

Letters from Listeners

(continued from page 5)

THE ROOT OF THE MATTER

Sir,—I have not read Margaret Isherwood's *The Root of the Matter*, reviewed by James K. Baxter in your issue dated March 4. He says she suggests: "that the spiritual devastation wrought by loss of faith can best be avoided by removing faith from the young, and replacing it with intellectual tolerance." If that is an accurate statement of what she says, I would first observe that one cannot "remove faith" from any mind. One can remove faith in some particular thing—e.g., any specific religious, political or social conception. And I think the author was recommending something of that kind.

But what, I ask, is wrong with teaching a child intellectual tolerance? Mankind is more or less desperately attempting to mould a new human world from the pitiful mess of material that is what it is, largely through intolerance. To attempt to make a new human world while educating the child in all the intolerances cherished by its parents and the community in which it lives, is a hopeless proceeding. In the religious world discussed by your reviewer, a multiplication of those he calls "inbetweeners" might well be a hopeful development. We like to think that we have got past the stage when religious intolerances persecuted those whose views were different from the authority in power. Intellectual tolerance does not involve sacrifice of the right to do battle against what one regards as mistaken or evil; but it does involve the sacrifice of the wish to employ either physical or spiritual terrorism.

J. MALTON MURRAY (Oamaru).

CHRISTOPHER FRY'S PLAY

Sir,—I am in no position to comment on the work and ability of Miss Jefford and Mr. Michell, not having seen them perform. I would, however, endorse Mr. Assheton Harbord's contention that being a permanent member of the Stratford Repertory does not indicate the higher rungs of theatrical status to have been achieved.

According to the daily press, Miss Jefford has expressed her intention of breaking away from Stratford and into the West End, an endeavour which will require not only ability but a good share of luck. As I feel sure Miss Jefford would concede, had the higher rungs already been achieved offers would preclude the necessity to "break in."

I. R. MAXWELL-STEWART
(Wellington).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Still Faithful (Dunedin): He was innocent; it was a misprint.

Restful: The address as well as the name of a correspondent is required.

Freda Patterson (Auckland): Thank you. Some like them; some don't. And so the world wags.

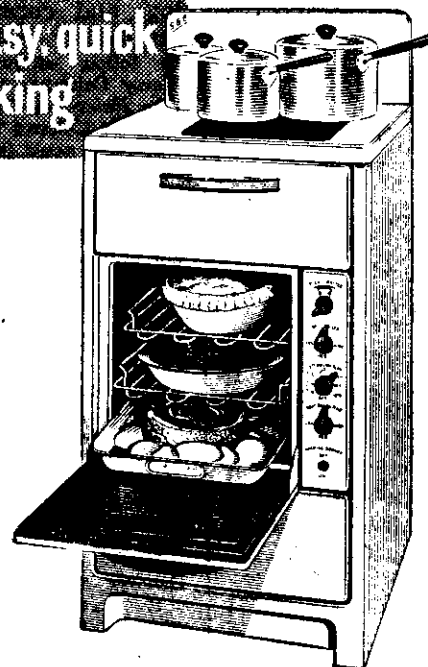
Joan B. Ross (Wellington): From 4YC, April 3 to April 24. Playing times not yet available.

E. Lawrence (Wellington): An earlier placement—say 8.30—is obstructed by (1) the brief period for silent prayer just before 9.0, (2) the desirability of providing a musical or variety programme alternative to the YAs' spoken programmes, 9.0 to 9.30, and (3) the fact that the line for the link of ZB stations is not regularly available before 9.30.

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