

FEBRUARY 11, 1949

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**"We" and "They"**

IN its comment on the findings of the Lynskey Tribunal, which made such a sensation recently in the United Kingdom, the *Economist* pointed out that interest in the proceedings was not due entirely to the vulgar greed for scandal but to the standing conflict between "we" (the people) and "they" (the machinery of government) and "our" inordinate satisfaction when one of 'them' was proved to be fallible." It was not a malicious remark, or even unkind, but it was a smack in the face for all of us. Though the Tribunal found a Minister guilty of accepting indirect bribes, and a director of the Bank of England guilty of some inclination to accept them, it established nothing worse than that, and entirely exonerated the members of the Civil Service. If any of that was sensational the reason was that it is sensational when corruption gets close enough to the British Government or the Bank of England to arouse even passing suspicions. It was the miserable satisfaction we all have when administrators stumble that filled the newspapers and made the headlines, and it was that same human but discreditable weakness that made it worth while spending thousands of pounds in cabling the story as it unfolded to the ends of the democratic earth. We lapped it up in New Zealand because we are encouraged to be suspicious of all governments and can never succeed in rooting out a first-class scandal. Up to a point suspicion is wisdom: the eternal vigilance point. Beyond that it is folly or disease, and a standing menace to every democracy. The farmer who knows in Edendale or Ngaruahia that "they" are all crooked in Wellington is in himself a harmless enough joke. The newspaper that aids and abets him to "knowledge" of that kind is not merely a poor newspaper but a creator of attitudes that (if its hand were not from time to time uncovered) would make us a nation of political valetudinarians.

**LETTERS FROM LISTENERS****NATIONAL ORCHESTRA.**

Sir,—I understand that approximately half the National Orchestra is to be on loan to the touring Italian Opera Company for some months. So far as I know, there has been no statement made as to how the balance of the orchestra is to be employed during this period. I beg to suggest that the Broadcasting Service send this group on a tour of our smaller centres where the orchestra has not yet appeared, and where halls are possibly of inadequate size to hold the full orchestra. Such a tour would be much appreciated in many centres and while the smaller group could possibly not attempt major symphonic works, it could provide nevertheless programmes of a high artistic standard and of popular appeal.

MUSICUS (Dunedin).

**NEWS BROADCASTS**

Sir,—If a merchant were to deliver to me a parcel containing, according to the accompanying invoice, 15 pounds of butter, which on being opened was found to contain 10 pounds of butter and five pounds of rancid fat, his honesty and that of his assistants would be very much in question, and his share of my business would vanish.

Every morning, at 7.0 a.m., listeners to the radio are informed—"Here is a recording of the broadcast received from London at six o'clock," and at 7.10 the same voice repeats the statement that the broadcast has been made, and stations will resume their own programmes until the weather forecast at 7.15. The announcer, acting under orders, does not say that the 6.0 a.m. broadcast lasted for 15 minutes.

When is this matter going to be rectified? The analogy between the merchant and the Broadcasting Service is obvious.

**MORE HOME NEWS (Orewa).**

(The broadcast at 7.0 a.m. is introduced as a recording of the "news received from London at six o'clock," and not as a "recording of the broadcast." The 6.0 a.m. broadcast is in two sections—news from London, and Home News from Britain. The portion, Home News from Britain, is not repeated at 7.0 a.m. and is not introduced in the manner set out in our correspondent's letter. The goods correspond with the invoice.—Ed.)

**PRONUNCIATION.**

Sir,—My humble apology to the learned writers of the *Oxford Dictionary* for my offence regarding that tricky word medicine. Having had only the sketchiest education in my youth, in later days I turned to Webster, who became my guide, counsellor and friend. As usual, I sought his advice on this matter and he said, "There is only one answer to this question, and it is 'med-i-sin'—never forget that middle i." Then the Westminster comes along and tells me to please myself, "Say what you like, medsin or med-i-sin, we're easy." Last Friday I heard "medsin" repeated over the air several times, and each time it made me writhe. Please tell me, what is a poor ignoramus to do?

E.S. (Onehunga).

(Follow the highest authority.—Ed.)

**MARIE CORELLI.**

Sir,—I regret very much feeling compelled to write a protest concerning a talk from IYA, *Mainly About Books*, in which John Reid discussed the "Vanity of Marie Corelli." I have never felt the air so thick with spite against anyone and was aghast at the pettiness which

was unmistakable. I remember Marie Corelli in my youth, and I knew there was much talk about her and conflict of opinion and also remember hearing that she had been ex-communicated by the Catholic Church. Surely it would be kinder if, as Mr. Reid stated, all her books with her personality and the memory of her were so dead that it proved how little she mattered, to have left her R.I.P. instead of digging up the allegedly vain woman to vilify her over the air. I seemed to feel the Bell, Book, and Candle in the denunciation, and it surely could serve no purpose in the present to treat the memory of a dead authoress so spitefully—especially when such a

**BAND CONTEST**

**RESULTS of the N.Z. Brass Band Championships at Auckland will be heard from the main National stations at the following times:**

February 13: 6.40 p.m., Hymn Contest.

February 14-19: 12.30, 6.40, and 11.15 p.m., Results of Day's Judging.

February 16: 11.15 p.m., Winner of B Grade Championship.

February 17: 11.15 p.m., Winner of Championship Grade.

February 18: 11.15 p.m., Winner of C Grade Championship.

The results broadcast on the 11.15 p.m. links will be repeated at 12.30 p.m. on the following day.

book as *Encyclopaedia Britannica* has something very different to say about her. It states that Marie Corelli wrote "sincerely of the times in which she lived." We may well hide from the truth in years to come. If higher education does not teach us tolerance and understanding with broader outlook, of what use is it?

KIT CRESSWELL (Mt. Eden).

**HOME NEWS FROM BRITAIN.**

Sir,—I wish it were possible to give us the Home News, which now follows the 6.0 a.m. World News, again after the 7.0 repetition. It would just fill the gap before the weather forecast. There must be hundreds of old people, like ourselves, for whom the Home News is a great delight, who listen in summer to the 6.0 a.m. broadcast but who don't want to rise so early in winter. I think a great many younger people, too, would like to have the Home News at a later hour.

FRANK CARLING (Mapua).

**NOTES ON THE CLASSICS.**

Sir,—Because one has sufficient musical knowledge and the technique required to perform "The Old Folks at Home" on the mouth organ, it would be unwise to imagine that without further knowledge and a different and better-developed technique one could perform the piano part of the "Emperor" concerto. One should know one's limitations. *The Listener* does not. It prints facsimile reproductions of manuscript copies of a few bars of masterpieces of music. Other copies of *The Listener* may differ from mine, but in mine of various dates errors frequently occur. To save

space I give only one example. Two crotchets and a quaver do not constitute a bar of simple triple time. This mistake occurs twice in the illustration of the Scherzo from the String Quartet in B Flat, Op. 67, Brahms. Such errors make the illustrations of little or no value.

But the most delightful feature of the whole series is the conviction of *The Listener* that its readers have sufficient knowledge to appreciate a masterpiece when all they know about it is a few bars.

JOSEPH C. McEVOY (Tomahawk).

(If our correspondent would spare himself enough time from his mouth organ studies to consider what our contributor's purpose is, he would realise that the illustrations are not intended to be miniature musical scores, but aids to listeners when they hear these things in their context. The missing dots after the crotchets in the Scherzo are simply failures in the printing, for which our contributor is not responsible.—Ed.)

**FRIVOLOUS USE OF A NAME**

Sir,—Yesterday evening I heard part of a frivolous song over 2YA. It went something like this: "You're tops, you're Mahatma Gandhi, you're a Napoleon Brandy." The use of Mahatma Gandhi's name in this way must have been offensive to many besides myself and the Indian community in New Zealand. I realise that the Broadcasting Service cannot keep a check on all the words of all the songs broadcast, but I am sure it will wish to prevent a repetition of such an item when attention is drawn to it.

A. C. BARRINGTON  
(Lower Moutere).**MAN'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

Sir,—In reply to J. Malton Murray, the natural universe is God's responsibility, but one cannot blame God for man's misdeeds. If man eats the wrong things, under-eats, or over-eats, he will become ill. If he treats his neighbour unkindly, this leads to quarrels. If he does nothing to save people overseas from oppression and starvation, he'll soon be at war with these people. All things like selfishness, hate, racial discrimination, love of money, and lust for power sooner or later lead to war. If man persists in disobeying God's guidance, as outlined in the New Testament of His Word, and instilled in man's conscience would he only listen to it, can he have the audacity to accuse God of such things as illness, accidents (which are usually carelessness), revolutions, wars, and the like.

The universe, formed through natural laws that God ordained, is perfect. If there is anything wrong with it (erosion, deserts, exhausted land, etc.), is it not the fault of those who have used their God-given free-wills in order to thwart God's original plans? On the other hand, God sends disaster to cleanse.

The solution to all problems, individual, community, national or international, whether social, economic, material, or spiritual, lies in this—to love God, and your fellow-humans better than yourself. J. L. JONES  
(Wanganui).

**ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS**

"Listener" (Brooklyn): The only information we have is a report in a recent publication on music that Schmidt died in a labour camp in Switzerland soon after the war ended.