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LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

FOSTER-PARENTS

Sir,—Your article on "Foster-Parents Make Good Citizens," by A.M.R., was of deep interest to me. After reading it I looked up the last annual report of the Welfare Department and found there were fewer children boarded out, and more adopted. Probably those foster-parents who boarded a child or children, usually did it in the past to augment the family income, for young children could be kept fairly cheaply until the war years. Possibly the Department raised the boarding allowance after that period. We are all so ignorant about these dealings.

The family allowance of 10/- per week may explain in part the increase in adoptions, but those childless people with compassionate hearts would adopt them, financial circumstances permitting, even without the benefit of the Family Allowance, which is now universal.

Payment except in a case of necessity to my thinking takes away all right of being considered a mother; it really is only a business arrangement. (I am not referring to the Family Allowance).

We know so little of the lives and conditions of those children. They have no pressure groups like the Farmers' Union, Women's Division, or Waterside Workers to air their grievances, to plead for their rights, or register their state of contentment. Though the article gave the impression of "It is well with the child," one wonders if A.M.R. or yourself, Mr. Editor, would be at ease of mind were your own children so situated. I thought the article rather like a sundial, registering only the happy hours. Some foster-parents are more moved by the desire to add a little to their income than by the spirit of compassion.

HANNAH (Mosgiel).

"A SPLASH OF COLOUR"

Sir,—If there are going to be any changes in NZBS talks I hope something will be done about the cheap and nasty programme "A Splash of Colour" which 2YA is playing on Sunday afternoons. I would never have thought the NZBS would consider a circus march a suitable introduction to a programme about the great French sculptor Rodin, yet that was what we had in the latest one. The tone of it all was cheap, vulgar, and indefensible on any ground. Loose talk about "the world's great treasures of art" being "culled" from the canvases of "unaccountable men" of "unorthodox behaviour," when splashed about without qualification and read by an announcer as if there was something to sell, does no credit to a division of the Broadcasting Service from which we have a right to expect high standards of taste.

I would like to suggest that when the NZBS buys up job-lots of this kind (presumably from Australia, where commercial radio is infested with such mental depravity), care should be taken to play the records through before they are put on, and if the words "to-night we introduce" occur, then at least the stuff could be put on at night and not in the afternoon. I believe that there are plenty of people in New Zealand who could have produced a far better series of such programmes than these.

ONE LISTENER (Wellington).

"THE CORSICAN BROTHERS"

Sir,—I notice in your latest number a reference to a new serial by Alexandre Dumas—*The Corsican Brothers*. The

great Frenchman's name is too often made to cover matter he never penned, and errors concerning him are far too common. For one thing Dumas did not visit Corsica periodically; he made one excursion there, and one only. Your paragraph states that Mme. de Franchi sent one son to be brought up in Paris, and lost all trace of him, and because she thought he might be killed in the family vendetta. A glance at Dumas' romance will speedily show that Louis de Franchi went to Paris at the age of 21 because he wished to study law, and that so far from the de Franchi then having a vendetta on their hands, Lucien was busy trying to stamp out that custom among his neighbours, by acting in some sort as an umpire between them. It is most unfortunate that Dumas—one of the world's greatest story-tellers—is generally so distorted on the screen and over the air that one can only know what he wrote by reading his books. F. W. REED (Whangarei.)

(We depended for our information on material supplied by the producers of the serial, and are glad to have such an acknowledged expert as Mr. Reed put them right.—Ed.)

BETTER RADIO COVERAGE

Minister's Announcement

AN announcement about the steps being taken to provide first-grade radio reception in areas where it is now not at its best, and to establish subsidiary local coverage stations in cities and some of the larger towns, was made last week by the Minister of Broadcasting (the Hon. F. Jones). When tenders were let recently for replacing technical equipment at 1YA, 2YA, 3YA, and 4YA, the Government decided that, as manufacturers were in a position to supply small transmitting stations, contracts should be let for purchasing four 2 Kw. transmitters for North Auckland, Hamilton, Wanganui, and Timaru.

At the same time, Mr. Jones said, the power of Stations 1ZB, 2ZB, 3ZB, and 4ZB would be increased by ordering new 10 Kw. stations as replacements as soon as equipment from overseas was available. And at 2ZA (Palmerston North), and 2YN (Nelson) power would be 2 Kw. each to over-ride interference.

The NZBS, said the Minister, was now extending its coverage in the Bay of Plenty (Rotorua and Tauranga), and the West Coast of the South Island. The expansion plan included stations at such centres as Hastings and Masterton, and reorganisation of the present stations 2ZJ Gisborne and 2YB New Plymouth was also being considered.

Future plans for the NZBS network included small stations at Hawera, Taumarunui, Thames, Dannevirke, Blenheim, Ashburton, Oamaru, Gore, and Westport. In addition to the replacements and expansion mentioned, the Service was installing two short-wave transmitters at Titahi Bay to serve the Pacific area.

Tests, expected to take some weeks, are already being made with a mobile unit to find the best site for the proposed new transmitter for the West Coast of the South Island.



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