

insufficient music. This is a popular session, in that it will be popular with those who like hearing the "high spots" of the operas without bothering about continuity, but I cannot see the point of yet another session of operatic excerpts.

Free But Not Easy

AS yet, I have heard only a couple of the 42B Citizens' Forum sessions, and also the first of the 4YA discussion panels, *Let's Have it Out*, the latter having as its subject "Realism or Reticence in Novels, Films, and Plays." Coming so close to each other as they



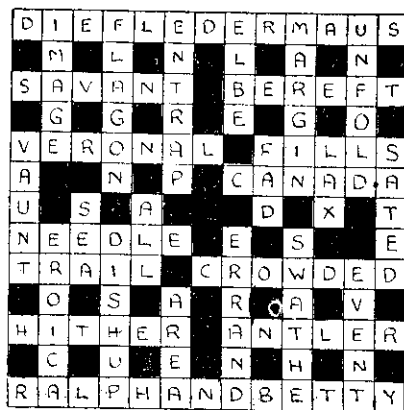
did, it was impossible to avoid comparison of these two similar types of programme. Both are based on the very sound idea of free discussion, but results seem to be proving quite different in the two cases. *Citizens' Forum* should have been a more free-and-easy affair than the more intellectual YA discussion, but it was disappointing, in that, with one or two notable exceptions, most of the speakers sounded far from easy. As far as the listener was concerned, it seemed that most of the citizens had come along to the meeting ready-prepared with material which they delivered in the form of short set speeches. This kind of free discussion can be heard from the precincts of Parliament to better advantage, and the citizens who present us with their opinions in these sessions would be doing something to improve the broadcasts if they spoke up naturally, and did not give the unfortunate impression that they were taking part in the question-time of an election campaign address.

Argument Without Anger

IN contrast with *Citizens' Forum*, it might be argued that *Let's Have it Out* began on perhaps too highbrow a plane. I doubt if anyone who appreciated the first-named programme would concentrate with more than half an ear on the second, although the latter was a much more entertaining and stimulating session. Here there was no halting lack of conviction in putting forward ideas; although the speakers had obviously given prior thought to the subject, they gave free rein to their imaginations and the result was as natural as spontaneous conversation. The listener, as at so many *Brains Trust* programmes, had the sensation of eavesdropping on a private fireside chat between people of more than average intelligence, and the suggested ideas must have borne fruit even in the most comatose mind. This kind of discussion, with carefully-selected people taking part, is far removed from the ordinary acrimonious argument which so often crops up when average people get together in groups. It would do most of us a great deal of good to eavesdrop a little further, with the idea of discovering how to argue without

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

(Solution to No. 389)



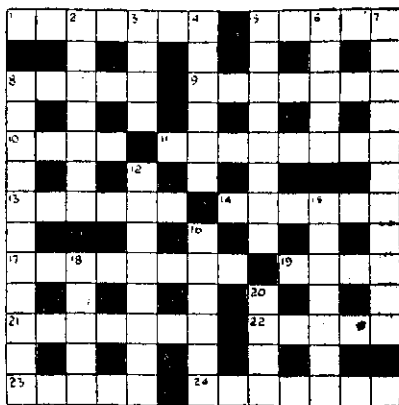
Clues Across

1. Its victims need an 18 down 8 down.
5. In the middle of 1 across is a vessel much in the news lately.
8. Number of sightless rodents pursued by the farmer's wife.
9. Leander, though upset, may be erudite.
10. Name of two brothers famous in English architecture.
11. Form of parasite frequently dropped.
13. Would this be the cause of the first part between the toes?
14. Underground caller?
17. Useful in the last part of 2 down.
19. Township in Stewart Island.
21. If you arrived at the station to find the train had gone, you might exclaim, "Why was this?"
22. Merits.
23. Prod with elbow.
24. View Halloo.

Clues Down

2. Plague.
3. Found in a nice dog.
4. Listen in confusion.
6. Pharlap, I see, has lost one round of the course.
6. An aim may become an obsession.
7. Distractions (2 words).
8. I run fast, son (anag.).
12. Tear.
15. The second of the certain inalienable rights mentioned in the Declaration of Independence.
16. Although.
18. See 1 across.
20. Fervour.

No. 390 (Constructed by R.W.C.)



getting angry, without losing the thread of the discussion, and with open mind for the reception of the other man's viewpoint. Now that the radio is open to discussion, programmes like *Citizens' Forum* and *Let's Have it Out*, as well as the future sessions promised by the presence in our midst of Donald McCullough, are playing a big part in educating us all to be more reasonable in the evaluation of new ideas and in the methods by which we hope to convert other people to our own.

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