

# LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

## ELECTIONS AND FOREIGN BAYONETS

Sir,—We have heard much recently about the Greek elections; how they had been conducted under British bayonets, and the general iniquity behind those bayonets. Anyone who is prone to listen to these allegations should stop and ask himself or herself just what the result of those elections would have been without those bayonets; or to carry the question a step further, what it would have been under Russian bayonets. One can compare those elections that have been held behind the "Iron Curtain," the results of which all seem suspiciously the same, with those that were held in Greece, where the presence of British troops enabled them to be conducted freely and openly under the scrutiny of an Allied commission which has reported favourably on the way in which they were conducted. There were no mysterious arrests of party leaders which seem to precede any election in the Russian-dominated areas, no intimidation of parties or voters, and none of the irregularities in the recording and counting of votes that were reported in the recent elections in Poland and Bulgaria. There

was none of this sort of monkeying with popular vote for the simple reason that those who would have gained from the use of such methods were prevented from doing so by the presence of the much-maligned British bayonet, which ensured that the elections were conducted as they should be without the employment of such "aids to power" as Left-Wing extremists in Eastern Europe seem to favour.

The history of British intervention in Greece since November 1944 has not been a happy one, least of all to the British forces concerned, but no reasonable person can deny that it was decided on and carried out with a straightforward purpose, to prevent the country from falling into the hands of a small but well-armed and highly organised Communist minority which hoped, in the existing state of confusion in the country, to seize power and hold it until they could place themselves, and Greece, under the "protection" of the advancing Russians. There is little doubt that they would have done this had it not been for timely intervention of British forces which arrived before things had gone too far. The heavy adverse vote against the Communists shows just how much

national support they really had, and explains why they were so anxious to seize power for themselves before such a calamity as a free election should fall upon their hopes.

"OBSERVER" (Palmerston North).  
(Abridged.—Ed.)

Sir,—Your correspondent "Liberal" seems to take pleasure in adding to the numberless lies that have been printed about Russia during the last 26 years. "Liberal" says that the Russians don't understand a free election because they never hold them. That statement is as far from the truth as the earth is from the sun. "Liberal" should make a study of the 146 articles of their constitution. Here are three—Article 109: "The people's courts shall be elected for a term of three years by the citizens of the district by secret vote on the bases of universal, direct and equal suffrage." Article 136: "The elections of deputies shall be equal. Every citizen shall have one vote. All citizens shall take part in the elections on an equal basis." Article 137: "Women shall have the right to elect and to be elected on equal terms with men." I have a friend living in Russia. According to him and the Moscow News, which I receive regularly, they have free elections and a secret ballot system equal to any country in the

world; there are 101,717,686 on their electoral roll, and 100,621,225 voted for the Government. That alone is sufficient proof of their appreciation of their election laws.

B. HONEST (Richmond).

## MUSIC FOR MOTHERS

Sir,—It was with heartfelt sympathy that I read your short story "The Miser" (Listener, November 8), and I would beg that the programme organisers and others should "read, mark, and inwardly digest." How many tired, nervy and harassed mothers of the present day does the mother in this story represent? Thousands, to say the least of it. In the midst of her hard work and jangling nerves, caused through the many troubles and trials of these strenuous and servantless days and also through lively and boisterous children, to be able to relax and be soothed and refreshed by listening to the heavenly choirs and similar music, what bliss would be hers! What, think you, would have been the reaction on herself, and therefore on the rest of her family, had this mother tuned in to jazz, jitterbugging, crooning, or, almost worse still, the "Symphony on a Steam Engine" by one of these noisy, clever composers? A nervous breakdown at least, perhaps suicide.

E. G. WADE (Christchurch).



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