

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

POLIO VACCINATION

Sir,—My purpose in writing to *The Listener* was not to start a controversy, but to point out that while people are supposedly given a choice as to whether they shall have their children vaccinated or not, the only information being given by the Health Department is that which favours vaccination.

If Dr. Turbott is not aware that very much adverse criticism of polio vaccination is taking place overseas, and that other forms of immunisation are also under fire from medical men of high standing, then it is time he extended his reading to include information other than that which fits in with his preconceived ideas.

Typical of this closed attitude of mind is the way Dr. Turbott attributes the low incidence of diphtheria in Britain during the last war to immunisation. He does not mention that the number of cases of diphtheria and deaths therefrom had steadily been declining for the previous 12 years without the benefit of any therapeutic measures. Thus, it could be expected that the decline would continue, immunisation or no. (Actually, the immunisation campaign began towards the end of 1940, and there was an increase in cases for 1941, a decline again setting in in 1942.) That Britain escaped the Continental epidemic to a large extent could be attributed just as logically to the very high standard of nutrition enjoyed during the war. Though the food was monotonous, it was impossible to obtain the rubbish that passes for food in times of peace, and British health was of a phenomenally high standard in consequence.

One point which many do not realise is that widespread immunisation usually takes place following a "scare," when the epidemic is on the wane in any case, so that the natural decline in figures is attributed quite incorrectly to immunisation.

I do not wish to thrust my ideas down anybody's throat; it is, quite truly, the right of the individual to make his or her own decision. But, in all honesty, it is the duty of the Health Department to tell the whole truth and not to turn a blind eye to anything that reflects adversely on what it is trying to promote.

MARY STROOBANT (Auckland).
(This correspondence is now closed.—Ed.)

PURCHASING POWER

Sir,—Mr. J. Johnstone's jibe about monetary reformers is wasted, because I wrote not a word about monetary reform. As for his arguments, only the last paragraph of his letter is sufficiently relevant to merit a reply: and that is demonstrably false.

Let us consider all of the capital assets which industry puts into commission during a particular production cycle, so as to make good depreciation and to invest profits collected during the lifetime of the depreciated assets. If the average life of all capital assets is N cycles, and if the average new investment in each cycle equals the original cost of assets replaced in that cycle, then the capital expenditure in each of the following N cycles will increase by an N th. Thus the capital expenditure will be doubled N cycles later. That is the flow of incomes distributed by investment in the N th cycle.

Now let us see what will be the flow of investment costs into prices. In respect of the assets we first considered, prices in the first cycle must be loaded with an N th part of the cost for depre-

ciation and an N th for investment. Prices in the following cycle must be loaded also with two N th parts of the expenditure in that cycle, which expenditure (as we have previously noted) has increased by an N th. I hope a good proportion of your readers will recognise this as a time series with the variable increasing in two ways. First there is a simple arithmetical progression which, in N cycles, will aggregate twice the original expenditure, and will therefore equal the capital expenditure taking place at the same time. Secondly, there is double the depreciation on the cyclic increase, which, by the N th cycle, has occurred as many times as the sum of the numbers 1 to N . Even readers who cannot grasp the second part of the series will see that whatever it adds to prices is entirely in excess of the incomes distributed by capital expenditure. I would be pleased to mail the mathematical formula to any enthusiast who cares to obtain my address from *The Listener*.

Obviously there must be a discrepancy between consumer incomes and prices as long as any capital investment costs whatsoever are charged into prices in advance of the corresponding capital

"HOLIDAY GUIDE" NEXT WEEK

THE second North Island instalment of the "Listener Holiday Guide" will appear in next week's issue.

expenditure. The existence of a large discrepancy was proved in the evidence the Government Statistician gave to the Royal Commission on monetary, banking and credit systems. When it inferred that the evidence established an equation, the Commission committed two major fallacies. In the first place, it treated the undistributed profits of industry as purchasing power in the hands of the people. Secondly, it accepted the statement that decreases in overseas assets increase monetary incomes in New Zealand, whereas the opposite point of view is postulated on page 361 of the Commission's Report.

K. O'BRIEN (Hastings).

"THE VANISHING ISLAND"

Sir,—I should like to express my thanks to the NZBS for the excellent play, *The Vanishing Island*. It shows that when there is change based on the absolute standards of love, honesty, purity and unselfishness, there is hope for unity between men and nations, and for the whole world—an inspiring vision of the future. Could it be that B.E.G.M. and Sebastian found it Gilbertian merely by associating it with Ivan Menzies? I agree with B.E.G.M. that the music is charming and melodious. The clarity of the words and the feeling put into this production makes it outstanding and worthy of repetition, which I hope will be possible. Sir Beverley Baxter has said that it is one of the best musical shows London has seen for a long time. I should like to suggest a little introduction to the play, and to each act, as an explanation. H.McI. (Dunedin).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Punter (Pukeatua): Agreed: The aberration has not been noticed, but will be checked when it is.

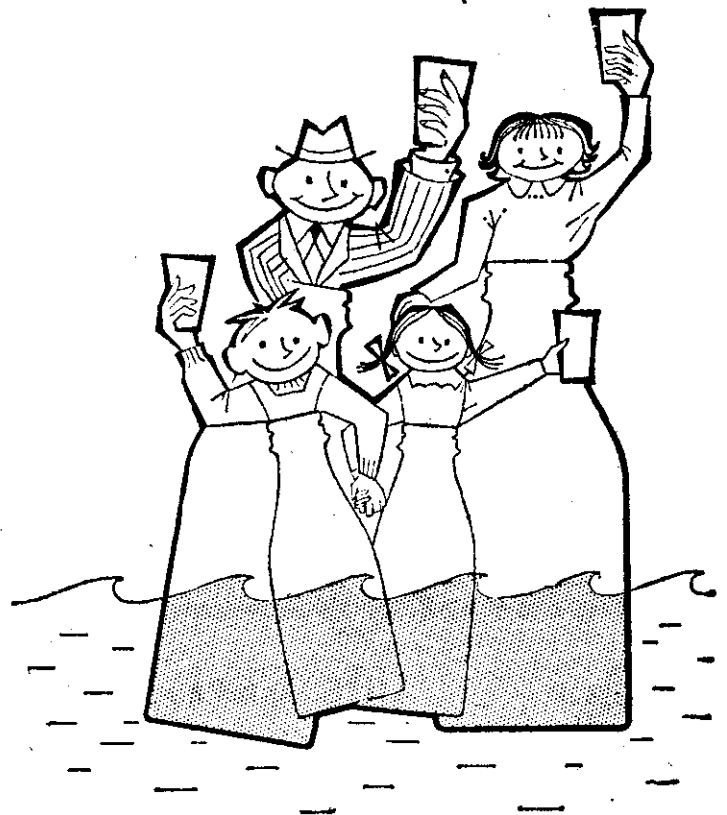
A.C. Black (Ngaruawahia): No S.A. direct transmission of a quality suitable for rebroadcast. BBC reports, of course.

Nee Main (Waimate): No foreigners are employed for the purpose.

A.J.S. (Hamilton): Sorry, not possible at present. But the topic will come up again.

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