

# LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(Continued from page 5)

## "HIT PARADE"

Sir,—I heartily agree with B. W. King. I daresay there is more work arranging "Hit Parades" than "Top Tunes," but the first are much more interesting. It is good to hear our own favourites, not those of foreign lands. In due course the records played in "Top Tunes" will become our favourites in "Hit Parade." I should also like to express my regret that 2ZA's "Listeners' Request Session" on Sundays was dropped.—"RECORD FAN" (Linton).

## ENGLISH PLACE NAMES

Sir,—May I (if I am permitted to intervene in this nursery dispute) point out that Yarmouth is pronounced "Yarmouth," giving full and unequivocal value to the "r". Had it been intended that it should be called "Ya-mooth," "Yaw-muth" or even "Yumth" it would have been spelled so and those who maintain otherwise merely underline what has been long known—namely, that the only well of English undefiled flows southward into the Tweed. It is time someone pointed out that the slovenliness of the English dialect in its variant forms derives either from illiteracy (as, no doubt, in the case of "Oxford" English) or, as with Cockney, a lack of adequate training in childhood in the proper use of tongue, teeth, throat, and palate in articulation. My own son, aged three, calls loudly for his "powwidge" at breakfast time, but I have no fear that in another two years he will roll both r's properly (and mayhap even add a third if he is particularly hungry). LUDOVIC McWHIRTER (Auckland).

Sir,—"Argosy" and his friends state, categorically, that the pronunciation "Yarmuth" is purely a local dialectal pronunciation and that "Yahrmowth" is the recognised standard modern English pronunciation. In that case compilers of Webster's dictionary, Jones' Pronouncing dictionary, Chambers' Gazetteer of the World and the Encyclopedic dictionary (together with "Homey") are all hopelessly ignorant, as they all agree on "Yarmuth." In all these authorities they give an alternative if used, even if only a local one. Marlborough for instance is given as "Morborough" for the town of Wiltshire, but "Marlborough" for instance as we pronounce it for the town of Canada and for the province of New Zealand. But there is no alternative given for "Yarmuth." — N.Z. 10TH GENERATION (Umukuri).

Sir,—Will "Argosy" please tell me how to pronounce "New Plymouth" and "Falmouth?" "LONDONER" (Wairoa).

Sir,—May I say a few words in support of the much abused "Homey," though he is probably quite capable of defending himself. I submit that "Homey's" pronunciation of Yarmouth, with the second syllable "muth" is the usual one in England generally, not only

by the local people: Plymouth, Teignmouth, Dartmouth, and many others. Does not "Argosy" beg the question when he states that "the modern standard English is Yahrmowth"? What is his authority for this statement?

H.P.B. (Tauranga).

Sir,—"Homey" seems to have stirred up local feeling in regard to English pronunciation of place names, but why John W. Price should feel vexed about the pronunciation of Yarmouth as Yarmuth surprises me. Phonetically it is wrong, but to apply a hard and fast rule of phonetics to the English language is to rob it of all its individuality and much of its beauty. From the King downward Yarmouth, Portsmouth, Bournemouth, Exmouth, and a score of others are pronounced with the final "muth." The only exception to this rule that I can think of at the moment of writing, that gets its full phonetic sound, is Avonmouth.

Mawlbora for Marlborough is another national privilege, shared by all men familiar with the name. If J.W.P. were to ask a London taxi-man to drive him to the Marlboro Club the chances are that he would have to ask the first policeman where the Club was and spell it. Every taxi-man in London knows that the Mawlbora Club is in Paw Maw, or what J.W.P. would call Pall Mall. If J.W.P. visited Oxford and asked for Mag-da-len College he would be met with a pained look and a gentle suggestion that he meant Maudlin. And if he wanted to hunt with the Bel-voir hounds, and did not pronounce it Beaver, the M.F.H. would cut him dead.

Will J.W.P. say to what rule or tradition Paraparaumu and Paekakariki have been debased to Paraparam, and Pycock, respectively. It must hurt the Maori to hear his beautiful language thus mutilated.

ANOTHER HOMEY (Wellington).

Sir,—Your correspondent John W. Price is wrong about the pronunciation of Marlborough. The correct pronunciation is Mawlborough, which has always been used by the dukes of that name. Now I suppose we shall be having one of your readers inform us that Derby should be Durby. I have heard many New Zealanders pronounce Berwick "Burwick," but I suppose that does not make it correct. Over the whole of England I have heard Yarmouth called nothing but Yarmuth, accenting the first syllable. It has nothing whatever to do with dialect.

ENGLISH (Christchurch).

Sir,—"Homey" is quite right about the pronunciation of Yarmouth, which with many other places such as Dartmouth, Plymouth, Falmouth, etc., have the accent on the first syllable and mouth rhymes with "doth" and is so slightly accented that "mth" could easily describe it. "Argosy's" letter is quite beside the point. No doubt he may pronounce Yar "Ye-ar" but throughout England it is "Yahr-muth."

SEER (Wairoa).

A healthy future for your baby

# ANKORIA

ALWAYS SAFE BABY FOOD

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




# SHELL MOTOR OIL

## IN SEALED BOTTLES

You can be sure of SHELL

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