

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

AMERICAN SERIALS.

Sir,—May I be given space for my views on "Ma Perkins," "Big Sister," and "Judy and Jane"? Surely these American stories have gone on long enough? Why not have stories about English families and Scots and Welsh, and Irish? I like well-spoken English, and think it is time we pulled up on our slack slipshod speech. Are these three American stories bought from the U.S.A.? If so, why not put the money into the pockets of those in our Old Land to whom we owe so much—or else encourage New Zealand talent to write serials? "BRITISH" (Tai Tapu).

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Sir,—C. G. Wilson says, "Education for the majority ceases too soon." There is another point of view.

All life is education, and to me it is pitiful that we send boys and girls to school, secondary school, training college and university, and then forth to teach, totally uneducated as far as real practical, everyday living is concerned. They have never been away from school; and one has only to see the average school-

master, especially in contact with men of other callings, to realise how hopelessly "un-grown-up" he is.

What is needed, I think, is a definite break of say two years between secondary school and training college or university, in which students would live preferably in the country, undertaking manual work. There, their real education would go on, with infinite benefit to a subsequent university course in teaching. Probably all university students would benefit greatly by the same treatment.

H. SHAW (Eskdale).

MR. RANK AND HOLLYWOOD.

Sir,—In a recent article, "G.M." criticised J. Arthur Rank's attempt to glamourise British films according to the Hollywood pattern in order to gain popularity for them in America, and went on to say that British films have a special genius of their own to contribute to world culture, just as French films have. Now, support for "G.M.'s" argument comes from an unexpected quarter. This is what Herbert Morrison told the Cinematograph Exhibitors' Association at the recent annual conference:

"Let your films sincerely portray the British attitude to life, the humour and courage and endeavour of the ordinary British man and woman in a world of reconstruction and high hope. Show the British and their lives and institutions as they really are—you won't go far wrong. There is an inferiority complex about British films which, at times, tempts our studios to imitate what is native to Hollywood. Our producers and directors, like the French, have got something Hollywood probably hasn't got. British films, at their best, are sincere, satisfying; at their worst they are boring because they are cheap and imitative."

I hope Mr. Rank was in the audience.

FILM FAN (Wellington).

"O TO BE IN NEW ZEALAND."

Sir,—Elsie Locke's interesting article in a recent issue reminds me that you once printed a tribute to New Zealand by a staff representative of the *National Geographic Magazine* who had come here to find out what "makes Anzacs tough." I suggest that it would make an appropriate contribution to the present discussion.

"WEST-COASTER" (Wellington).

(The tribute to which our correspondent refers was paid in a letter to Mr. J. W. Heenan, Under-Secretary of Internal Affairs. Here is a part of it:

"Driving along by myself to-day, I had plenty of time to think. I considered the New Zealander as an individual—quiet, serious, solid, and bent on getting his work done. Yet, as a people, New Zealanders have an extremely happy attitude. To be among them makes me happy. I want to wave or say 'hello' to everyone I see. I am not altogether sure why this should be so. Perhaps it's the land they live in. Despite the 'misty gorges,' formidable mountains covered with snow, heartless winds and dreary rains, it is a happy land. It is not the happiness I associate with other countries. The gayest tropics are tinged with sadness; Nordic lands have a harsh foundation; Mediterranean countries fret; Asia mystifies. But New Zealand has a stable, good nature; I've never seen it cry. Rivers are really running; livestock has something to feed on; and the people know that the next cup of tea will taste as good as the last. And they keep the kettle boiling.")

"THE LITTLE CONCERT PARTY."

Sir,—May I offer a word in praise of a programme from 3YA at 9.22 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, called "The Little Concert Party"? It is not very often that we are treated to such a variety of light vocal and instrumental music in the one programme. I would suggest that more of this type would be appreciated by a large number of listeners. Incidentally, in my opinion, the playing of Sibelius' "Valse Triste" by such a fine violinist was excellent and creates a much better effect than when a full orchestra is used.

R.R.M.P. (Christchurch).

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