

LISTENER

Incorporating N.Z. RADIO RECORD

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The Way To Do It

NOW that the Americans are here it will be their own fault if they do not know more about us in half an hour than many of us know about ourselves. Most of them will have received a little book, *Meet New Zealand*, which sets an entirely new fashion in Dominion publicity. Though it contains only thirty-six pages it answers, not indeed all the questions that visitors to New Zealand ask, but so many of them that an intelligent stranger who has read it through once will be well on the way to knowing us as we really are. And he will not have to be very intelligent either. If he can read, and if he retains some of the curiosity of the normal traveller, or indeed of the normal child, he will find it as easy and as entertaining to discover who we are and how we function as it would be to follow a film about us or to live with us in a popular novel. This, of course, does not mean that there are no other ways of presenting ourselves to strangers, or that the method adopted in *Meet New Zealand* will please everybody. It will not please those who think that official books should be very dignified and very solemn. It is not even, some will think, discreet—so discreet, that is, that no official feathers will anywhere be ruffled. It glances, for example, at the thorny controversy of the Royal Prerogative, though of course respectfully, and it refers with less enthusiasm than their admirers will like to our art galleries and museums. But these are the little titillations that will keep the reader awake. The outstanding fact is that the compilers have contrived to be interesting without being foolish, to be factual without being dull, and to be modest and truthful without being either apologetic or absurd. Publicity has a habit of shouting. Here it behaves as publicity should—tells a good story and lets the facts do the rest.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

Correspondents Please Note

Letters sent to "The Listener" for publication should not exceed 200 words, and should deal with topics covered in "The Listener" itself. Correspondents must send in their names and addresses even when it is their wish that these should not be published. We cannot undertake to give reasons why all or any portion of a letter is rejected.

NATIONAL SERVICE TALKS

Sir.—Are announcers misguided enough to imagine that people are more likely to listen to National Service talks when they glibly say, "to-morrow evening at 8.45 p.m. Mrs. Dreaver will etc."? LISTENER (Tolaga Bay).

TALKS APPRECIATED.

Sir.—Robin Miller's talks are the "dinkum oil" we have been waiting for for a long time. We want more of that kind of war commentary.

APPRECIATIVE (Nelson).

CATHOLICS AND ROMAN CATHOLICS

Sir.—I must congratulate you on your witty retort to my last letter. The fact still remains, however, that in British countries at least Roman Catholics should be called "Roman Catholics" to distinguish them for other Catholics.

J. BROADLEY (Paeroa).

(The correspondence must close with this letter.—Ed.)

BACK TO FRONT.

Sir.—I have just heard from IYA ("Masters in Lighter Mood") Jeanette Macdonald singing the "Jewel Song" and "The King of Thule" from *Faust*. Why is it that whenever this record is played it is always put on back to front?

Intentions

(By WHIM-WHAM)

I WANT to see Privilege flattened,
I'm all for abolishing Class,
I'm open to any Suggestions
For bringing such Wonders to pass.
There isn't much Hope for the Cynic
Who's always suspecting the Worst,
Or the Pessimist blindly refusing to find
His cherished Forebodings reversed.

BUT the Aims we are hearing so much of,
Like Freedom and Justice all round,
Are apt to fall short of Achievement
If the Sense doesn't follow the Sound.
Millennial murmurs surround us,
Utopias breed by the score,
For Nothing need seem an impossible Dream
When qualified, "After the War."

IT'S simple to draw up Agreements,
On Basic Conceptions and Aims;
But to reach a Consensus of Methods—
Oh then comes the Fun, and the Games!
The Devil has weapons for dealing
With Those who declare themselves Friends,
And among his Machines is the Conflict of Means
To precisely identical Ends.

I HOPE that the Right will be with us.
I hope that no Scruples are Left,
Hope for an Order no longer
So deeply and cruelly cleft;
But I haven't a Hope that Cajoling
Will soften the Tiger in Man;
And I'm tempted to ask those who
tackle that Task,
"But Gentlemen, what is your Plan?"

Anyone with even a slight musical knowledge can see that the recitative at the end of "The King of Thule" leads up to the "Jewel Song." And yet every time I have heard it the station has both announced and played the "Jewel Song" first. It sounds so ridiculous, too, to hear a finale in the middle of a recording.

J.B. (Auckland).

GOD IN NATURE

Sir.—Those who seek enlightenment as to the nature of God may obtain it from both profane and sacred sources. Hints as to the nature of God are to be found in insurance policies, steamer tickets, dictionaries, as well as in Acts of Parliament. "Acts of God" are summarised as "Whirlwinds, strokes of lightning, tornados, thunderbolts, floods, earthquakes, tidal waves, and other disasters and calamities, usually but not necessarily accompanied by loss of life." This is obviously a profane description. The inspired word of God tells us clearly that God is Love. God is kind, merciful, tender and forgiving in His dealings with us weak mortals of His own creation. The loving tenderness of God is described in the inspired and infallible chapters of His own Book, the Bible.

"BIBLICUS" (Ashburton).

PERFECT MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Sir.—While listening to a *Music at Your Fireside* session I heard the compère announce that a piano could not be regarded as a musical instrument because G sharp and A flat were played on the same note and could not be separated. In a 'cello, viola, violin and slide trombone, he said, this could be done. Therefore they were the only perfect musical instruments. The reason given was that there was one-sixth of a tone difference between the two notes. This corresponds to a frequency difference of 7 cycles (taking the frequency of G, 384 cycles, and A 426.67 cycles per sec.) Could this slight difference of frequency be distinguished by the human ear? And could this note be played to this accuracy on any of above-mentioned instruments? Could these instruments be tuned to this degree of accuracy?

HEARING (Wellington).

(Our correspondent's pen-name has been altered to avoid confusion, two contributors having used the same signature.—Ed.)

CHRISTIAN ORDER.

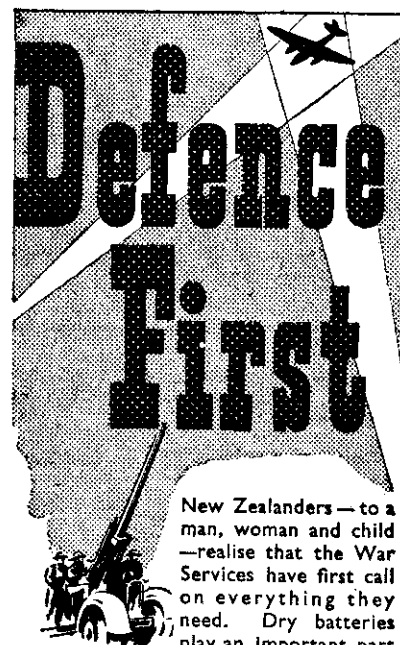
Sir.—Like many other listeners, I was all ears last Monday evening for the opening of the public campaign for Christian Order, but in my case at least the anticipation was better than the actuality. I heard little but vague denunciations of old evils which have already been attacked to better purpose by laymen. If succeeding meetings don't improve, the campaign will be hopelessly bogged in a morass of soft-soap.

REV., III, 16.

POINTS FROM LETTERS

H. A. CURRIE (Christchurch) wants to know why "the small space of time on our programmes devoted to band sessions" should be cut into by short plays and singing. Perhaps, he adds, the programme organisers "don't think there are such beings as devotees to the popular brass band".

MABEL TASMAN (Christchurch) suggests that if we go on calling "our sweet sounding New Zealand, 'New Zilland'", God may turn a deaf ear on us when we ask Him to defend such a place.



New Zealanders—to a man, woman and child—realise that the War Services have first call on everything they need. Dry batteries play an important part in the work of the men

manning our anti-aircraft defences. In the Army, Navy, Air Force and other war services, dry batteries are needed for torches, radios, and many other uses. We know that you, like your local retailer, will remember these facts if you experience a temporary shortage of Eveready Batteries.

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ER/42/B2B

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