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LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

COLIN McCACHON'S PICTURES

Sir,—I read the article on the paintings of Colin McCachon with interest, because I have been well acquainted with the artist and his pictures for some years. "J.C.B." must be an authority of deep and profound knowledge of art, for many of the merits which he finds in these paintings are beyond my humble understanding. I admit freely that they are "experimental" and "strong"—if that is a necessary implication of merit. But would "J.C.B." explain first—what "influences" have been permeated with McCachon," second—what evidence of an "individual mind" is to be seen in paintings that remind me strongly of the work of several modern artists familiar for years in reproductions and books, and third—why the "architecture" of a picture should be the better for the rafters showing through its surface. But I am even more interested in the inference contained in "too numerous annual shows." Would "J.C.B." desire to extinguish some of the art societies to reduce the number of exhibitions? They can scarcely have less than one annual show a year. The prevalence of such written comment has become increasingly disturbing. It cannot be ignored always.

"ARTIST" (Dunedin).

(Abridged.—Ed.)

SADDEST AND GLADDEST

Sir,—The Passion of Our Lord, remembered during Holy Week, means His sufferings, which reached their climax when He yielded His life on the Cross on Good Friday. It is the saddest time in the Christian Year. Easter brings glad tidings of the Resurrection. "Christ is risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept." Easter is the most joyous Festival, the anti-thesis of Good Friday. The listed programmes for Good Friday in this week's *Listener* are full of anomalies. A church in Dunedin is actually advertised as intending to hold an Easter Service—apparently in anticipation, but why hold it on Good Friday of all days? Presumably, you, sir, are not responsible for the listed programmes but, though year by year the daily Press fails to appreciate the distinction between Fast and Feast, the article in *The Listener* entitled "Easter Programmes" is inexcusable.

J.H. (Timaru).

MAJOR F. H. LAMPEN.

Sir,—I have just listened to the last broadcast talk by Major F. H. Lampen from 2YA, and very much regret that this was the final one. These talks have been most interesting and often humorous, and I am sure there are many other listeners who would like to join with me in saying "thank you" to the Major.

LISTENER (North Auckland).

NEW ZEALAND COMPLACENCY.

Sir,—On a recent Friday night I listened at first with interest but later with a great deal of consternation to the session "Let's Have it Out!" The debate began with Mrs. McPhail's fluent, coherent and altogether delightfully expressed opinions of New Zealand and New Zealanders. All too seldom do we

have the opportunity in this country of hearing speakers who have the ability to express themselves with ease; and of hearing pleasant voices, almost never. Mrs. McPhail had both these things and her observations to my mind stamped her as an intelligent person and a competent observer. I found nothing in her criticisms to disagree with. I was pleased to hear that she found New Zealand people so pleasant and friendly, for they can be that.

But I do agree that we are self-satisfied and complacent to a degree that we put up with poorly-made articles and that our clothes are without style. I have spent enough years away from New Zealand to know this to be true. Two New Zealand women replied to Mrs. McPhail's interesting and helpful talk and here my consternation began. The speakers, one in particular, were fairly representative of New Zealanders. Their halting incoherence and inability to express themselves made a most unfortunate contrast, and, while denying that New Zealanders were complacent, gave a most positive exhibition of complacency. Many times the old excuse that New Zealand is a young country, just 100 years old, is offered as a reason for the poor quality of New Zealand-made goods. The truth is that the vast majority of New Zealand goods are inferior in either quality or finish and we offer no complaint. If we did, either the quality would have to improve or we should be able to purchase good quality from other countries.

Those articles made in New Zealand which are up to standard, woollens, for instance, are fantastically high in price and are not, as most New Zealanders think, much better in quality than woollen goods in other countries. Those who have bought woollen goods overseas will agree with this. I would like to point out, too, the number of times Mrs. McPhail was misquoted. It happened altogether too often and when Mrs. McPhail attempted to correct her critics, she was not given a ghost of a chance.

C.S.E. (Dunedin).

SPOKEN PARTS WITH MUSIC

Sir,—I would like to support "L.B.B.'s" (Christchurch) letter in *The Listener* of March 5. The constant adjustment to the volume control during serials is most annoying, and to my mind quite unnecessary. If music and voice can be of the same volume in the movie theatre, why not on the air?

W.B.R. (Wellington).

POINTS FROM LETTERS

J. RICHARDS (Karangahake) writes appreciatively of the programme provided by the "Musical Friends," but criticises the competing.

"LITTLE BEN" (Kaitia) suggests that as a means of helping Britain, the period of silent prayer every evening be reintroduced and the chiming of Big Ben.

"DUNEDIN KIWI" writes in appreciation of the programmes from Station 4YA.

"MIRTH" (Auckland) supports P. H. Dawson's letter asking for more mirth in programmes, and asks for the greater use of old humorous records.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THE photograph of Mascot Blake which appeared in *The Listener* of March 19 (page 24) and that of Gerhard and Dora Willner (March 25, page 21) were taken by Spencer Digby, of Wellington.