

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 5)

DOUGLAS MacDIARMID

Sir,—While agreeing in general with Dr. J. C. Beaglehole's criticism of the Douglas MacDiarmid exhibition, I feel that much more should be said concerning this artist's very uneven production. For instance, most of the water-colours are unimportant: they are, as Dr. Beaglehole suggests, reminiscent of other men's work, whilst many are merely academic. Yet it is in some of his water-colours that Mr. MacDiarmid has achieved a very notable and personal excellence. I refer to "Fishermen on the Seine," "Tuileries Gardens," "Paris from the Eiffel Tower," "Hens on a Coal Heap," and "Goldfish."

Here is a marked tendency towards the art of the East. The vision is quiet, penetrating, poetic, simple and sincere; the painting free and sweet; the effect instantaneous and charming. These pictures evoke, apparently without effort, what is so sadly lacking in most contemporary art, namely: what can be attained only by the delicate impulsive touch of an artist remembering "in emotion" (that is to say, after the passage of time has purified the initial experience) the fragile essence of a deeply-felt relation of colours, shapes and movement.

The movement, which is such a happy characteristic of Mr. MacDiarmid's best work, is his own personal contribution. He suggests it with subtlety and conveys it with a notable economy of means. It is where his pen and brush have wandered most freely and lightly that the art of Mr. MacDiarmid finds its true and happiest fulfilment, for his is the gay affirmation of the more elusive and poetical aspects of everyday life.

This being so, I cannot understand why Dr. Beaglehole should labour to explain away the deadness of the oils (which are manufactured rather than painted) by saying that this medium is not so suitable for free expression. To me it seems that the contrary is true. Let us face it and say so—Mr. MacDiarmid is not an oil painter. His vision cannot be stated in a heavy opaque medium. I would be happy to think that Mr. MacDiarmid would in future be content with water-colours, for these obviously are all he needs to record his occasional, unique and very lovely visual experiences.

CHARLES HALE (Wellington).

LATE BROADCASTS

Sir,—Station 1YA has an infuriating habit of putting on complete plays at a late hour when most citizens have gone, or are about to go, to bed. This ambitious and satisfactory form of radio entertainment is thus largely wasted. It seems to me the system is too hide-bound by custom. Anybody who reads the programmes a few times knows them by heart. Why not juggle the times a bit and give us a shock? With London news and weather report at 10.0 p.m. and a studio presentation at 9.30, would the unwise collapse? An empty grate and fuel conservation drove me to bed at 10.0 p.m. the other Sunday night, though very interested in a play concerning a magic pair of trousers. The owner was being offered £10,000 for the garment by the Government. (Poor

taxpayer!) A fantasy of this nature needs very clever handling to avoid an anti-climax. Did the author succeed? Unless you, sir, will enlighten me, I shall never know.

REDMUND L. REED
(Auckland).

GOOD LISTENING

Sir,—After reading every number of *The Listener* for over 10 years and choosing from it radio programmes I wanted to listen to, I felt it was more than time for me to say thank you. Through you I would especially like to thank 2YA, because I have listened mostly to this station for over 21 years. The Correspondence School sessions, home news and world news from the BBC, devotional services of all denominations, women's sessions, talks, plays, music, sport, are a few of the items I greatly enjoy. And just in case you may think I can spend the greater part of my day at the radio, I would like to say I have trained myself to work and listen when alone. In conclusion, radio makes all the difference between living a busy and yet mentally dull life, and living just as busily and yet collecting every day fresh food for thought. Again thank you, and all at 2YA.

MORE THAN MIDDLE-AGED
(Bulls).

BERTRAND RUSSELL

Sir,—Mr. Mouat asks who has grasped the meaning of the word "is." I think it is true to say that he himself with the rest of us who speak English understands its meaning quite well, without need of recourse to the "concept of God." Otherwise he would not have written, "Russell is right" or stated that free love is morally reprehensible with us. Evidently "is" means something definite for him as well as for those for whom he writes. If not he has consciously said something meaningless. It is surprising how often "philosophers" through speech use an instrument which on their subjectivist principles, relativist notions or sceptical views they are really not entitled to use. It all means that in practice they discard their "philosophy" and become realists adhering to the obvious. Becoming common place, they display common sense.

REALIST (Greenmeadows).

RELIGION AND SCIENCE

Sir,—May I add a postscript to the discussion on August 1, "Can a scientist be a Christian?" Scientists are working towards the core of all existence, call it what you will. Christians are working towards Christ. Secular history of His time shows that this young man, Jesus of Nazareth, used the natural elements which scientists are gradually mastering. The character of Jesus of Nazareth is recognised by scholars, whether Christian or not, to have been honourable and upright, what is called "good." Also there is noticeable lack of ostentation and no love of the limelight. Yet this young man claimed to be equal with the Creator or core—whatever you will. He had control over the elements which scientists are learning to use. If scientists are working towards the power at the back of all creation and Christians are working towards Christ it seems natural that scientists should be Christians.

PICTON LISTENER (Pictou).



She wears Bonds' for housework, golf, gardening and rainy days... and saves her nylons and sheers. She earns full marks from 'hubby' for saving, and showing a neat leg about the house, for she's never untidy in laddered, ready-to-cast-off sheers that most women think are good enough at home. She doesn't have to change her stockings to go shopping. Gardening or golfing, her utility stockings can take it! And they stand up to rubbing when they're mud spattered after a rainy day. Bonds' house hosiery is right for the hard jobs. Wear them and save your sheers!

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These are THE Stockings THAT CAN TAKE IT!

Bonds Suparay high grade rayon	3/8 pair.
Bonds semi-sheer Bemberg	4/11 pair.
Bonds Sheer Lisle '51'	5/3 pair.
Bonds 'Adora' pure silk and rayon	6/6 pair.

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... for a pretty little lady to want to play at brides, for what is more romantic, in the eyes of a girl, than a beautiful bride. But sometimes the tiny bride's days grow clouded... for tummies will get out of sorts. Then mother turns to delicious 'Califig', the kindly, pleasant-tasting, natural laxative to restore regularity and put things right again. 'Califig' contains the juice of ripe figs with an extract of senna... purely vegetable and naturally nice.

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