

LISTENER

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To Tokyo and Back

TO-DAY we print the first of a series of articles specially written for our readers by James Bertram, a recently returned prisoner-of-war from Tokyo. Mr. Bertram, whom we introduced in our last issue, has agreed to our suggestion that his story should be as personal as possible, but says that he can't help being political to some extent. We hope he will be political to a very considerable extent, first because New Zealand has not yet fully realised that it is a Pacific Ocean nation, and can't therefore escape Pacific Ocean politics, and in the second place because it would be silly to allow a man like Mr. Bertram to flit across our pages without saying any of the things that we his fellow-countrymen ought to hear for our own safety. By any test at all he is one of the younger authorities on the New East, and he is also one of ourselves—a New Zealander made more aware of his own country's needs by contact with the best minds of Britain and service with the makers of modern China. That was true of him even four years ago, and since then he has been to Tokyo and back—the first an involuntary journey, the second the result of one of those lucky blunders scoundrels sometimes make when they seem to have everything organised on the side of iniquity. If the Japanese had grasped who he was it would have been a one-way journey; but their organisation failed, and he can now tell us, with the conviction born of bitter experience, what lies ahead of democracy in the Pacific if it does not adapt itself to recent developments. Mr. Bertram described himself once as an "uneasy Liberal." The Liberal who is not uneasy is dumb, and it is not a part of our plan that he should try to make any of us less uneasy than he himself was when he went away. Complacency has done us enough harm already.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

MENTAL HEALTH

Sir,—I much appreciate your long review of the Lighthouse Series of pamphlets in your issue of 19th October. It shows clearly that *The Listener* fully appreciates the importance of mental health.

"Galen" (your reviewer) makes some criticisms and comments which will be duly noted. He goes on, however, to make some assertions regarding psychological theory. It is not, however, on his statements of theory that I should like to comment, but on his view that psychological treatment should be in the hands of medical practitioners, and that patients should be "protected" from lay psychotherapists.

Now it is very desirable that there should be qualified medical practitioners capable of treating cases of war neurosis and civilian psycho-neuroses, but "Galen" must explain how this is to be achieved. The number of doctors in New Zealand so qualified is vanishingly small, and there is no immediate prospect of any increase. There is no such training available at Otago Medical School. It can be demonstrated that most qualified doctors at the present time are less capable of treating these disorders than a number of educated laymen. Assuming that there are 50,000 persons in New Zealand needing psychotherapy—a conservative estimate—and that one doctor can manage only 12 patients (an outside limit) at any one time, and realising that the period of treatment may vary from six weeks to a year, a small calculation will reveal how many doctors will be needed. Where are they to come from? The constant cry of these patients is that they have been the rounds of many doctors, often in more than one town, and have come away empty. It has been estimated by competent authorities that in 30 per cent. of all cases of illness of all types (medical, surgical, etc.) the appropriate treatment is psychotherapy, because the illness is psychogenic in causation.

In conjunction with others who have studied this problem for a considerable time, I contend that the only solution in the immediate future and for many years to come is the training and employment of lay psychotherapists. This has been urged by Dr. E. Beaglehole, of Wellington. They could advantageously work under the supervision of a qualified medical psychologist where such is available. Where not available, they could work in conjunction with a co-operative medical practitioner who would be responsible for the detection of organic disease.

Apart from some such scheme the future for many sufferers in New Zealand is dark indeed, and Social Security funds will continue to be wasted on such dope as valerian and bromides.

FRANK COOK (Upper Riccarton).

"THE MESSIAH"

Sir,—During the past few years many country people have been disappointed that *The Messiah* has been relayed mostly through the B stations.

I have lived in different country districts and in the pre-Christmas season have often had the experience of receiving a telephone message to say *The Messiah* was being broadcast. In

the earlier days of wireless the family who owned a set invited their friends to listen in when *The Messiah* was being broadcast. The B station is of little use to country listeners, and city people can attend these functions in person. My plea, therefore, is that the authorities will remember the country people when arranging music for the festive season this year.

COUNTRY LISTENER (Sheffield).

A NOTE OF TRIUMPH

Sir,—On Sunday last I listened to a most remarkable broadcast "On a Note of Triumph." To me it seemed that at last broadcasting had been raised to the status of an independent art, for this extraordinarily moving work could not have been expressed in any other medium. It made all the topical commentaries and features that I have heard seem anaemic and apologetic.

It was boosted well beforehand but I suspect that boosting is as worn a device as "Wolf! Wolf!", for I have met only one other person who heard it. I gather that both National and

More letters from listeners will be found on page 24.

Commercial services have copies of this broadcast and I devoutly hope that it may be heard not once again, but many times, for I have heard no better comment on the pre-War and War periods and never such convincing and purely artistic use of the radio technique.

PHILIP A. SMITHELLS (Wellington).

BEETHOVEN UP TO DATE

Sir,—May I be permitted to congratulate Station 2YA upon a very novel presentation of Beethoven's Symphony No. 8 in F Major on Tuesday evening, October 30? We heard the first movement, then the second movement, and then, perhaps to drive the point home, we heard the second movement right through again. But alas! After such painstaking redundancy, we heard no third movement at all! With one thrilling and impetuous leap we landed right in the midst of movement number four, and thence, with belated orthodoxy, continued through to the end of this movement and the Symphony.

Might I ask the culprit if he likes his dinner arranged soup, fish, fish, blank, sweet?

A. G. PATERSON (Nelson).

NINE TAILORS

Sir,—*The Nine Tailors*, Edmund Wilson says, takes "the layman through the mysteries and jargon" of campanology. Ought not a lay critic to make himself conversant with the "mysteries and jargon" of the specialised books he reviews, and so escape being embroiled with their technicalities? In his review of *The Nine Tailors*, Mr. Wilson was caught with the "jargon" of bell-ringers. For instance, he writes "while a heavy peal of chimes was being rung." This no doubt caused many a bell-ringer to raise an eyebrow, for chimes are chimed not

Wellington Choral Union

THIS Saturday, November 17, Station 2YC will present at 8.0 p.m. the Royal Wellington Choral Union (conducted by Stanley Oliver) in "The Black Knight" and "Spirit of England" (Elgar) from the Wellington Town Hall. The soloist will be Dora Drake (soprano). This programme will replace the one published last week.

rung, and one speaks of a peal of bells, not "a peal of chimes." Moreover, church-bell chimes are not even mentioned in the book.

However, enough about that. I find the title, *The Nine Tailors*, more interesting, for there we have matter for a quiz right up to ZB standard. Why tailors? And again, why nine of them to make a man?

Before the use of writing the method of keeping accounts was by tailor, i.e., cutting. Notches were cut on pieces of wood, hence the terms "to keep a tailor, a tail, tally, and tallies," but in bell-ringing language the old English word tailor (tailor) is still in use.

All through English history to the present time church bells have been used as signals. The tailor bell, interpreted "teller" by Miss Sayers (page 38), signalled the passing from this life of a child, woman, or man, so that all could pray for him or her. (To-day the teller bell is called the passing-bell and is tolled after the person has passed!)

Why do nine tailors make a man? Because it is easier to set a heavy bell up on the third swing, after "getting the feel of the bell" with the first two swings, so the custom arose that a signal of three teller, tailor, or teller tolls denoted a dying child, six tailors a woman, and nine tailors make a man.

ROB (Kaitia).

BRITISH AND AMERICAN FILMS

Sir,—Mr. Evans confuses fair criticism with a "spirit of animosity" and "below the belt digs." It is quite possible to admire great achievement while drawing attention to any defects. "G.M.'s" interesting contributions usually give praise where praise is due, and adverse criticism only refers to some film producers—an irresponsible and infinitesimal part of a great nation.

J. B. Priestly in a book about his visit to America points out the cause of the low standard in many American films. Mr. Priestly says: "In order to pay their way they had to please the millions in all the American small towns, and that meant they had to turn out something that would amuse a not very bright boy or girl of about fifteen. With films costing so much to produce the appreciation of a limited public of fully adult persons merely meant ruin . . . they must have the approval of all the small town adolescents." Fortunately films are produced to suit all tastes, even for "fully adult persons" which some "adolescents" can also appreciate.

The "resentful, vicious, and jealous spirit towards Americans" in general does not exist in New Zealand. Mr. Evans seems to have a very extraordinary imagination.

"ONLOOKER" (Wakefield).