

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(Continued from page 5)

NEW ZEALAND PRONUNCIATION

Sir,—May I protest, violently, against suggestions made by "Alpha" and J.H.R.L. that I "speak of the need" or "urge the development" of a standard New Zealand dictionary. What I said was, "so long as English dictionaries are used . . . that must remain the standard of pronunciation and should be adhered to . . . until a standard New Zealand dictionary is produced." Actually, I was insisting upon the need for adherence to the English pronunciation, and simply referred to the production of a New Zealand dictionary as a remote and improbable contingency which may be favoured by the shortsighted many who are unfortunately so antagonistic towards (what they call) "Oxford" pronunciation. Frankly I should regard such a publication as nothing short of a calamity. I think that even the most loyal adherents to New Zealand pronunciation would be shaken by such items as: suitable, sootable; really, reely; beautiful, beaudiful; clinic, clinuc.

My chief complaint is the cry I have voiced before. It is not fair to the children. It is unimportant if they never leave New Zealand, but the rising

generation will travel more as time goes on and unless they are exceptionally brilliant in some way they will find their speech a distressing and not easily cured handicap.

New Zealand intonation is unfortunate—pronunciation, inexcusable. Some concerted effort should be made to enable our children to take their places abroad in the future without being conspicuous for their dreadful "twang" (how very expressive that word is!). A first and powerful step could be carefully-chosen speakers for the NBS.

H. M. BRACKEN (Auckland).

ART BY THE YARD

Sir,—I enjoyed Howard Wadman's illuminating and provocative article on art and the new textile designs. In New Zealand we need someone who has studied the latest art trends to explain them to us; the events which have led to the renaissance of arts in Britain have largely passed us by and we are drifting to complaisance, reflected in our all-too-easy way of life and several times a year on the walls of the Academy. The more delicate, subtle appreciation of the arts in Britain has come through a desperate need for things of the mind while

the body was enduring great trial. We sent our young men and women overseas to join in that trial but the great number of us cannot match the experience.

JOYCE L. MARTIN (Kelburn).

WRESTLING BROADCASTS

Sir,—I am one of those who like to listen in to the broadcast of wrestling matches, when I can get one over the air. About the only way to get on to one is to start about 9.30 p.m. and tune in to all stations in turn, trusting to luck. I know you cannot get notice in time to put the dates in your paper, but is it too much to suggest that all YA stations at a given time each evening give over the air what stations will be broadcasting wrestling matches.

X (Auckland).

HENRY V.

Sir,—Recently some amazing things have been written, said, or hinted at, concerning the play, *Henry V.*: things ranging from the rank blasphemy that the poet wrote with his tongue in his cheek, to the less high-brow estimation that the king himself was just a moderately reformed pub-crawler. In my own opinion this monarch embodied the spirit of England, a spirit that he passed on. To quote a home writer

surveying the English scene: "The people were quick to recognise in Churchill the re-appearance of Henry V. before Agincourt. He had been there for some time, but until danger opened their eyes, they saw only a fat man making angry passes with a cigar . . . The deed accomplished, Harry Roi's star sank from view. It is of small moment England still lives."

It depends perhaps on what university you approve or belong to. Judging from the trend of recent events, if William Shakespeare were a present-day citizen of Christchurch, it would be unsafe to bet that the author of *Henry V.* would be invited to a seat on the Canterbury University College Council.

E. A. W. SMITH (Woolston)

Sir,—Why drag in Professor Sinclair? R. H. THOMPSON (Christchurch).

CONCERT REPORTING

Sir,—May I join with C. R. Spackman in protesting against the astonishing and quite new jargon, and even more staggering similes, used to describe the power and beauty of a concert by Lili Kraus. If I read similar blurb about the great and glorious Solomon, whom I have worshipped for many years, I shall be very angry and most certainly sick.

REVERENCE (Auckland).



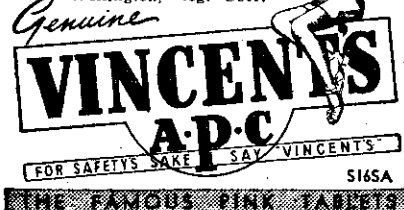
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