

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(Continued from page 4)

MR. CROSBY AND MR. EDDY

Sir,—Two singers who receive harsh criticism in New Zealand are Nelson Eddy and Bing Crosby. It is time this country woke up and tried to understand genius and ability. We younger listeners like Bing Crosby, especially when he sings "Thine Alone" and "Sweethearts," and don't see why old-fashioned grown-ups should insult our likes. Crosby is not a crooner. He is an artist in his own way.

Now to Nelson Eddy. In America, England and Australia, he is a most popular singer, but in this country he meets opposition. "Oh, Eddy? He's too wooden, he has no expression in his voice," is what we hear. But when I hear him singing songs like "Ride, Cossack, Ride," "Magic of Your Love," and "Volga Boat Song," I sometimes wonder when New Zealanders will stop being stupid and recognise that Eddy is an artist up to the standard of Chaliapin, Stracciani and Tibbett. But maybe some of our listeners haven't heard of these three famous singers.

—"BING-EDDY" (Wellington).

BELL-RINGING

Sir,—In this country, music lovers cannot enjoy the pleasure of listening to music from church bells, as at Home, for our churches have not the peals necessary. New peals and tunes for important occasions are practised on hand bells before being performed on the church bells by rope and wheel.

Is there a peal of hand-bells in New Zealand? Such a peal with its wider range of notes, would be even more efficient for broadcasting than church bells. There must be lots of ex-bell ringers and some ex-carillonners in our towns who, if organised, could use their knowledge of this very ancient craft to supply music of a unique kind that would be welcomed over the wireless by at least everyone who had appreciated music from bells at Home.

England is the home of bell music. An Englishman reacts to "A Full Peal of Grandsire Triples," or "A Peal of Kent Treble Bob Major" as he does to his National songs. What music could be more joyous than the full peals from the belfry (free to all) which are heard on auspicious occasions, or on the other hand, more heart-rending than a muffled peal?

Of all the things we Homies miss in a new country, we miss most the music of church bells, so much so that the writer has often seen tears shed by the new immigrant at the profound disappointment on the realisation that there were no peals of bells to be heard on their first Sunday after arrival.

May I suggest that ex-bell ringers, ex-carillonners and others interested, get together and form hand-bell-ringing associations in large centres, with a view to broadcast programmes. The writer is quite ignorant as to whether programmes of music from bells are recorded in England for export or not, but he is quite certain that music-loving listeners would be both delighted and thrilled to hear a programme of musical masterpieces on bells.

—Ex-member of the North Lincolnshire Bell Ringers' Association (Ahipara).

"IF I WERE KING"

Sir,—Do you know what I would do if I had the power? I would cut out all jazz ("nigger music" would not be my way of improving the public's musical taste). Then I would put the crooners in their proper place—outside the universe—crooning being, in my opinion, the most distressing and soul-destroying form of "music" ever invented. And, thirdly, I would teach all announcers not to talk about "this morning at 10 a.m." or "to-night at 8 p.m." Some time ago this came over the air: "To-night at 8.30 p.m. this evening." That's all for the present.—"T.J." (Halcombe). (That's not bad for a start.—Ed.)

EVERYTHING GOES

No Inhibitions In Nazi Radio

"SCOTLAND Yard men disguised with false beards are arresting all who look at pretty lips, as they may be German spies who are expert lip-readers!"

This fantastic story of conditions in Britain was recently given out from Deutschlandsender, the German long-wave radio.

Here is another gem from the same station:

"In Britain, fear of German planes is now terrific. One of the best proofs of this fear is that the Jews are having their hair bleached and their noses straightened."

According to the same source:

"Crowds of people in the early morning gather before the premises of London astrologers to gain information on England's fate. Fortune tellers are charging as much as £10 for a consultation."

Similarly, stories of food shortage in Britain are also being gaily circulated

over the air by Germany. Unfortunately for the efforts of the enemy propaganda machine, however, its accounts do not always tally.

A Zeesen broadcast to South Africa, for example, stated that food in Britain was becoming so ever-increasingly scarce "that the well-known disinclination of the Englishman to join the Army is at last being overcome in the hope of at least getting a square meal."

But while this was being put over to South Africa an entirely different picture was being radiated in German for Norway:

"In the trial of a soldier for having slept when on duty as a sentry, the accused denied having slept and maintained that he was so hungry that he could not stand up."

A recent German broadcast solemnly announced to Yugoslavia that "the German nation does not wage war only for its existence but for the existence of European culture generally."

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