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to discipline himself to several years of study. Nor do I think their monetary reward much greater, on the average, than some other jobs carried on by men who have never spent an hour's study in their lives, omitting of course the "study" of Racing Form for next Saturday's meeting. Take a look at the pay sheets of the Waterfront Control Commission and see for yourselves.

One writer points to the inadequate salaries paid to lecturers. Another thinks the Universities should proclaim a deeper philosophy of life than merely qualifying students for better paid jobs. What do these correspondents want — more money or more soul? And how deep is the soul of humanity to-day? I can tell them. It is no deeper than their tummies. If they don't believe me, let them do the rounds of the pubs on a Saturday morning. Ninety per cent. of humanity doesn't want a deeper philosophy of life—all they want is a deeper handle of beer. Surely the influence of our hundreds of students from even "third-grade" Universities should produce a higher philosophy than that.

Another correspondent wants a University to be a place where a selected few come together, etc. Selected by whom—by themselves as being superior to the common herd? The philosophy of a hermit isn't much use to humanity, however humanitarian it may be. He doesn't do much good for humanity unless he can and does put it across. And this about gets us to Jesus Christ.

LAYMAN (Wellington).

#### HOLLYWOOD AND MARK TWAIN

Sir,—I have seen the film *The Adventures of Mark Twain* and agree generally with your review. But there is one point on which G.M. does injustice to Hollywood. That is his criticism of the importance given to the appearance of Halley's Comet at Mark Twain's birth and death. In some biographical notes which I read some 10 or 12 years ago an even greater importance was attributed to this coincidence. There the author claimed that Mark Twain was also spiritually influenced and firmly believed he would die on the comet's reappearance. This does not sound quite so fantastic after reading "Extract from Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven." I am sorry that I am unable to quote the reference, but whether correct or not the comet idea was not original Hollywood.

J. E. MANTNER (Wellington).

#### BUILDING A HOME

Sir,—Being in the position of hundreds of returned servicemen, who are finding it impossible to buy, or have built, homes of their own, at to-day's costs, I was very interested to read the article in a recent *Listener* on "Building Your Own Home in Sweden."

The average New Zealand chap of my own age is quite capable of using a saw, hammer, a level, and, if building a place for himself, willing to do plenty of hard work. But the average chap, like myself, is a bit hazy on how to go about building a house, and the usual regulations.

With the building situation the way it is at present, and the prospects for the future not so bright, it would be a great thing if someone in the position to do so, could give us some advice on the subject. "KIWI" (Mt. Eden).

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, JUNE 7.

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