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LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Sir,—J. Anderson must be one of those typical New Zealanders who use a dog solely for work, and nothing else, giving him the very minimum of affection. However, she need have no fear that the people of this country will ever be as English as the English, as I'm afraid they lack the sense of humour and the tolerance that make the average Englishman. Our own Royal family love their dogs, and are rarely seen in any family group without them, but I suppose people like J. Anderson consider their ideas of the treatment of dogs far superior to that of English Royalty. As regards England's primary smell being that of dog, New Zealand literally stinks of cows and racehorses.

M. SHARP (Orin).

Sir,—I have been amused by the attack on the English in the matter of spoiling their dogs. This is probably true, but it is an evasion of the main issue. I have been appalled at the callous treatment meted out to our domestic animals, dogs, and others.

We in New Zealand are dependent on our animals. Many of us get our living by them and we owe them much, yet I have seen deliberate cruelty and lack of care that has horrified me. Our working dogs—and how they work!—in a good many cases (not all, thank God) are not decently treated even to the extent of being properly housed and fed. So the amount of cats who are deliberately strayed is tragic. I live a few miles from town near bush country, and have been forced to feed starving cats, or to see them starve, and usually their families too as, more often than not, it is

the mother cat, due to kitten shortly, who is abandoned.

Our laws don't seem to err on the side of humane feeling either. There is definitely very much wrong, when a man who is charged with starving his stock, which are found in such a shocking condition that they have to be destroyed—there is something wrong when such a man is fined £5. Instead of criticising the English and their ways, let us be honest and face up to our faults and see if we can't do something to help those who cannot help themselves; who are utterly dependent on us, and yet who help us so much.

M.L. (Otago).

Sir,—M. Sharp has suffered severe criticism from some of your correspondents. I should like her to know that I read her letter with pleasure, and I am glad that she has such a kind heart. She is perfectly right in giving her dog and cats proper shelter at night, and I agree with her that animals are wonderful companions, giving affection and faithfulness to those who love and understand them.

Some years ago I came to live in New Zealand. Before that I lived in England, where I was more fortunate than your visiting correspondents, as I never witnessed anything like the "disgusting spectacles" which they describe so graphically. The dogs I knew, including mine, had dishes of their own for food and water, and were fed in the kitchen or outside. Last year I was in England again for a few months. I was also in Scotland and Ireland; and while on my travels saw many dogs, but not one had an "offensive smell." If a dog is clean and healthy there is no smell.

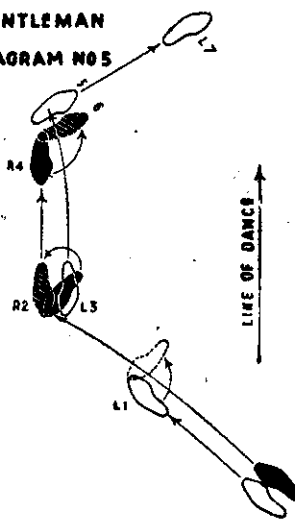
ELLA MORICE (Gisborne).

Modern Ballroom Dancing

CHASSE REVERSE TURN. QUICK STEP

GENTLEMAN

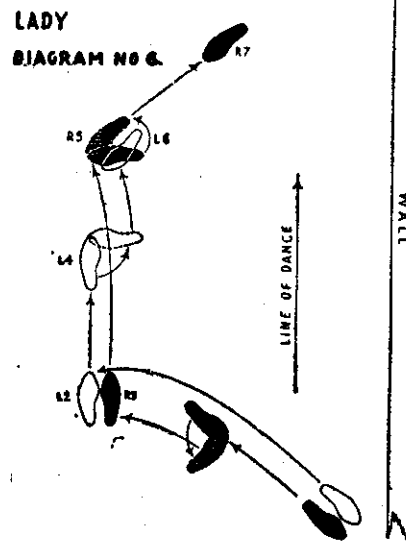
DIAGRAM NO 5



CHASSE REVERSE TURN. QUICK STEP

LADY

DIAGRAM NO 6



THE third lesson in 3YA's "Modern Ballroom Dancing" series (and the second on the quickstep) will be heard at 9.30 p.m. on May 26, when listeners will be introduced to what is known as The Design of the modern dance. They will learn how dance figures are linked together ("amalgamation"), and how the design or shape of a figure has a bearing on the lines of direction mentioned in the first lesson. In order to progress to this stage, the chasse reverse turns (detailed in this week's diagrams) must be learned, and the manner in which they are joined to the natural turns explained.