

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

THE STORY OF COLENZO

Sir,—With reference to the article in this connection in *The Listener*, I would point out that the illustration given is not correct. This is a photo of the Napier Grammar School, the headmaster of which was Rev. D'Arcy Irvine. After the book *William Colenso*, by Bagnall and Peterson (which I have beside me), was published, I pointed out this error to the publishers, but it was then too late to correct it.

The Rev. William Colenso was very well known to me. I have several personal letters he wrote to me as late as 1898. He had two cottages on Colenso Hill, one of which he occupied, and the other was occupied by a married couple named Anderson, who looked after his domestic wants. As a boy I frequently was in his house and at that time he had two tuatara lizards in his room which fascinated me.

The cottage he occupied is still there. Mr. W. Plowman bought the property after Colenso's death and erected a two-storied house adjoining the cottage which, Plowman apparently appreciating its historical value, he left intact.

H. A. FANNIN (Hastings).

THIS IS DENNISTON

Sir,—Many people in New Zealand listen to Mr. Henderson's talks. *This is New Zealand*, and gain thereby impres-

sions of places which they probably will never visit. He spoke on the small mining township of Denniston, and it was not a true picture of the place at all.

The Scottish bride he spoke about was only an arm's length away from her neighbour, and all the people there are very friendly and the houses built quite close together. Denniston is a township built on a mountain plateau 2000 feet above sea level. At times it is hidden by fog which is really low cloud, but on a fine day those people living on the western side of the township have a glorious view of the Tasman Sea. Mr. Henderson gave the impression that nothing would grow there as it was more or less barren. There are people with good gardens, mostly vegetable, and also good lawns and some of the crops can more than hold their own with those grown in other places.

There is a well-equipped modern school, hospital, Athenaeum and picture theatre, where three different programmes are shown weekly. In addition, under the auspices of the Community Centre, dressmaking, arts and crafts, motor mechanics, electric welding and carpentry classes are held, so that there is plenty of scope for people to occupy their spare time. There is also a swimming pool, recreation ground, tennis

courts and good bowling green, so that sports are encouraged in the place as well.

I think people reading this letter will see Denniston, not as Mr. Henderson depicted it, but as it really is.

(MRS.) VIOLET PEARSON
(Denniston).

LIGHT MUSIC

Sir,—Under Hitler's Fascism jazz was banned, and is likewise today under Communism—hence for the modern musician the new name for the system of Commufascism. Many famous composers have written music for the jazz idiom, but it seems nevertheless that the non-musician critics will always be with us. How many of these critics could hold a sheet of written transcribed jazz in one hand and a sheet of any other music in the other and then say which was music and which was not? As any musician knows, a thorough musical education of scales, chords, transposing, etc., is required to be efficient in any music, not to mention acquiring the skill to perform on an instrument. The American Negroes have made some very commendable contributions to music, and so many of them show dexterity on an instrument and a natural improvisational talent that is amazing.

A sharp contrast to Commufascism is in the United States where the Colum-

bia University has appointed Sydney Gross, formerly of London, as Professor of Jazz, the Institute of Arts and Sciences now recognising jazz as a cultural art form. As Leonard Feather, noted critic of modern music, said, "Freedom to listen to music includes the freedom to listen to jazz."

SYNCOPE (Auckland).

TAVERNS IN THE TOWNS

Sir,—Your editorial, under the above heading, states that "no civilised person could fail to be shocked by the results of six o'clock closing, or dismayed by irrational opposition to reform." Is it not a fact that, no matter when the pubs close, the result is the same? It is well within the memory of many of us that 10 o'clock closing was the time when the drunks were more of a nuisance than they are today at six o'clock, especially to those who were returning home from the theatres and other entertainments.

What reform is necessary, is not a great concession to an already over-indulged industry, but a realisation by those who abuse its product that their conduct is antisocial, selfish in the extreme, and in many cases just plain beastly, and for the rest of the community who suffer as a result of this abuse by the minority, to show openly their contempt of those drunks and



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