

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

COMMENTATORS' NAMES.

Sir,—Why are the names of the commentators omitted from the arranged programmes? I feel that it is an injustice to these grand people who bring so realistically to our firesides the Rugby field or the race track and various sporting fixtures. Some of them give such a wonderful description of a Rugby match that with such grand chaps television will never be missed here. They are the most important people in the show to the listener and deserve recognition.

WHY NOT (Moerewa).

STATE AID FOR AUTHORS

Sir,—Although I thoroughly enjoyed the discussion on the subject "Should the State Patronise Literature?" I was disappointed that so few practicable schemes were suggested. Mr. Lee was the only speaker who outlined a definite policy (a) That, because people were borrowing books from public libraries and buying fewer of them, the writers of the books most constantly in use, should be granted some payment by the State; (b) That the NZBS give organised publicity to New Zealand literature.

I would like to see the State allotting annual prizes for the best novel, story, play and poem respectively—and no

footling £50 prizes either—I mean large sums of money. In addition, I suggest that the State publish and publicise the winning compositions. I believe that a writer must prove his worth before he receives assistance, but I also think that the State should provide the opportunity.

"DIDO" (Taranaki).

DANCE MUSIC.

Sir,—May I add a few words in emphatic approval of "Disc" and his views on the gradual elimination by NZBS of the more advanced type of recorded dance music. From memory, this quiet but obvious purge began with the evening programmes from 6.0 p.m. onwards at 2YC. I recall that 18 months ago it was a distinct pleasure to look forward to 30 minutes of recent releases, "Songs for Sale," until 6.45, and then more of the modern idiom until at least 7.30. This has now been cut at least 50 per cent. As 2YA and 2YC form the medium for the bulk of my listening, I am more directly interested in their programmes. Now, however, I find myself chasing around the dial late at night in an effort to locate that very elusive programme of that seemingly maximum period of 15 minutes of good jazz with the King Cole Trio, Bebop with Gillespie, and the Blues with Holliday.

I seriously suggest that 2YC relieve the tension of the air from 9.0 p.m. Saturdays (caused by a spate of newscasts, analyses, and never-ending sports results) by replacing the latter half of the Symphonic Hour with a well-balanced feature of good dance music until 10.30, when the National stations are unfettered again. Such programmes should also be placed in the hands of sympathetic announcers.

PROCTOR V. (Palmerston North).

HYMNS IN BROADCAST SERVICES

Sir,—I write not only in support of E. Lacey (Petone), but also to enlarge the idea. For some time I have been unable to attend church services and have had to depend on the hymnology of each service. This has meant that because the churches could not agree upon a hymn book which could be used by all in common I have not been able to join at home in the singing. I have been thinking how the difficulty could be overcome, and have come to the conclusion that it could be overcome only by the printing, in Old and New Notations and in words, of 20 or 30 of the best-known hymns of each denomination. This would mean that each broadcasting body would require to choose its own hymns. But many of the hymns chosen would be duplicated, thus reducing the dimensions of the book. Many of the worshippers in the homes would

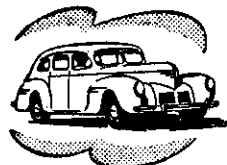
be glad to purchase the book so that they might be able easily to find the number of the hymn, instead of, as at present, becoming disgruntled in the attempt to look over several indexes and finding eventually their efforts unsuccessful.

JOHN B. HOPKIRK
(Wellington).

Sir,—During the past four months I have listened to most of the church music broadcast by the YA stations and the standard of much of this music has been disgraceful. There are few people foolish enough to deny that music is a necessary part of church worship, but few who demand that it be of the highest possible standard. The majority favour mediocrity. Like "Picton Listener," in a recent issue, they put forward the view that it's the service and not the manner of presentation that matters, and that a church service is not a concert.

One might as well say that it was the ideas that Christ had in His mind that mattered, and that the skill and efficiency with which He imparted His wisdom to us did not count. Nobody has suggested that church services should be concerts, but surely the standard of the music should be at least as high, if not higher, than that we expect from the concert platform or in our more serious radio entertainment.

R. I. PHILPOT (Dunedin).



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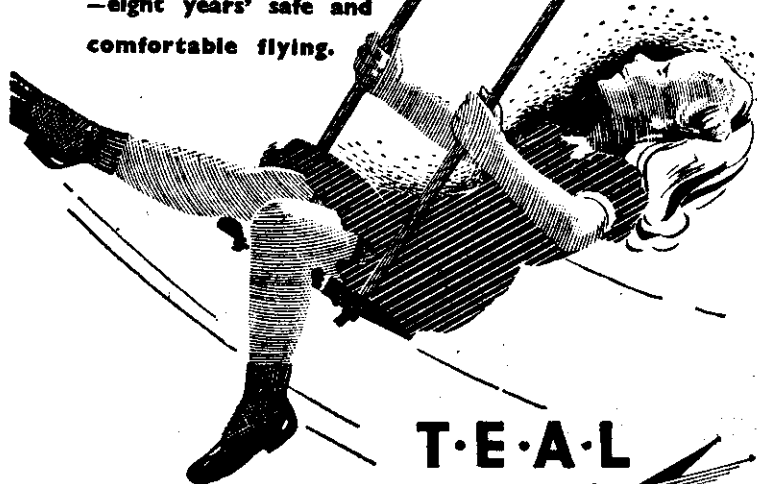
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