

BETTER RECEPTION

Sir,—Your two correspondents, F. J. Ford, of Collingwood, and Derrick G. Sofio, of Whangarei, have raised questions of great interest to all listeners, even though their remarks have referred more particularly to transmitting and receiving conditions only in the Wellington and Auckland areas.

To appreciate these problems fully it appears necessary to examine carefully the conditions of broadcasting in each instance, and to render the position more clear I have prepared the following table showing the frequencies and powers of the stations referred to, as well as the corresponding data for the interfering Australian stations:

	Station	Frequency in Kcs.	Power in Kw.
2YA	Wellington	570	60.0
2YC	Wellington	660	60.0
2BH	Broken Hill, N.S.W.	660	0.200
2YX	Wellington	1400	0.250
2PK	Parkes, N.S.W.	1400	0.200
5AU	Port Augusta, S.A.	1400	0.200
2YD	Wellington	1130	5.0 (?)
2AD	Armidale, N.S.W.	1130	0.200
3CS	Colac, Vic.	1130	0.200
6PM	Perth, W.A.	1130	0.500
1YA	Auckland	760	10.0
2NE	Broken Hill, N.S.W.	760	2.0
1YC	Auckland	880	10.0
3UL	Warragul, Vic.	880	0.200
4WK	Warragul, O.	880	0.100
6PR	Perth, W.A.	880	0.500
1YD	Auckland	1250	0.750
2DU	Dubbo, N.S.W.	1250	2.0
9PA	Port Moresby, N.G.	1250	0.500

The very obvious fact that immediately emerges is the great disparity in the power dissipated in the Wellington and Auckland transmitting aeriels, for while the 2YA and 2YC transmitters operate at a power of 60 kilowatts the corresponding stations in Auckland are radiating at only one-sixth of this power rating. It is accordingly pertinent to ask why it is that Auckland, with a city population more than twice that of Wellington and with a larger provincial area also to cover and serve, should possess transmitters of such lower power ratings. Surely the very clear answer to the questions raised by your two correspondents is that the remedy for the interferences experienced in and around Auckland is to increase substantially the powers of the Auckland transmitters. This is indeed the only effective answer to the problem, for it is obviously a complete waste of time attempting to secure more "clear channels" than the present frequency allocations will allow.

As to the reception of 2YX when Parliament is on the air, I must say that here in Thames I have no difficulty in bringing it in with a good reception strength, despite the fact that it appears to be radiating with only 0.750 kw. in its aerial, and since the sets I am using were both designed and built throughout by their owner I would accordingly prefer to regard this problem of better reception rather as one of better transmission than of improved set design.

W. F. CHUBB (Thames).

(Station 2YX is 1 kw. and 2YD is ½ kw. 2YA and 2YC are of greater power than the other New Zealand stations because they are located geographically in the centre of New Zealand and can, and do, give a useful coverage over most of the country. The stations in Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin are intended to function as regional stations, and as such give a generally satisfactory coverage throughout their expected service area. Field strength decreases rapidly with distance and beyond this service area it gets so weak in places that Australian stations operating on the same frequencies are also audible at night time and spoil reception. It is not economically justifiable to give the Auckland stations much higher power, at considerable cost, to enable them to be heard clearly at all times in the South Island.—Ed.)

WHY ARE CHURCHES EMPTY?

Sir,—Ethel Dackers asks, "Are not Christians required by Christ to be separate from the things of the world, and to work to strengthen their minds in a spiritual direction and to make others

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do likewise?" To the first part of her question I would say no, definitely no. I cannot think of any facet of Christianity which requires us to live a life apart from our fellow men. Christ devoted the biggest portion of His teaching to "love thy neighbour," and by "neighbour" He didn't mean only the man next door, but all those thousands employed in politics, social work, and in every walk of life, whom Ethel Dackers exhorts us to shun. Did He not mingle with the people, feeding, healing, comforting, employed in what today we call "social work"? Did He not earn the ridicule and hatred of the Pharisees for mixing with publicans and sinners? His whole life on earth was, and is, a glorious record of love, and supreme self-sacrifice by the greatest social worker the world has ever known.

I agree with Ethel Dackers that we must strengthen our minds spiritually, but what use is that if, having spiritual strength, we are not inspired to lead helpful, productive lives along with those of our fellow men? If the churches are empty, and I do not think they are, it is because our Christian leaders are so involved with the theoretical side of living that they have overlooked the practical issues. But I do not think that this is so. More today than ever before, our leaders realise the importance of knowing and living among their people.

Where the minister is chairman of the school committee, president of the competitions society, convener of the local parish dance, or on the board of a home for unmarried mothers, and is willing to contribute to any discussion, be it in arts, religion or politics, his is a Christ-like example, and his church will be full.

PAMELA W. BLUCK (Cambridge).

HEARING AND LISTENING

Sir,—An Auckland newspaper recently published an analysis on a time basis of the programmes heard from national and X class non-commercial stations during the course of one week. The figures at first seemed surprising. So-called "light" music was in the lead, taking up 46.71 per cent of the time. Serious music was given only 20.07 per cent, less than half of the time allotted to light music.

This light music no doubt is heard by the majority of radio owners. Everywhere we hear cacophonous dance bands and sickly redundant crooners. Do people listen attentively to these noises? I contend, Sir, that they do not. These sounds are a background to talking and eating. They listen only to the time, the forecast and the news.

Surely for this admittedly large group serious music would at least be just as good a background. For the sake of the worker living in the country, who is not often able to receive adequately the YC stations, could we not have more music for those who listen and less for those who hear sounds?

W. J. O'SULLIVAN (Te Kuiti).

DRUGS AND CONFESSIONS

Sir,—Replying to your correspondent L. Reid (August 6) I did not bring Communism into the discussion on fluoridation. This was done by A.W., and commented on by the editor. I merely used a more apposite reference to benign drugs when used in excess strength.

Now that I have been "pinned down" for proof I must confess I have never seen the drugs actually administered in Russia, nor have I had an analysis made

of the strength of such drugs allegedly administered. Neither have I seen the other side of the moon, yet I am prepared, on an analysis of the evidence presented to me, to believe that there is one. I do not have to wait for the first "space-man's" return.

Your correspondent's logic on the Piltown man appears to run as follows: (1) There is a skull known as the Piltown man. (2) This has been proved a scientific hoax. (3) Therefore all knowledge is false. And, by the way, has your correspondent ever seen the Piltown skull? And how does he know it's phoney? S.H. (Wellington).

CO-EDUCATION

Sir,—An interesting Southland panel recently discussing co-education put forward the view that mixed classes further an understanding between the sexes. Some speakers felt that the opportunity for boys and girls to work, as well as to play together, built up natural and healthy relationships which stand them in good stead in adult life. It would be interesting to know if this has any bearing on the familiar New Zealand habit of the sexes to segregate themselves at social functions. I wonder if any members of the panel have noticed this tendency lessened in communities where co-education exists? Or do the ladies just as inevitably sort themselves out in one end of the room to talk recipes, while the men huddle discreetly in the other?

M.J.B. (Christchurch).

AN EYE FOR FALLACIES

Sir,—G.H.D.'s admission that it is not necessary to read a book in order to criticise it only confirms what many of us have suspected—that our intellectuals are more concerned with opinion than with art—and that opinion is achieved much more cheaply.

If reviews are taken as dehydrated reading, no wonder G.H.D. has time to express so many opinions in the press, in the interests of his "educative work" as a "ranger in the intellectual domain." But surely "sniper" would be a much better word.

LOUIS JOHNSON (Wellington).

LISPING IN NUMBERS

Sir,—May I submit a point of correction to the recent discussion in your columns concerning the periodical *Numbers*? I take it that your reference in an editorial note to a letter, that "one story by another contributor had already been published elsewhere," was a reference to my short allegory "Apple Mash." This story had been published some time ago in a cyclostyled and necessarily ephemeral production of very limited circulation, the "newspaper" of Wellington Teachers' Training College. Your note may give readers the impression of a more permanent kind of first publication.

JAMES K. BAXTER (Wellington).

TOWARDS THE GOLDEN AGE

Sir,—Although it is doubtful whether "Towards the Golden Age" is a literary triumph—a serious-minded sixth-former might have composed it—the writer has pointed accurately to, and placed a sensitive finger on, the malady of our time.

A. R. D. Fairburn's delicate accusation is timely and pertinent. I would like to suggest, however, that the word object could, to advantage, replace the word subject. This would make the

essay clear, even to a third-former confused by the meaning of subject matter. If the new aesthetic was then applied to football, all would be understood and all would understand. The game would become true, and beautiful, and team spirit would realise itself in free play and lack of object matter, namely: goals, uniforms and referees.

Perhaps the new aesthetic might be extended best, in every field, by a universal hunger strike. After all, eating only prolongs the agony.

J. S. NICHOLSON (Matamata).

MORNING SERIALS

Sir,—I must make an attempt to convey, through you, the disgust and dismay that most women feel when they listen to morning serials from the commercial stations. These serials often portray a lying, cheating and treacherous woman "putting it across" a particularly blind and gullible husband. The writers present as ordinary and normal a way of life that is incredible. The only "love" we ever hear about is for someone utterly worthless or quite unattainable.

With a considerable amount of dexterity the producers manage to recapitulate a large part of the story every morning and give out as little as possible that is new. One day a week or so ago we had the pleasure of hearing about the collapse of a faulty building in a storm. Next episode carried the same incident as heard by another character over the radio—and so on until that one episode lasted a week. Incidentally, in the unhappy country where these events take place there appear to be no laws to protect workers from being "framed" by bosses in building jobs, no solidarity or unions among the workers, and no police to protect the public. What police there are, arrest all the wrong people and are terribly deferential to the real criminals. This particular serial (which bears a singularly unfortunate name) has now reached such an impasse, with all the principals married to the wrong persons and divorce unthinkable because we must not finish listening with the idea that there is any easy way out of marriage, that it will probably share the fate of a similar serial which packed up in one extremely unsatisfactory episode some months ago.

For a final example we have the serial that deals just with courting and marrying. In that one an extremely strange and in some countries illegal situation is presented to us as nice and homey and normal. There is a millionaire (divorced) who is now married to a wholly good and pure young woman, but she is in love with her husband's son, and we have the incredible experience of hearing all the persons concerned, the husband, his ex-wife and his son, talk of the beautiful love between the son and his stepmother, and plan the rosy future when (after another divorce) these true lovers may be united!

ONE FED-UP WOMAN (Hawera).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Lorna Robb (Helenheim): They'll be broadcast later from northern stations.

A. Shepherd (Te Puia): A good point; thank you. The programme is to be heard in the evening from other stations.

Chas. Fuller (Raglan) and A.G.E. (Auckland): Arrived after correspondence had been closed.

Wondering (Christchurch): Judging in that type of programme is always difficult there is bound to be disagreement with some of the decisions. At present there is a resident team of eight-five of whom are rostered for each performance. They are based in Auckland for convenience, as that city has the only fully equipped radio theatre.