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Women on Farms

IT is not disturbing that one or two of the women in the Land Service are not entirely satisfied with their conditions and one or two of their employers not quite convinced that women are the answer to their labour problem. It would be disturbing if that were not the case. If no note of criticism had been heard from one side or the other, that would mean, or be read as meaning—which would be worse—that the authorities had not made an honest attempt to get all the facts. On the other hand the critics are so few, and their complaints so mild, that the satisfaction of the others is an overwhelming endorsement of the scheme from whichever side it is examined. There is hardly one among all these women workers who has not discovered that life in the country is strangely satisfying; and although the employers are not quite so big a number, since many of them employ two workers and some more than two, the worst the dissatisfied ones say is that some girls complain of the loneliness and some of the hours, that some get sick, and that some are a little inclined to regard themselves as heroines for going into the country at all. Added up, that all comes to very little. It enables the Government to appeal with a clear conscience for more volunteers, and leaves farmers free to ask for more—as both are now doing. For it is quite certain that the great majority of the women and girls who answer the appeal will end by being glad that they did—some because they will feel all the time that they are still doing a war job, but most because they feel happy among animals and in the open air. Whether they will remain permanently in the country at present hardly matters. They will help while they are there to keep up production and they will feel the excitement all the time of a new and more real life.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

HOLLYWOOD CHURCH

Sir,—I am sure that many folk like myself would appreciate a return to the radio during the morning session of that lovable feature "The Country Church of Hollywood." I need not comment on some of the fare turned on during the morning, but I know that in these times of strain and stress to mothers, especially those who have loved ones away, a return of the above-named feature would be a source of consolation. I realise that the pastor died some time ago, but many composers have also, and their records are still played.

A MOTHER (Dunedin).

THE MAORI LANGUAGE

Sir,—In *The Listener* of September 10 "Ika Pirau" asks "can you do anything to stop the awful imitation of the Maori language? Yes—something can be done; it should have been done three generations ago. It must be undertaken in the immediate future. The only way of overcoming this national problem (from a cultural point of view it is nothing less), is by teaching in our primary schools a few elementary lessons in the Maori language. By that, I do not mean teaching Maori as a language, but merely the alphabet, vowel sounds, consonants, and word building, etc. As Maori is a phonetic language, this would be simple and interesting to pupils from Standard 3 upwards. This would enable our children to read, write and pronounce Maori place names correctly. No more is necessary for the majority of pupils.—DAVID MACDONALD (Kawakawa).

UNFINISHED FAVOURITES

Sir,—Last night Beethoven swinging into a grand overture was humiliatingly arrested by someone talking about how many seats Macfarlane got in Christchurch South. To-night, Delius was just warming up when it was time for the news. Is there a special filing cabinet for works of this category? Or, these people, do they just chuckle slyly as they sort out the stuff saying "Aha! Here's a good one, old man!" and smugly, with a gleam in the eye and a gloating rub of the hands, drop it heartlessly and purposefully into the doomed collection of Never-to-be-finished favourites?

"ZIPPORAH" (Christchurch).

VITAMIN BANDWAGON

Sir,—The opinions of the average qualified medical practitioner on the question of vitamins and diet must be accepted with a great deal of reserve. The medical profession has a most unfortunate history of opposition to anything new, and its stultifying conservatism delayed for many years the introduction of a great many new ideas which ultimately were of untold benefit to humanity. Anaesthetics, disinfectants, pasteurisation, radiology, twilight sleep, inoculation, etc., and in our day dietetics and the Social Security Medical Services, were all implacably opposed as were, and are, the osteopath and the chiropractor. It is only five or six years since a Chair of Dietetics was established at the Otago Medical School.

The time will come when our doctors will banish a great deal of sickness from

the land with the help of diet and vitamins. Meantime, we should remember that many important medical discoveries were made by "unqualified" people.
JANUS (Upper Hutt).

AN APPRECIATION

Sir,—As a foundation subscriber to *The Listener* and ever since, let me a word or two in appreciation of the high standard you still maintain in what I will call the literary portion: that is, your articles, etc. I find even the Letters to the Editor full of interest. My *Listeners* do not go under the copper when their week's usefulness as programmes is finished. I open them out at the centre, lay them in order of date sequence until I get a volume about one inch thick. The programme portion is then cut away with a sharp knife and the part in front of the staples is bound and kept for reference. I have already three of these bound volumes, and believe me, I have passed many spare minutes browsing through them. Aunt Daisy's page is taken out, and these are bound separately for my wife. Only the programme portion is hung on a nail in the scullery for scrap paper.

LISTENER (Wellington).

P.S.: I would not stand for any political leanings in *The Listener*. At first sign of those I would discontinue my contribution, and I congratulate you on the absence of same so far.

(An appreciation that has met with appreciation.—Ed.).

WHERE ARE THE BAGPIPES?

Sir,—I know that there are plenty of pipe band records in the broadcasting studios. Is it a crime to play them at any of the studios? You have a bandman's hour. Why can't we have pipe bands alternately with the brass? Surely we Scots can have some of our national music more often. Ask any of the men who have been through the wars whether the pipes were appreciated there or not.

"SCOTS WHA HAE" (Waihi)

FILM CRITICISM

Sir,—A comment on Ellery Clark's reasoning. He claims that "a film can and must be judged only on its popularity," yet proceeds to defend *Forty-ninth Parallel* not only because it was popular, but also because it had intrinsic good qualities unjustifiably condemned by G.M. "A tripey film" he says next "will not last as long as a film enjoying a long run on its own merits." "Tripey" and "merits" of course, indicate that Ellery Clark himself has standards by which he measures the intrinsic quality of films independently of their popularity. If he hasn't, what he asserts is just this: "A less popular film will not run as long as a more popular one," which is scarcely a profound or useful remark. I should like to add my thank-you to G.M. to the list. According to my standards, he sometimes fails because his are too low, but it is exhilarating to find someone attempting honestly to judge films on their own merits.

W. J. SCOTT (Karori).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

"Outback" (Rewa). The donkey is a dangerous animal.

M. Lee (Epsom). We have tried, unsuccessfully, to procure another photograph.

"Backblocks." Referred to appropriate authorities.

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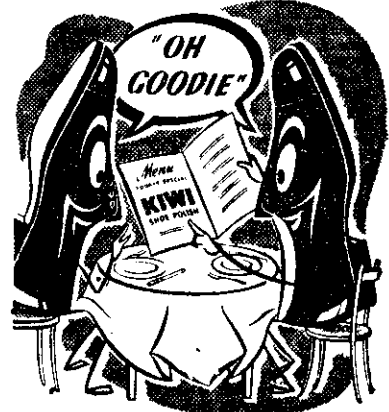
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