

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

PARLIAMENTARY ENGLISH

Sir,—I was interested to notice in Mr. Carr's article on Parliamentary English that he lists "controversy" with a set of words to be pronounced with the accent on the first syllable. I think I remember Professor Arnold Wall, in an article, giving the accent to the second syllable in this word, i.e., *controversy*. It rather surprised me, and I have been vainly trying to accustom myself to this way of pronouncing it.

All languages change with time. Am I right in inferring that there is a tendency just now to put the accent on to the second syllable in English words in order to come into line with the foreigners' habit of always pronouncing an English word with the accent on the second syllable? This would seem to be a very justifiable international trend.

The Maori *g* has also come up for discussion. Is it correct that every *g* in Maori should be pronounced soft, as in stringy, not hard, as in stingaree? Nearly everyone in New Zealand says Wanganui as though saying "organ." Should it not be pronounced with the soft *g* as in rangi, which I think everyone pronounces correctly (as in "stringy"). I am told that to be quite correct Wanganui should be spelt Whanganui and pronounced almost as with an initial *F*.

"MARCUS AURELIUS" (Epsom).

(The Maori "g" is part guttural and is best represented by the letters "ng." Whanganui is correct, with the "wh" pronounced as in "where."—Ed.)

MAORI PLACE NAMES

Sir,—With regard to the note by R.S.D. on *Maori Place Names in Buller County*, there is no doubt that the author's Maori friend was right in insisting that "Kawatere" is the correct rendering of the name of the Buller river. "Kawatere" is one of the names of the New Zealand parrakeet, a beautiful little green-coloured native bird, common enough in our forests 50 years ago. The other name, by which it was known in the North Island is "Kakariki." There is no word "Kawatiri" in the Maori language.

W. T. MORPETH (New Plymouth).

Sir,—Apparently R.S.D., whose review of G. G. M. Mitchell's "Maori Place Names in Buller County" appears in your issue of November 12, thinks that Buller County is in Westland. For his information, Buller County was in Nelson before there was a Westland, and has been there ever since.

J. F. D. PATTERSON

(Gisborne).

NEW ZEALAND POETS

Sir,—There has been much talk of New Zealand poetry, but little to show for it. Now J.B., with "Weather Notes on Auckland," has shown that at last we have a genuine poet with real feeling, capable of expressing the moods of his country. I should like to hear more of J.B., under his or her own name instead of those too-modest initials.

NOREEN GILES (Rawene).

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