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LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(Continued from page 6)

MODERN MUSIC

Sir,—I think that your correspondent who signed himself "Not Highbrow" could have gone much further in choosing his nom de plume. He says that those who want to listen to the works of old masters, can always buy a gramophone and records. Unfortunately, all music-lovers are not possessed of large incomes. I should also like to ask him is he so little aware of conditions in his own country that he does not know that many records are now unprocureable, and that the import restrictions have cut off the supply of gramophone needles?

He refers to the great composers as "soul-stirring, British-hating foreigners." That description is both inaccurate and stupid. The great composers have been citizens of the world, and no matter what their nationality, have always been welcome in Britain, and have added much to the happiness and the cultural life of the people there. I understand that Hitler and his satellites were the first to propound the theory that art should be strictly national. They drove all non-Aryan, really non-Nazi culture from their land, and let loose the spirit

of barbarism, with what results we know. If we want to grow spiritually and mentally, we should be ready to take the best from the music and art of all countries.

Dance music, with vocal renderings by orchestral leaders may help to keep up the morale of our friend "Not Highbrow," but such stuff simply smashes mine to pieces. Am I to be forced to listen, is there to be no alternative? I think that with a judicious arrangement of the programmes we could both be satisfied.

The tradition has grown up that classical music is boring, something above the heads of ordinary people, therefore it is often condemned without a hearing. I am reminded of a boy of my acquaintance who once informed me that he hated classical music, and, in the same breath informed me that the "Nut-Cracker Suite" was one of his favourite pieces. He got the surprise of his life when he was told that that particular piece of music was generally regarded as classical music. The NBS could do a great deal in bringing home to the people of this country the fact that much of the classical music is most tuneful, and easier to listen to than some of the nerve-racking discords known as modern music.

—ORDINARY-BROW (Wellington).

NEWS SESSIONS

Sir,—I suggest that you could improve your list of Daventry transmission, and in much smaller space than at present.

You commonly mention about six Daventry stations. List these at the top with their frequencies and wavelengths — even eight stations would occupy only four lines. Then obviously each transmission, even if by three or four strongly received stations, would comfortably go in a single line, and would give sufficient room in it for a fuller indication than at present of the nature of the broadcast.

—XXX (Christchurch).

P.S.—I see that when you altered 2YH's frequency you left the wavelength unchanged, presumably having forgotten how to calculate the new value. One need only divide 300,000 (the wave velocity in appropriate units) by the frequency to get the wavelength — or vice versa if the other is wanted. Hence the change from 760 to 750k/c changes the wavelength from about 395 to exactly 400 metres. Incidentally, your "k.c." is exactly as wrong as M.S. would be for MS. Both are unheard of.

(What about P.S., our correspondent's own abbreviation of postscript? And if we are to follow the example of MS., why not follow it to the end and use KCC. for Kilocycles (plural)?—Ed.).

JOHN CHARLES THOMAS

Sir,—May I be allowed to express my appreciation of a short recital by John Charles Thomas on September 27? He is a singer we do not hear over the air very often, but I would class him as one of the world's finest baritones. I hope to have this sort of programme frequently.

—A.J. (Opunake).

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