

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(Continued from page 5)

THE WOMEN OF MALTA.

Sir,—In your very interesting page, "Did You Hear This?" I came upon a paragraph giving an extract from a recent radio broadcast by Miss Edna Parson, from 3YA, entitled "Talk on Malta." Now, I am well aware that it is not quite the thing to contradict a lady, nor do I presume to do so, but as one who has lived a considerable time amongst the goats and aromas, good and bad, of Malta, and also as one who specially made a point of developing, and cultivating, a friendship with the Maltese people, may I dare to say that I do NOT agree with the respected lady's reason why the Maltese women wear the Faldetta!!!

The accepted version that is current among the Maltese people themselves is that the Faldetta is a "Hood of Shame." During the occupation of Malta by the Turks a High Lady of Malta—I cannot recall her name or standing in society, but I think she was a daughter of a member of the Council of Malta—went to the extreme of throwing herself naked over the high Barracca, overlooking Grand Harbour, as a protest against the ravishing of her fellow womenfolk. Result, the evolution of the

"Hood of Shame" worn, from that time, as a sign by the womenfolk of their feelings in the matter!

Perhaps I am wrong in this correction of a lady, but if I am, Sir, quite a number of highly respected Maltese are wrong also. Nowadays, the wearing of the Faldetta, although not by any means "out of fashion," is left to the older women, in the main, but the young ladies of Malta much prefer the high lights of fashion; at least, so it seemed to me!

Another point, by jove, if I may still go on contradicting, but the remark made that the women do not learn English would raise a storm if heard in Malta! English is prevalent among all classes

"FALLEN BASTIONS"

FURTHER LETTER FROM
G. E. R. GEDYE

To the Editor,
"The Listener"

Sir,—I thank you for your courtesy in inserting my letter of August 16, 1939, with comment of the reviewer in the "New Zealand Listener" of January 26. It is fairly obvious from his comment that the New Zealand listener who wrote to me complaining of the original broadcast criticism must have misunderstood the point of view of your critic.

Yours, etc.,
G. E. R. GEDYE.

Moscow Bureau
of "New York Times,"
April 25, 1940.

—witness the educational system which is excellent. Should this letter interest you to the point of printing, allow me to point out that I am not looking for an argument, but feel I cannot allow my Maltese friends and their customs and schooling to be presented inaccurately. Nor can I close without expressing my surprise that Miss Parson found the love of colour lacking in Malta, except among the boatmen. Ah! Miss Parson, did you not have the pleasure of witnessing Carnival time in Malta, or, for that matter, any of the feast day parades?

Having vindicated my friends, now undergoing the horrors of war, may I say how much I enjoy reading *The Listener*, which is very enterprising and well worth getting.

"SALTWATER" (Devonport).

PRONUNCIATION AND ANNOUNCING

Sir,—I should like to reply briefly to "Philrad's" remarks on the above subjects. "Philrad" deplores the errors in pronunciation of the words "oral" and "choral," maintaining that these should be pronounced as "awral" and "kawral." I would like to point out that there are many words in our language that general usage has changed from the pronunciation set out in the Oxford Dictionary; and the new pronunciation is accepted as at least permissible. Under this heading come the

two words to which I have referred, as I have no hesitation in asserting that not more than one person in one hundred now pronounces these words as "Philrad" would have them. Much as we may dislike these innovations I am afraid it is a case of bowing to the inevitable.

I would say too that the listening public are not greatly concerned that every announcer should be absolutely perfect in his pronunciation, but the average listener would be most grateful if our announcers would broadcast in their natural voice, omitting affectations and yelling.

B NATURAL (Auckland).

CONCERT OR NEWS?

Sir,—There must be hundreds of listeners who have had no chance of attending the Centennial Concerts in person, and who therefore rely on their radios to enjoy these musical treats, whenever broadcast. Napier's Centennial Concert was broadcast last night. At 9 p.m. the concert was cut off and an interview and Daventry news was given, which could quite easily have been listened to by those interested through any of the YA Stations.

Of all the artists, Mr. Oscar Natzke, New Zealand's own great singer, was the one not broadcast. Great disappointment must have been felt by many hundreds of listeners as well as by ourselves. This is a discourtesy to any artist. Surely it is unnecessary to interrupt a lovely concert.

JESSIE STANLEY (Aptiti).

ADVERTISING ON SUNDAYS

Sir,—Would you kindly allow me to ask if it is absolutely necessary for Station 4ZB to advertise its weekly Community Sing and Radio Revels on Sundays? While I appreciate to the full the wonderful effort the personnel at this station are making to swell the funds of the Patriotic Committee, I cannot help but object to this consistent advertising on Sundays. After all, Sunday is still a sacred day (or is it?). There are so many things done on Sundays nowadays that one wonders sometimes if there really is a sacred day left.

I.J.W. (Fairlie).

CHURCH BROADCASTS

Sir,—Generally there is a Roland to watch and counter every Oliver. So here's a Roland to counter the opinions of the "Oliver" of your issue of August 9. I trust he has the sense, grace, and humility to realise that there are thousands of listeners who are definitely not of his mind, and who may be just as entitled to consideration as he is, and may possibly be of as much value to the life of the State as he is. There are thousands of listeners, invalids, elderly people, shut-in folk and others who derive much joy and encouragement from the broadcasts of Church services. In their interests I suggest that "Oliver" should be sufficiently self-sacrificing to tune in for two short hours on Sundays to other radio stations, which may provide him with programmes more agreeable to his type of mentality. In any case I submit that he would do his country, and these other listeners, a great disservice if he should attempt to use his influence to ban the broadcasts of these services, or so limit and curtail them as to make them of little advantage or satisfaction to other listeners.

teners. Two hours per week is but a small percentage of the time allotted to all other types of programmes, records, talks, and sports news. This small percentage "Oliver" should not grudge to the thousands who are not of his mind.

ROLAND (Christchurch).

ENEMY STATIONS

Sir,—It would be interesting to learn by whose orders the names of the Berlin and Rome stations broadcasting in English have been cut out of *The Listener's* list. Of course we know that the news from both sources is for the most part false or exaggerated, but listeners will resent fiercely any Nazi-like attempt to restrict their choice of stations. More news and less commentaries would be an appreciated improvement in the BBC programmes.

SCRUTATOR (Pio Pio).

Sir,—As a regular subscriber to your publication, and as one who takes a keen interest in foreign news bulletins in English, I should like to inquire why you do not now publish details of German news bulletins in English.

CURIOUS (Waipata).

(There are good reasons why balanced and well-informed people should wish to know what the enemy is saying. Therefore the law leaves them free to listen. There are equally good reasons why the excitable and the ill-informed should not be disturbed by lies. Those in the first group will have no difficulty in finding the stations they want. We cannot accept the responsibility for helping to disturb the others.—Ed.).

APPRECIATION

Sir,—I would like to express my appreciation of *The Listener*. I read it from cover to cover and find it most interesting. I notice that some people are criticising "Betty's Diary." I'm afraid it must be jealousy on their part as I am just as hard up, if not more so, than they are, but I don't grudge Betty her servant or any other luxury. It is a very interesting and amusing feature and I'm sure no one could do better than Betty herself.

I also appreciate the serials and the bright announcing. It's great to hear a cheery voice. Cheers also to the announcers and staffs of all stations and *The Listener* for the wonderful work done in aid of the Red Cross. Carry on with the good work.

"SATISFIED" (Dunedin).

SALVATION BY WORK

Sir,—Our Prime Minister spoke the truth when he said over the air some time ago that wealth and gold did not give Hitler the power and tremendous fighting strength that he has to-day. It was work that did it. But work alone won't win the war any more than money will without working, or praying to God and not working.


But Hitler overlooked the fact that work and brutality combined are hell upon earth, and it's his brutality that will bring about his and his allies' defeat. England did not set to work until quite recently, a great mistake on her part, but even though England loafed, thank God her thoughts were those of kindness.

As Mr. Winston Churchill or one of his colleagues said, we must work like blazes. Sir, we should have worked like blazes over four years ago and not relied on God to do everything. Now God bless our King, the Empire and our Allies, and especially all workers.

JOHN T. DAVEY (Rangataua).

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