

Letters from Listeners

(Continued from page 5)

A TALK ON BOOKS

Sir,—Permit me to correct an error in *Radio Review* for September 23. In a paragraph headed "Of Books," your contributor "J.C.R." comments on a series of talks by John Barr, City Librarian, on the "Treasure Room" of the Auckland Public Library. He commends "his (John Barr's) enthusiastic description of such works as . . . the Wenssler *De Civitate Dei*." Why "the Wenssler?" I, too, listened to these talks, with much interest. Mr. Barr referred to the "Mentelin" *De Civitate Dei* (1476), the earliest printed book in the library. I heard mention neither of Wenssler nor of his printing, though undoubtedly the library would own specimens of his work.

BIBLIOPHILE

(Auckland).

NEW ZEALAND WINTER

Sir,—Nelle Scanlan bids our wives bustle sixteen hours daily for mere warmth. I see little exaggeration in Marie Alderson's article. Let "U.M.D." realise that a centrally-heated house uses fuel about 10 times more efficiently and healthily than does a fireplace. The average U.S. coal fired unit employs 4.5 tons per year, according to British Fuel Ministry experts. keeps the entire house comfortable day and night, and provides hot water at bath and sink. Sawdust, oil and gas are common alternative fuels. "U.M.D.'s" penultimate sentence destroys our boast that we have the highest living standard for the working man. The lowest income groups in Canada do enjoy central heating—I have seen them. Maybe they save on sweaters, blankets, doctor's bills, cough cures and sociability.

RIGEL KENT (Christchurch).

SONGS IN FRENCH

Sir,—For some years I have been following with interest the French lessons for post-primary pupils. It is evident that a great improvement has been achieved recently. The subjects are well chosen and carefully treated. The trade and regional songs provide a refreshing novelty, to mention but one; the Vine Song is particularly attractive. Could not these songs be heard on other occasions?

F.J. (Wellington).

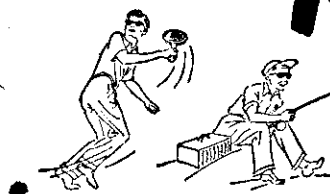
ENGLISH COMEDIANS

Sir,—Why, oh why, do stations buy such old recordings? We came from England two years ago; more than anything we miss the English radio with its grand comedians and up-to-date jokes. The Tommy Handley series were old enough to have whiskers. We were looking forward last week to hearing *Stand Easy*. Imagine our disgust when we heard an old and very tinny recording of what we had heard over four years ago in England. My boy, now 13, used to chant when he was about nine: "Out in the jungle living in a tent," etc. Is it not possible to get the latest? A series of Georges Guitry recordings would be very pleasant listening. I reckon "Bing" and the Andrews Sisters must practically own the New Zealand radio.

G. (Auckland).

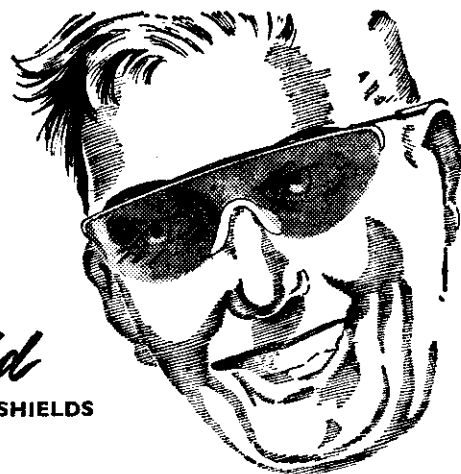
(All the recordings obtainable are purchased by the NZBS for its stations. The BBC comedy shows are new to this country. —Ed.)

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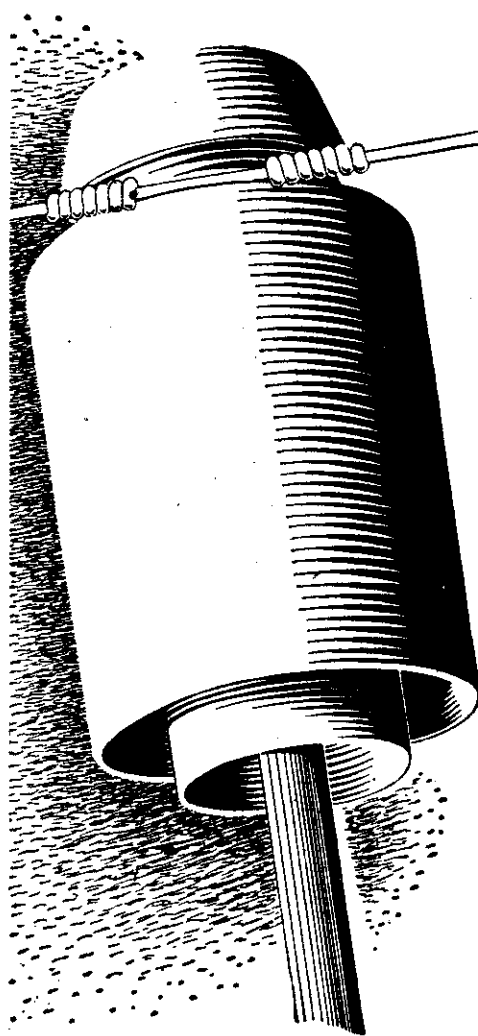
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