

ORGAN AND CHOIR

Sir,—As I have read with keen interest the L.C.M.S. review of Mr. F. K. Tucker's engrossing memoir, dealing with Dr. J. C. Bradshaw's remarkable career, I would appreciate your courtesy in permitting me to elucidate two matters alluded to by the reviewer and dealt with subsequently by Mr. Tucker. (1) Insofar as Dr. Bradshaw's men's rehearsals were concerned, I, like Mr. Tucker, do not recollect that the Doctor "ever did so much as to sing one note of music." L.C.M.S., however, quotes an actual incident, relating to No. 3 chorus of the Brahms Requiem, when the revered conductor gave his boys the required "lead" by singing the bass entry to that most difficult fugue, known to the "grown-ups" as the Barby-wire chorus. The words "O Lord, say who may console me," are singularly appropriate in relation to the alleged inattention of the unfortunate lad!

Referring to your reviewer's comments with regard to discarded Victorian composers "well before 1922," I am confident that the Service known as Barnby in E was sung fairly frequently in 1921 (my first year of residence in Christchurch), and would be well within the capabilities of the 1922 relieving organist. After the Doctor's return from England in 1923 there was "no appearance." I agree that Gadsby's music was thrown up on the high shelf as far back as the Edwardian Coronation, because it is devoid of "marks." In 1937-38, however, the late Maughan Barnett included Gadsby in C in the Cathedral choir's repertoire; thereafter it disappeared again. Nothing by Sir Arthur Sullivan appeared in the choir lists during my sojourn in Pancake City, although I recollect that his organ composition "In Memoriam" was included with other voluntaries in relation to the solemn Anzac Day observances in the early '20s. Reverting to the much maligned Victorians (works of 1860-1900), I would refer students, and others interested, to the "Bradshaw Collection" available for perusal in the Canterbury Public Library; whistling these old melodies, however, is an "Offence." WALTER H. WARREN (Timaru).

THE HYDROGEN BOMB

Sir,—Mr. Murray asks what it is that the Communists have which we in the West need. Our world has developed beyond the limits of our present ideological equipment. We live today in a world in which we cannot fight a war with atomic weapons lest we poison the earth for everyone; we cannot begin a major war with "conventional" weapons because it would not end with conventional weapons; and we cannot safely wage even a minor war lest it develop into a major one. As between the East and the West, war is out if we want to survive. Armaments, however, are not out. They are part of ourselves. For thousands of years men have equated weapons with security, and we cannot simply toss them aside.

Herein lies a double danger. As between East and West, if we put our trust in armaments and actually use them we risk extinction; but if we trust in armaments well knowing that we cannot actually use them, then we are relying for our sense of security on what we know to be an illusion. This is not a stable situation. It cannot continue. We shall either use our reason to reach a new basis for the sense of security we need, or else we shall gradually abandon reason through an increasing tendency to attach to ideas and groups that are emotionally satisfying though not ration-

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

ally sound. Social unreason erupted in Germany as a political movement; but we cannot assume that any further outbreaks will necessarily be political in form or centred on any one nation.

In short, our world has developed to a stage where even the static dream of peaceful co-existence is no longer a real answer to the problem of East and West. To survive in a sane world, the East-West tension cannot be merely endured; it must be eliminated. In so far as it arises through attachment to differing ideologies these differences must be reconciled. And if the common ground between the beliefs of the Communist East and the West—as they stand at present—is not enough to feel happy about, then we must seek out and develop the internal contradictions in both of these sets of ideas until we do arrive at something that will give acceptable firm support to both sides equally.

This process of advancing ideas through developing their inner contradictions is included in Hegel's term "dialectical growth." For Mr. Murray's comfort we may note that Hegel was not a Communist and that some of the bitterest opponents of Communism have been inspired by his work. But Karl Marx and his followers have found the concept so useful to their own purposes that we tend to forget that it is, after all, only a tool to help us to understand how things grow, and that if it's the tool we need for the job in hand there's no reason why we shouldn't use it as much as anyone else.

DICK SOUTHON (Auckland).

EARLY RADIO STATIONS

Sir,—I was delighted to see a letter from Evan E. Reece, in praise of the many little radio stations which put broadcasting before the people in places far beyond the reach of the original major stations. I call attention to 2ZM Gisborne, since it was founded by three young men who were spoken of in overseas magazines as the "wizards of radio," to wit, Ivan O'Meara, Robert Patty and Percy Stevens. I had the honour of assembling the first concert programme for 2ZM early in 1923, the object being to give the people of Alaska a treat. Surprising, isn't it? 2ZM had three important firsts: it was the first New Zealand station to be heard as far away from New Zealand as Alaska; it was the first station to have its own radio orchestra (this was conducted by a well-known musician, Mr. T. Shone, father of the witty commentator of 1ZB), and it was the first station in the world from which a Shakespearian item was given. I gave it, selecting Oberon's speech to Puck, deeming the last line as appropriate, "I'll put a girdle round the earth in forty minutes." I didn't know, when I put my head inside the enormous trumpet which formed part of the mike, that I would be faced with fascinating items from the newsprint with which it was lined, such as "weaners brought very low prices at Matawhero today, but hoggets hardened considerably."

Some rather unpredictable things happened in those early days. My husband—afterwards Uncle Buster of the Children's Hour—was examining the microphone when Mr. Stevens thrust a mass of manuscript into his hand and said, "Go on, read it, you're on the air." And for a solid half-hour that poor man read a speech by the world president of the Esperanto Society!

What were the programmes like in those early days, you ask? Good; each

little town had its singers and musicians, who saw in radio a chance of advancement, or were delighted to have a new experience. And what about scripts? I think I can speak with authority, since I have been writing original scripts since '23, which means that I have been writing longer regularly than anyone else for New Zealand radio. Splendid travel talks used to come in, and talks about New Zealand's early days were often very good indeed. Two of my own scripts written in the early '30s have since been broadcast by the BBC, the Canadian Broadcasting Station at Toronto, and 2GB Sydney. No doubt other writers have had equal luck. If I were to be asked what difference there is between those early days and the present I can only say there was more fun—and less money! And sometimes none at all! But we had the knowledge that we were pioneers in what still remains to me the wonder of the 20th century. JUDY T. (Auckland).

THE DEADLY DUST

Sir,—You are to be congratulated on your editorial, "The Deadly Dust" (*Listener*, June 29). I am sure it still takes a great deal of courage to say that bomb tests should be stopped, because this is contrary to current political and military opinion. But it is, after all, the opinion of most men and women not only in this country, but the world over. Yet the atomic explosions continue and we are told they will continue, e.g., at, ironically, Christmas Island. Meanwhile radio-active rain is falling in Japan, and Australia. What, then, can be done?

K. BREHMER (Auckland).

Sir,—I should like to express my appreciation of your editorial "The Deadly Dust." The possibility that bomb tests may have detrimental effects upon the health of people within range of the resulting radio-active dust must be a matter of serious concern to many, and it is time we questioned the necessity for continuing the tests. To most of us, I am sure, the first bomb dropped on Hiroshima was test enough. Atomic research has progressed greatly since then. Is it necessary that we should go any further in our quest of deadliness? Atomic weapons, as they are today, appear to be sufficiently effective, though their real use—as they render bombed areas uninhabitable—may be questioned. Is it right, therefore, that ordinary people should be exposed to the dangerous possibility of ruined health or lingering death for the satisfaction of unnecessary scientific curiosity? We have the weapons. Is it not time to stop, and consider whether we shall ever dare to use them? And if so, how?

G. M. RICHARDSON (Te Puke).

JONATHAN ROBERTS

Sir,—I too remember the story of Jonathan Roberts, whose escapades occurred when L was a small boy. He and my father were together on the staff of the Bank of New Zealand at Timaru. On occasions Jonathan was a guest at our home, which was on the West Town Belt (now Craigie's Avenue).

I have a clear recollection of the day on which he escaped from the Timaru jail, which was not far from our home. Jonathan changed into civilian clothes, which evidently had been "planted" for him by a sympathiser, in the grounds of Whitaker's, almost opposite our

house. He then went to the top of the Belt, turned into College Hill and disappeared into Bowker's property, which was heavily wooded.

H. P. MOURANT (Auckland).

STATION 12M

Sir,—On behalf of my family and self, I would like to express appreciation of the tribute that was paid to Station 12M by Station 1YD on June 3. When we first arrived in this country in 1937, we took an immediate liking to "Station 12M, Manurewa," because of its pleasant music, its quiet talks, and the friendly voices of the announcers. It became our favourite station, and we have often talked about the hours that we used to spend listening to 12M.

We hadn't much idea of the history of the station, however, until 1YD's tribute came over the air, and after almost 20 years we found ourselves listening once again to Station 12M, Manurewa. In our opinion the half-hour tribute to "Bill" Rogers and his work was a very nice thought on the part of the NZBS; and it was with great regret that we learned of the death of the man who gave us many pleasant evenings years ago.

IMMIGRANT (Auckland).

A BEETHOVEN SONATA

Sir,—I listened to the playing by Hilde Cohn of the Beethoven Sonata in E Flat, Op. 31, No. 2, and realised that an artist was interpreting that seldom heard work. We have many players in New Zealand, but few with the insight, technique, and emotional capacity to conceive this sonata as a whole and give such a musical experience to the listeners. I would appreciate more from this artist. ETHEL McNEILL (Taita).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

E.J.B. (Motueka): Many thanks. A copy has already been sent.

M.F.P. (Wigram): Rights in *The Dark Tower* were extended by the BBC to six years but have now expired.

E. P. du Fresno (Waipukurau): You have not missed a list. See page 17.

J. Black (Auckland): Thanks for offer. A copy has already been sent.

Robinson Crusoe (Inglewood): Possibly later, but no definite date.

E.M.W. (Te Aroha): Cecil Hull.

P.R. (Wellington): They have already been broadcast twice, and no early repetition is likely. But they will be broadcast later.

Mrs. L. Macdonald (Dunedin): "Sœur Monique," by François Couperin.

L.B. (Hamilton): A few years ago, no complaint was more frequent—and none, perhaps, was better justified—than that the YA stations, said to be playing dinner music between 6.0 and 7.0 p.m., in fact, had hardly time to play any, since weather, news, stock reports, newsreel, and so forth, kept on breaking in. For this good and continuing reason, the function of providing an unbroken hour's light music was allotted to the YC stations, at the convenient period when they were re-powered and the new YC programme type was developed; and that is why, as has previously been explained, the YC stations assume their own and characteristic evening programme function at 7.0. Since then, the flow of complaints from listeners who wanted an hour's continuous dinner music has entirely ceased. The new complaint—that this or that YC station has given up playing music to the complainant's taste, between 6.0 and 7.0, and taken to playing nothing but light music—arises from the fact that programme-planners have sometimes forgotten the six-year-old definition of the 6.0 to 7.0 type and selected music more suitable for the YC evening programme. Naturally, the listener who prefers that is displeased; and the occasion is regretted. But there are no grounds for the charge that a new policy has suddenly been enforced, taking away an established programme of good music and substituting another, unwanted and inferior.

D. M. Gifford (Remuera): (1) The type was defined for a good and continuing reason—six years ago. (2) Letters of protest are never ignored. See also, reply to L.B. (Hamilton).