

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

POSTLUDE A L'APRES MIDI.

Sir,—No one expects *The Listener* to print a complaint every time a programme of gramophone records of known duration is interrupted by the 9.0 p.m. chimes, but when 2YA does what it did on Tuesday, March 26, silence is difficult. A new recording of Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* was scheduled to begin at 8.50, preceded by a studio recital, which finished in time. This new recording has been well reviewed overseas; hence my special interest in hearing all of it. But after the studio recital had ended, 2YA decided to play a fill-in record that was not scheduled in the programme. Then, having caused avoidable delay, it began the Debussy piece too late, and the chimes came in, in the all-too-familiar way. We complain and we complain. Still it happens. Does someone think this can just go on and on and on?

MUSIC-LOVER (Wellington).

THREE GRIEVANCES

Sir,—I'm sure there are many others who agree with me that it is high time "Big Sister" was concluded. I know "Dad and Dave" have been going longer,

but after all there is some humour in that serial, whereas "Big Sister" is really too good to be true.

Also, why can't we have more American programmes such as the "Hit Parade?"

Another thing—why is it that the NBS stations wait until 10 o'clock or later to broadcast dance music and similar swing programmes? I live in the country and can't sit up until midnight every night to hear decent music. If the highbrows want to hear their favourite music, couldn't one station have the majority of it to satisfy them?

LOFTY (Eketahuna).

SERIALS AND CLASSICS

Sir,—I am a constant radio listener and take a keen interest in serials. Once there were serials worth listening to, but now they have dropped back until there is not one (that I can name anyway) that is worth listening to. Most of the serials are at hours almost impossible for me to listen to, while most of the unbearable ones are moved to earlier hours. Now for the classical music. I am a lover of good classical music, and I find that the classical programmes are very good, but I am sorry to say there

are not enough of them. 2YC seems to broadcast a fair amount of classics; why not make it into a "Classics only" station? Here is a question to which I have never yet found a correct answer: Why, when 2YA is broadcasting Parliament does 2YC have to forfeit its own programme, which is usually a classical one?

I have read in *The Listener* many letters concerning the 9 o'clock news and chimes, and the news from London. I wonder why people like to pick at these? I don't find anything wrong with them; perhaps others do. It is not compulsory to listen, and I'm sure it is an easy matter to switch off your radio if you don't wish to listen.

—LISTENER (Ohakune Junction).

THE UNIVERSITY.

Sir,—The address to the Senate of the University of New Zealand by the new Chancellor was an event in the University's history. It inspires, and it gives a lead which the University has lacked. I think, however, that Mr. Justice Smith would have made his strong case even stronger if he had paid a tribute to the quality of many of the University's products. Numbers of students from our University have done well abroad, sometimes against the strongest competition. Not only have they won

many honours in overseas universities, but they have obtained important posts in many countries. The record of our Rhodes Scholars is good. I was particularly interested in Miss McQuilkan's comment in *The Listener*. She cites New Zealand doctors in Britain. I have excellent authority for supporting her statement that they stand in high repute. "Very high," I should say. She also mentions New Zealand students of English. Some years ago I happened to be personally interested in the results of the English Honours School at Oxford. Of eight students who got a first that year, three were New Zealanders. Two were men from Auckland University College, and the third was a woman from Canterbury, who, I believe, went straight from a secondary school there to Oxford. Kenneth Sisam, now Secretary of the Oxford University Press, was a Rhodes Scholar from Auckland and a specialist in English. It is clear from the success of these students, those named by Miss McQuilkan, and others, that there must have been a good deal of sound teaching of English in our secondary schools and university colleges. Certainly the University system needs reform, but to say that these successes have been achieved in spite of the system would seem unjust.—FATHER OF STUDENTS (Wellington).



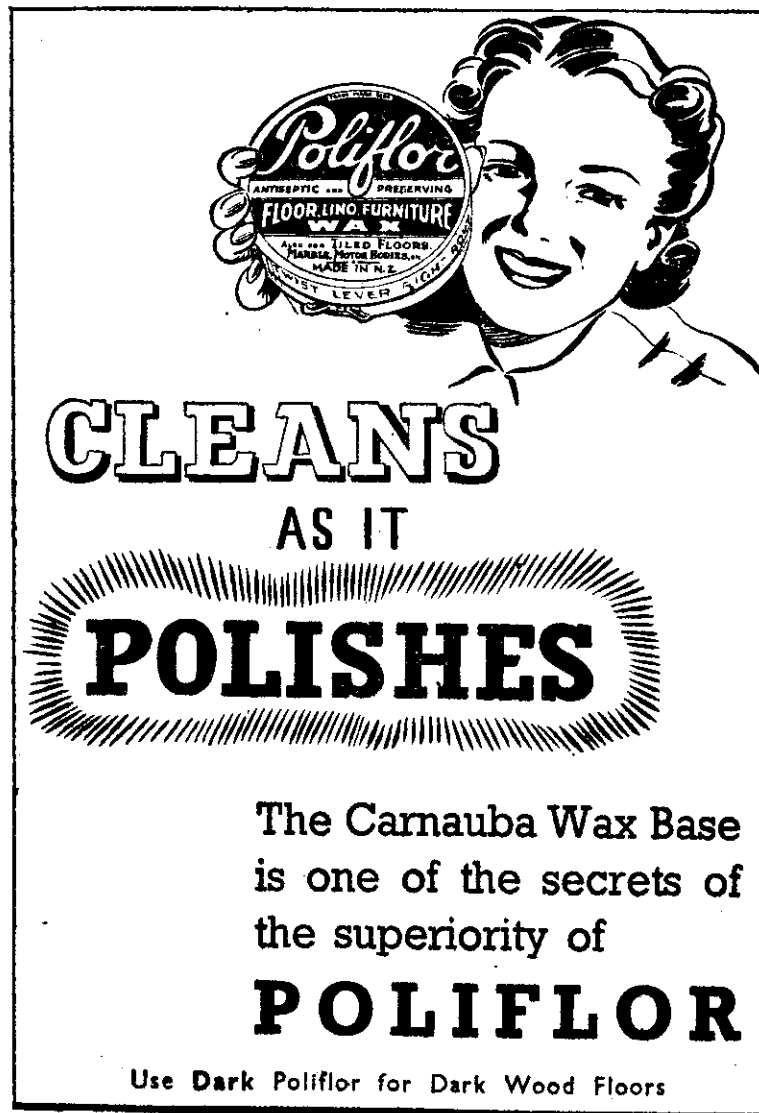
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