

NOVEMBER 14, 1947

EDITORIAL AND BUSINESS OFFICES:  
115 Lambton Quay, Wellington, C.I.  
Box 1707, G.P.O.  
Telephone 46-520.  
Telegraphic Address: "Listener," Wellington.

## Local Body Elections

ON Page 14 of this issue readers will find a list of local bodies in alphabetical order with the stations that will broadcast their election results. Harbour Board and Hospital Board results will not be broadcast, but with those two exceptions all the local bodies elected on Wednesday will be announced on the most easily heard station. This will not always be the nearest station geographically: Opatiki, for example, will be heard from Auckland and not from Napier; Havelock from Wellington and not from Nelson; Murchison from Nelson and not from Greymouth. There will be times when all stations will be linked for progress results, times when arrangements may be interrupted to broadcast results of national importance. None of this will give difficulty to any listener who takes the trouble to study the arrangements outlined in this issue, but it is difficult to help a man who will not help himself. There are listeners who do not buy this journal; others who have no receiving sets. But even for those assistance is available if they bestir themselves. They have friends and neighbours; some of them know where broadcasts can be heard in public buildings; they will be very unlucky indeed if they have to wait till Thursday before they know anything at all. That, however, will happen to some people whether they have receiving sets or not, but steps have been taken to cater for those. There will be a Dominion Summary to wake them up on Thursday morning, two more while they are having their breakfast. All they have to do is listen—listen to the right station at the right time. The poll clerks and announcers will do the rest.

# LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

## DETECTIVE NOVELS

Sir,—The comments evoked by your inquiries on the detective novel show that criticism in this country is still unsophisticated enough to be intelligent as well as honest.

Ostensible reasons are, however, seldom the real ones; and in the apology for detective fiction the rationalising process is amusingly evident, masking the libido very effectively, and disguising dubious motives with a tinsel aura of "intellectuality."

The statement that university professors and clergymen—notoriously pacifist people—are the most avid readers of thrillers is significant. Jung, for instance, regards the popular appeal of crime fiction as pathological. Suttie, less severe, classes detective novels with the histrionic art, and considers interest in them symptomatic of arrested development.

It's a matter of taste, of course. Detective fans, habituated to the cool serenities and high places of the whodunits, will view Messrs. Jung and Suttie with a jaundiced eye. Debunking self-deception is a hopeless task.

RUSTIC (Waipukurau).

## NATIONAL ORCHESTRA PROGRAMMES

Sir,—In support of A. C. Mudford's letter on orchestra programmes, allow me to voice my appreciation of the suggestions he has offered. The majority of radio listeners have not had the opportunity to study musical appreciation, which is decidedly necessary to understand and enjoy the major works of the great composers. Admittedly, the weekly session conducted by Miss Bessie Pollard from 2YC is an answer for those listeners willing and able to receive this station. For the public who are unable, or do not listen to these sessions, I am sure a more popular choice of programme as suggested by your correspondent would be both acceptable and enjoyed. During conversation with a neighbour on this topic, he remarked that the "pieces were too long and too highbrow." He could not continue listening and be satisfactorily entertained.

No doubt, it is the desire of the Orchestra to hold the interest of those in whom an interest has been awakened. It cannot achieve this if the music presented is above the heads of its audience.

JOHN STEWART (Ashburton).

## "KIT CARMICHAEL"

Sir,—It is perhaps not worth replying to a critic so innocent as to put forward an extract from a publisher's blurb as evidence. However, when "Q.M." says "a good deal of misunderstanding would be avoided if people would make certain they have not misread before they criticise," I may reply that it is also important that critics of critics should use words correctly. "Q.M." says I have made "a slight slip" in my review. A slip is something that can be tested by fact, not an opinion. If I were to say that Tennyson wrote "The Scholar-Gipsy," I should make a slip, but not if I said that Tennyson was a third-rate poet (which I would not). A critic is less concerned with an author's intentions about a character than with the effect which the character produces on him. I have no doubt

that Galsworthy thought a lot of his Irene, but I have seen Irene described as one of the most objectionable women in fiction. I am willing to concede Miss Scanlan's Mrs. Annabel a certain amount of superficial charm, but, as I see her, and others may see her differently, she is a selfish and vulgar-minded woman, whom in real life I should avoid.

A.M. (Wellington).

## A CALF POOL

Sir,—R. A. Anderson comments on my proposal to establish a heifer calf pool from which to improve, not as your correspondent suggests increase, our dairy herds. Your writer seems to be under the impression that the scheme originated with the present "Aid to Britain" campaign. As you are aware, sir, the proposal was submitted to the then Government many years ago, and was solely in the interests of our own national economy. I am of the opinion that if the plan had been then given effect to we would to-day be in a much better position to help Britain with her present food problem. At that time we were not only on a competitive market, but were also in the throes of a worldwide depression. When world conditions again become normal we will once more be on a competitive market and will have to counter the inevitable drop in the price of our dairy produce by reducing the cost of production. This can be done without reducing wages or other expenses connected with our industry, by simply increasing the production per cow. At present we are milking too many with production below the average. These should be "scrapped" and replaced with heifers from high production stock. Hundreds of potential high producers are sacrificed every season for a "mess of pottage"—about 40 lbs of "bobby calf" meat each.

Your correspondent states that the solution is the better feeding of existing herds to make them produce to capacity. I quite agree that cows should be fed all the year round to capacity, but unfortunately we have too many with a maximum capacity for consumption and a minimum capacity for production.

J. ARMSTRONG (Opatiki).

## LIFE IN AMERICA

Sir,—Harry Walker should have waited for Beatrice Ashton's concluding article before he made his criticism. If he had read her views on racial prejudices in America, it should have been quite clear to him whether she is socialistically minded or not. As for her portrayal of the better side of American life, surely it is possible to find good points in arguments even though the arguments as a whole are contrary to one's own ideas?

EVA ROSENBAUM  
(Wanganui).

## MEN OF GOD

Sir,—I agree with your correspondents "Ergo-naught" and K. O. Bathurst. I enjoy this series and congratulate the producers. As for your correspondent "Argosy," the characters he wishes to dismiss as fictitious, viz., Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah and John the Baptist, are found in Josephus, who

wrote his "Antiquities of the Jews" about the year 93 A.D.

"BIBLE STUDENT"  
(Christchurch).

## YNCYCA

Sir,—In reply to E.M.H., of Havelock, The late E. Tosswill of Yncyca Bay, told me that either an uncle or brother of his was the first settler to live in the Bay and that his wife was of Indian blood—American, I presume. This lady named the Bay Yncyca, which means "My Home" in her language.

The Maori name of the Bay, Pi-raunga-ehe—I have broken it up to aid pronunciation—is of interest; it refers to dry rattling leaves and according to my Maori informant commemorates an historical event, when a party of his tribe were saved from a surprise attack by an enemy by hearing the latter disturb some dry leaves placed around their "Kaiainga" for this purpose.

He said that the dry leaves of the nikau palm were used for this purpose, and also those of the kiekie vine, the leaves of both those plants making a good rattle.

W. J. ELVY  
(Blenheim).

## "PRIVATE LANGUAGE"

Sir,—Your reviewer of Raphael's *The Moral Sense* complains of the private language of philosophy and science. I regard that "private language" as a safeguard; it is only when he becomes lucid that a philosopher can have a vitiating influence.

Would the reviewer be willing to sacrifice all the obscure philosophers to Emerson, Joad, Bernard Shaw, Bertrand Russell, or Carlyle?

Personally I am all for keeping scientists, mathematicians, and philosophers obscure, and regret that psychologists, in spite of their "private language," have not the saving grace of being incomprehensible. IGNORANT (Dunedin).

Sir,—I cannot recall having read a more satisfactory book review than David Hall's notice of *The Moral Sense* by Dr. Daiches Raphael. From two columns of print we may discover—if my interpretation of his obscure and rhetorical style is correct—that:

(1) The book is "brilliant," "straightforward and workmanlike."

(2) Its theme is a critical discussion of ethical theory.

(3) Philosophers should use few technical terms, since they must remain intelligible to those untrained in philosophy.

(4) More space should have been given to the problem of the conflict of obligations.

Some three-quarters of the article is taken up discussing the reviewer's own rather shallow opinions, so that of the detailed contents of the book, its method of treatment and of the class of readers for whom it is intended, we are told practically nothing. In doing this Mr. Hall appears to be imitating the regrettable numerous journalists who regard a book review as an opportunity to display their own erudition and to employ that curious but not unattractive style used for this purpose.

As for his opinions, I can only hope that in an age when the need for clear thinking is paramount, his views on the use of mathematical symbolism and technical terms will not find many supporters. R. O. DAVIES (Oamaru).

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT  
Inquisitive (Auckland): (1) The programme is made in England. (2) It may be either, but the film-star rhymes with "Harry."