

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

CLASSICAL REQUEST SESSION

Sir,—Your correspondent "J.B.W." (Lower Hutt) has made an excellent suggestion in asking for a "Classical Request Session" for the Wellington district; but, if it ever should be inaugurated let us call it a "Musical Request Session" or something of the sort, since it is fairly safe to assume that such a session would embrace compositions ranging from pre-Bach to Schoenberg and Shostakovich, works well outside the sphere of classical music. The extremely loose use of the term "classical," by the NZBS has often caused confusion in my own home, and doubtless in many others. How is one expected to assist a child with musical studies, explaining the different periods of composition, "classical," "romantic," etc., when the strongest cultural influence in New Zealand includes Ravel and Debussy in "Classical" Hours? Let us call things by their proper names if only for the guidance of the growing generation.

"VEE" (Lower Hutt).

(The trouble is that "classical" is used in more than one sense, not only in music, but in other arts. "It is frequently used," says Percy Sholes in the *Oxford Companion to Music*, "as a label to distinguish what is obviously of more or less established and permanent value from what is ephemeral. This is the sense in which it is perhaps most often used in connection with literature and the other arts, and from that point of view the most desirable sense." The *Oxford Dictionary* quotes a writer as saying that "classic" is used in two senses: "In the one it means having permanent interest and value. In the second, good music written in a particular style, aiming at the embodiment of a certain ideal, the chief element of which is plenty of form."—Ed.)

FALLING BODIES

Sir,—My wife has been taking an interest in the children's lessons, and has become completely bewildered. It appears that Amabel Williams Ellis told them that Galileo had discovered that it was not true that heavier things fell more quickly than light ones. Today (February 27), Mr. Barker said that he experimented with a sow-thistle fruit and a dandelion fruit to discover which had the best parachute, and that though one of them was quicker, the weight of the fruit might have made a difference. My wife, though relieved of her responsibilities to some extent by school starting, would still like to know who was right.

G. S. TOMBS (Whakarongo).

(The Broadcasts to Schools Department supplies the following: "Galileo did discover that the accepted theory of his time that heavy objects fell more quickly than light ones was incorrect, but as he says in the dramatized broadcast to the professor who doubts the demonstration of the two falling weights, he'd agree about a feather not falling as fast as a stone, because the air bears the feather up. The dandelion and the sow thistle fruits both have parachutes, specially designed to buoy up the fruit in the air and carry it away from the parent plant so that distribution can be as wide as possible. With such comparatively light objects as seeds and their parachutes the resistance of the air would alter the rate of fall considerably. However, if a piece of metal and a seed with a parachute were dropped in a perfect vacuum both objects would fall at the same rate."—Ed.)

TOWN AND COUNTRY VIEWPOINTS.

Sir,—Mutual understanding, like charity, should begin at home. Looking back over the past year of radio broadcasts in New Zealand, the name of Norman Corwin stands out like a memorial landmark. Corwin's topic of One World

brought home to each one of us the necessity of knowing the other chap in far-off corners of the globe, who, like us, had similar hopes, trials, and thoughts of a better future. In theory, the idea of One World sounds good. But alas, in actual practice, we need not go out of the country in order to know about the "other fellow's way of life." At the present time there appears to be a distinct gulf between the town and country here. The average "townie," be he a slave to the 8.0 a.m. whistle or a "city slicker," knows comparatively little about the country way of life, the "cockie's" trials and tribulations, his importance in our national economy. To the city dweller, the farmer is a perpetual grizzler who wants rain when it is fine weather, and when the rain does turn up, wants sunshine. Likewise, the farmer doesn't know of the city except the biased viewpoint expressed in headlines concerning persistent industrial friction. "Sundowner's" articles in *The Listener* are about the best educator the town can find on the country way of life.

A. E. E. IVORY (Christchurch).

MUSIC BY NUMBERS.

Sir,—The concert announcer in Auckland tells us that Isobel Baillie and the National Orchestra will "present the next number." Personally, I prefer to think that Isobel Baillie will sing her next song; and in her singing of songs rather than her presentation of numbers I will continue to rejoice.

M. F. GREENWOOD (Hastings).

WELL CHOSEN.

Sir,—On Sunday, March 7, I had the rare privilege of listening to a well-chosen, and sympathetically arranged programme from Station 3YA. I really appreciated the apparent thought and consideration with which the person concerned arranged it. The Sunday morning session from 3YA is generally very good. (I refer to the hour from 9.30 on) and this morning it was exceptionally so. Thoughtless arrangements so frequently spoil otherwise excellent programmes that the exceptions call for grateful acknowledgment.

B.H. (Christchurch).

SPORTS BROADCASTS

Sir,—May I express the desire of a sports enthusiast? Sport is a maker of nations and a foundation of all athletics. Clean sport is unsurpassed and those of us who follow sport do like to tune into the radio at the appointed time and hear results or the commentary on our favourite sport or sports team. For those of us who are unable to visit sport fixtures in the cities the radio is our only salvation. Reading the paper after the match is not the same as hearing a description of parts of the match. I think there should be more sports broadcast. I do not like to hear classical music on the radio, such as stuff by Beethoven, and would far rather hear "The Overlander Trail" or some such song, but then I do not complain whenever I hear classical music, as I realise the radio has a vast audience to please, so why can't others be the same? Every time I pick up *The Listener* I read that someone is complaining about there being too many sports announcements. They are thinking only of themselves. GIVE US VARIETY (Whangarei).

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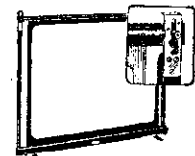
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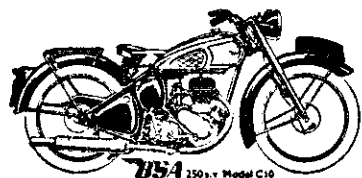
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