseries of native trees and plant out on all suitable areas. The third job is to scrap the idea that exotics will save our soil; and the fourth job is to declare active war on all imported vermin—rabbits, deer, opossums, etc.—**HAROLD MENZIES** (North Auckland Forest Society).

ALSO SATISFIED

Sir,—I should like to endorse the remarks of "Quite Satisfied" concerning the very fine radio productions presented by the George Edwards Players. Like the writer, I find radio a constant source of entertainment and interest, and the most pleasant and interesting hours of all have been due to the grand work of Nell Stirling, George Edwards and Company, who have given us so many splendid features during recent years. The consistently high standard of their productions, the wide variety of plot and presentation, and the artistry of the players themselves has made listening a pleasure, and I have yet to hear an English or American company to compare with them.

Most of us take a great deal for granted, and are often ready to condemn, so in this instance I should like to express very sincere appreciation, and to add my own request to that made by "Quite Satisfied"—give us more of the George Edwards Players in your picture pages and news items.

"HORRY" (Wanganui).

DANCE SESSIONS

Sir,—I don't think it was a very nice expression for a Timaru correspondent to use about Silvester and Bradley. Being a player in a small band, I don't think that I have seen, heard, or found the musician, no matter how well he or

she can play, who can satisfy everybody in the community. As far as 2YC dance sessions are concerned, how about the young sick persons who cannot attend a dance hall to hear the latest hits? I think these stations have a very hard job to find sessions to suit everybody. The beauty of wireless is, you can generally get something to suit your taste. If not, you can still switch it off.

MUSIC LOVER (East Coast).

Sir,—May I be permitted to make a strong protest against any change in 2YC's 6.0 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. nightly dance session, as it is the only programme of dance music on at this time of the evening? Station 3YL caters fairly well for those with tastes like "Gentle Annie," as concert programmes are broadcast early on most nights. 2YC just recently changed part of its programme on Mondays and Thursdays especially to suit the classical music listeners, and now it appears that some of these wish to have an early evening session from 2YC for half-an-hour or so; and if they get that the next thing will be more letters (on the same lines as L. Bishop's) saying that half-an-hour at a time is not long enough.

Anyone who takes the trouble to look over 2YC's 32½ hours of transmitting for a week will see that its time is split up very fairly. There are approximately eight hours of "highbrow" 16½ of "medium brow," and eight of "low brow"; so I say leave 2YC alone.

SKYSCRAPER (Tokomaru Bay).

RADIO PROGRAMMES

Sir,—I trust those who are responsible for making up the radio programmes will give careful consideration to the letters from R. G. Stone, L. Bishop, and "Gentle Annie." The young and the old are our most enthusiastic listeners. The young with their eagerness should have an opportunity for further developing a taste for good music and drama. Music is given a more important place by our educational authorities, and, judging by the success of school orchestras and choral work, this is much appreciated. I don't think anyone would object to good music being available from some of the main stations at all times during the evening. Reception from other stations is often poor for people away from the main centres, and who are therefore more dependent on the radio for their entertainment. Those who are interested in the chimes, weather report and news have many other opportunities. The old people have leisure to listen to every word, or note and chord, and I think they prefer the gay spirit and harmony of the earlier composers to the nimble brilliance and somewhat restless style of many of the later composers. People between these age groups often have too much work or too many engagements to find time for real listening, but I believe some of them like the radio as a background for their other occupations.

"F.J." (Wellington) writes a delicious letter about his interview with the Messenger from Mars which I trust the authorities of the NBS will also take note of. Would it be out of place to ask them to curtail their "excellent crime service dissemination" in the interests of young and other listeners.

H. M. HELM (Pangatotara).

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