

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

Sir,—I would like someone to explain why we need a National Orchestra composed of groups drawn from our four main centres of population to perform orchestral masterpieces when the Wellington group alone is able to perform adequately such works as Symphony No. 4 in E Minor, Op. 98, by Brahms, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 8.

The Wellington group has not, to my knowledge, performed Beethoven's Ninth, but this should not be beyond its capabilities. The members of the group may not be eminent as vocalists, but they have voices and therefore should be able to manage both the vocal and the instrumental parts.

Liszt was not renowned for performances upon the viola, for example, or the clarinet, or the drum; but he read and played at sight a now famous concerto and if Liszt could do this, then the Wellington group, which, numerically at least, is more than equal to a solitary Liszt, should be able to cope with the Ninth.

JOSEPH C. McEVOY (Tomahawk).

THE DOLL

Sir,—Just a few words in appreciation of the short story "The Doll," which appeared in the Christmas number of *The Listener*. To those with ears to hear, this story had much of a salutary nature to say, for who amongst us hasn't Miss Brownish tendencies? As with many good stories, the last few lines spoke volumes, and among crowding thoughts one seemed to glimpse a picture of a happy group around the Friend of little children where, receiving a specially understanding look and word, was none other than that unpopular pair, Fanny and Tiki.

J.B. (Nelson).

CORNWALL

Sir,—I write to express appreciation of Kenneth Schollar's broadcast "The Delectable Duchy," from 3YA on the evening of December 29. One hears of Scotland, and of Yorkshire, Lancashire and other counties, with their "typical" characters; but little is heard of Cornwall, with its far more distinctive people and their un-Teutonic racial characteristics, and of the wild, sweet music of its place-names — Lostwithiel, Lamorna, Kynance Cove, Tol-Pedn-Penwith, etc.—or of Devonshire, Dorset or Somerset.

Mr. Schollar's broadcast must have given pleasure to many a Cornish heart, for in the heart of every Celt lives that sense of origins as old as time, yet timeless—ageless.

My own parents came from the Land's End district, and to hear it gave me keenest pleasure.

(Miss) R. R. MADDREN
(Cashmere Hills).

FIELD OR PADDOCK?

Sir,—Could a qualified reader explain why our forefathers chose from a multitude of English synonyms words that are harsh and (to me) ugly? Personally I would prefer the smoothness of *field* or *meadow* to the staccato bark *paddock*. If I used them, however, I would appear effeminate. And why, instead of *brooks* and *streams*, must we bark *creek*? There is beauty not merely of poetic associa-

tion in the first two, and the ugly *k* in the last.

Nor may I go for a picnic in the woods lest I appear to believe in fairies. I must accept the abomination *bush*. We have discarded *copse* and *spinney* for the lumpy *clump* of trees. We take a billy can, and we see far off the sails of a scow. The farmer makes a *stack* or a *rick*, but he does not *harvest* much. He gathers up the rakings and there is never any *gleaning*. We reserve for Kashmir the beauty of *vale*, or replace the poetry in *valley* to hiccough *gully*. And so on. But why do we retain them?

E.H.A. (Te Aroha).

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