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M.S.

Whitford Owen Ltd., 104
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LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 7)

PRONUNCIATION OF MAORI NAMES

Sir,—The pronunciation of Maori words has improved, but there is still a good way to go. It always seems a sin to me that announcers are not given instruction in the pronunciation of the beautiful Maori names. It is really very simple. With very little instruction it would cease to be the barbed wire entanglement which some think. William's *Lessons in Maori* gives the following directions for sound:

"A as in father. E as in send. I as in feet. NG as in singing. O as in obey without the W sound usually connected with O in English. U as in boot. The WH is not as it is written a compound of W and H, but a simple consonant, the effect of breath emitted sharply between the lips. The consonants always stand singly and every syllable ends in a vowel. It may be set down as a general rule, to which there are some exceptions, that Maori words are always accented on the first syllable."

There are some further simple instructions for which there is not space, but the above gives the gist of it. One announcer gave us Aotea (wharf) with the vowels exactly the same as in English eh-o-t-eh. Well he was a trier at any rate, and better luck next time. All he wanted was a little tuition, and there are plenty of other announcers just as bad if they only knew it. Remuera is a pretty name almost always mispronounced Remmy-weera. Every syllable in Maori ends in a vowel, never on a consonant. Say it over a few times slowly, giving every syllable the right sound. Re-mu-e-ra and then increase to the natural pace, and there it is, quite easy. Most people pronounce Rimutaka fairly correctly. Few of them say Rimmyewtaka. Many words beginning with O seem to be a stumbling block. O-takau (Otago) is a useful example to follow. O-ma-tua (not Oma-tua). O-ra-kau (not Orrerkau). O-ne-pu (not One-pu), etc. One of the most unfortunate names is Motueka; as often as not called Mocheweeka. *Motu* means a clump of trees, or an island. The only meaning the dictionary gives for *eka* is acre; *eka* being the Maori adaption of the English word, and if the A in acre is sounded very short, it gives the Maori sound for E as nearly as possible. I am not suggesting the meanings the dictionary gives are applicable to the name Motueka. Well, the man who said eh-o-t-eh for Aotea, at least sounded as if it might be Maori. Mocheweeka might be Chocktaw, but never by any possibility Maori—WA-NGA-NUI, not Wangenui (Wellington).

"ONE WORLD"

Sir,—Norman Corwin was here on a worthy mission. The good intentions of his broadcast cannot be in doubt, even if one is tempted to criticise here and there his judgment or his logic.

I should like to point out only one of his fallacies because it is such a common one. He said: "We went to war to prove that Fascism was incontrovertibly wrong. . . . The arguing has been done, and the decision is in."

War proves only which side has available the greater amount of force. Surely Corwin would not suggest that might is right? This form of "argument" could only be defended by Fascists themselves.

Had we lost the war instead of winning it, would we have conceded that democracy was "incontrovertibly wrong?"

The danger lies in the assumption that violence can be used for moral ends. Already we are being familiarised with the suggestion that a Communist menace no less grim than the Nazi one must be fought. When shall we awake to the fact that war itself is the greatest of all our enemies?

R. GOODMAN

(Titirangi).

"GLORIANA'S" AUTHOR REPLIES

Sir,—Your viewsreel commentator, listening to an incident in one episode of "In the Reign of Gloriana," accuses me of over-colouring the period, and says among other things that Drake and Grenville are depicted as "regular visitors at Court." I would suggest that one episode does not make a serial and one visit to court does not make a courtier. As far as Drake is concerned, the incident used is authentic.

Drake did go to court on this occasion—it was, I think, his first meeting with Elizabeth—in order to discuss with her the aspects of a further voyage—the one which was to end in Drake's circumnavigation of the world. If your commentator had listened to other episodes in which Drake figures he would have found that the man is pictured as the antithesis of a courtier.

The reference to Grenville puzzles me because Grenville, although mentioned off-stage in episode 15, which at the time of writing had not been broadcast, does not appear in character at all.

Walsingham, Burleigh, Leicester, and Elizabeth, some of the main historical characters in the story certainly did know each other, and Drake certainly knew John Hawkins and Thomas Doughty.

The mean streets, the roving bands of cut-throats, the lack of sanitation, the ever-present threat of plague, the dislike of most Elizabethans for the niceties of personal cleanliness, their ignorances, superstitions, and prejudices are mentioned in various chapters as well as the bravado, the gusto, the sense of humour, and the awakened national conscience.

Drake did climb a tree in Panama, and he did sail round the world. Hawkins did scour the Guinea Coast for slaves which he sold at a profit in America. Mary of Scotland did land at Leigh, did escape from Lochleven. Elizabeth was finally persuaded to sign the death-warrant and she did storm and rave when the execution was carried out. The Armada did sail and was conquered. There could have been no lack of colour in these people and these happenings, so why deliberately make penny-plain what is already tuppence-coloured?

I can assure those who have so kindly taken the trouble to give "Gloriana" a fan-mail that every historical happening has been checked and cross-checked—as indeed it must be in a broadcast to schools.

Characterisation is as I saw the Elizabethans after reading all the books I could find about them, and it must be remembered that I was writing for children and had children in my mind all the time I was on the job.

Fair comment is legitimate, but I do not think that one incident in a 16 episode story can possibly give a true picture of the whole.

ISOBEL ANDREWS (Wellington).