

## Home Again

IN thousands of New Zealand homes this week there is a chair filled that has been vacant for more than three years; filled unexpectedly. Nothing quite the same has ever happened to us before, because the war is not yet over, and when soldiers return at the end of a war they have been expected weeks in advance. On this occasion they have arrived, not indeed unannounced, but with so little warning that the excitement of the announcement had not died down before they walked in. It would be difficult to exaggerate what it all mounts up to in happiness and relief from strain. For it is not only the men themselves who have been given this period of rest. Relief for them means relief while their furlough lasts for all their relatives and friends, especially their mothers and sisters and wives, and those children who are old enough to suffer the pain of war without being old enough to help themselves by taking part in it. But the return means more than that to those whose duty it has been to work and wait at home. It is a kind of inspection on a grand scale of civilian activities and morale. While the men themselves have no such thought or purpose, the mere fact that they have walked in on us compels us to ask ourselves what we have been doing in their absence. We may not feel our shortcomings as acutely as the contributor who describes on another page how he reacted when he found himself on the transport; but we are dangerously complacent or dull if we feel no challenge at all. But in the meantime the great fact is that so many of them are home, and so large a proportion of them well and cheerful and confident. And it is a different kind of confidence from the faith they had when they went away. Their confidence then was largely derived. They believed in their cause, and had faith that somewhere and somehow the light would break through the clouds. Now they have seen it break, and have passed from faith to knowledge.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER, JULY 23

# LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

## APPEAL TO WOMEN

Sir,—Your "Appeal to Women" discussion reminds me of a story written by either Lotte or Liza Lehmann when one or the other was a child.

"Once upon a time, there was a very beautiful lady whose husband had gone to the Crusades. He was away for 10 years. Then one morning to her great joy, the wife found her brave husband standing on the doorstep, having returned from his deeds of valour. She kissed him lovingly on the brow and led him into the house and up the stairs to the nursery. Her cheeks glowed with joy as she flung open the door and showed him 10 beautiful children romping round the room.

"There," she said, looking proudly up at her gallant husband, "I, too, have not been idle while you were away fighting in the cause of Honour."

Do you think that little Lotte (or Liza) unconsciously thought that "Experience" on both sides made "the Sapphire of Fidelity — the gem of Mutual Peace" between the returned husband and the very left-behind wife? Good heavens, no! She still believed in storks!

BLUE VICTORIA (Wellington).

## A JAZZ SESSION.

Sir,—I would like to extend my thanks to "Turntable" and 2YA for presenting the best and most informative session devoted to jazz in New Zealand. But would "Turntable" make a point of naming the orchestra and title on the record label more definitely. And would he please keep racing news out of it. After all, the dailies and periodicals print reams of racing, and those interested talk about it enough, so why spoil a perfectly good session that has given satisfaction for seven years?

MUGGLES (Masterton).

## GOOD AND BAD IN MUSIC

Sir,—"Cornstalk" argues that swing is good because the bulk of listeners' requests are for this thing; as though the public were the judges of musical interpretation. As a bandsman of some 40 years in military bands, orchestras, etc., I would resent the public being the adjudicators at a band contest. The greater part of the public are not conversant with the science of music, and in consequence, are not qualified to judge it. Again, look what a hideous thing crooners and jazz fiends make of that God-given emotion we know as "love." Instead of a noble, divine thing in their hands, it becomes a slimy, sloppy, silly farce. Again, when they distort extracts from the works of the masters is not that an insult to those blessed people? Also, I recall that line which says that "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever." Since the classics survive as they do, surely they must be beautiful? And does a prodigy aspire to become anything but a Menuhin, a Paderewski, or a Caruso?

OLD BANDSMAN (Napier).

## MUSIC AND COMMENTARY

Sir,—I quite agree with "Iconoscope" that the commentaries help a beginner in operatic music. But one doesn't always want to stay in the beginner's class. After that, it is very irritating to be talked down to. Would it be possible to give those who are competent some nights of operas without commentary?—C. MacGLASHAN SMITH (Ohio Bay).

## PALESTINE FOR THE JEWS

Sir,—Your Gentile's interview with Dr. Traub has roused many emotions and thoughts in at least one reader. Never since this pitiless and protracted crucifixion of Israel began can one remain indifferent to the sufferings of that race "beloved for the fathers' sakes." New Zealand's ungenerous and suspicious failure to welcome their refugees stands in sharp contrast with the action of Shanghai city, which admitted 5000 of them. But however generous the Balfour Declaration may be, it cannot over-ride that weighty pronouncement dating from the early days of Jewish subjugation: "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

E. J. D. HERCUS (Christchurch).

Sir,—Your full-page account of an interview with a Zionist gives one point of view. May I suggest another? The religion of the Hebrews was at first associated with a very narrow nationalism, but this was later outgrown in the highest teaching of the prophets where we have not nationalism but a light to lighten the Gentiles; not sacrifice in Zion, but mercy and justice. If the Hebrew scriptures are regarded as a progressive revelation, then we must distinguish the higher from the lower stages, and I contend on this ground that Zionism is a reversion to early tribalism. Our hearts bleed for the sufferings of our brethren under the Nazis, but one injustice is not remedied by creating another. The land of Palestine is not half empty in the sense that unrestricted immigration can go on (as Dr. Traub seems to wish), without injustice to the Christian and Muslim dwellers in the land, who have been there from generation to generation for many hundreds of years. It is not only unfair to taunt Britain with appeasing the Arabs; it is also beside the point. The true Hebrews expect toleration for themselves, and when in power give it to others. Zionists, however, appear to be in a different category. Not many years ago, in spite of strong protests, a Zionist corporation raised the level of the Sea of Galilee several feet, thus obliterating a number of sites sacred to Christians for nearly two thousand years.

—CHESETH LO ZABACH (Pukerau).

## TALKS FOR WOMEN

Sir,—I would like to send an appreciation of the BBC feature, "Everybody's Scrapbook." It is excellent. Could we have a little less music (classical and otherwise), and more of the definitely educative. Also, would it be possible to have more good radio plays? Many of the morning sessions for women from the YA stations are splendid, but some of us country women would have more time to listen in the afternoons, whether it was A.C.E. talks, book talks, or child psychology, etc. They are all grist to the mill at the present day, when we younger women welcome guidance in thinking about the world we will live in after the war.—G.L.S. (Clinton).

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

O.L.Z. (Palmerston North): (a) Six; (b) Yes; (c) No.

"Etiquette" (Otago Central): You are right.

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