

D. H. LAWRENCE

Sir,—Your article on the BBC programme on D. H. Lawrence omits one small fact about him—his wife Frieda was German, a von Richthofen. Thus it is perhaps understandable that he and she might be mistaken for spies in Cornwall in 1915. Oddly enough Lawrence himself had been accused of spying by the German police at Metz in 1912 and of being an English officer—he found the latter accusation the more painful.

D. H. (Dunedin).

Sir,—I was staying at Vence—a lovely little old town above Nice on the French Riviera. It was there that D. H. Lawrence was living in one of the three big sanatoriums at the foot of the mountains. He used to go to the old town a great deal, and made great friends with an ordinary workman there. He asked the workman to get a piece of granite for his tombstone. When it had been selected they both worked at it, cut it to shape, and polished it. Then Lawrence drew a Phoenix in the centre of it, and got the workman to insert coloured pebbles. I was most fortunate to have seen it.

Later I was in Vence again, and was anxious to see Lawrence's grave. I asked a woman who kept a pottery shop where the cemetery was and said I would like to see the grave of D. H. Lawrence. She told me I was five years too late. He wished to be buried in Mexico, and his wife came and had him exhumed and cremated, and took the ashes to Mexico. She added that she had his tombstone if I would like to see it. Then she took me up a stairway that was hung at both sides with lovely French and Italian pottery, and at the top was the tombstone. I asked how she came to have it, and she told me that Lawrence's wife did not want it and gave it to her. I said that she must have been an extraordinary woman to give away a lovely thing like that, especially her husband's own work. I thought it should be in the Kensington Museum in London, since he was an Englishman, and a great writer. I have often wondered what happened to that most beautiful piece of work.

EILEEN DRISCOLL (Wellington).

ENEMY OF FREEDOM

Sir,—Did not Reuben Ship's *The Investigator* show Mr. Downey (*Listener*, January 25) exactly where investigations of the type conducted by Senator McCarthy lead? Did not Ship illustrate forcefully enough that investigations of that kind lead not only to culling the Reds from our precious community but also to suppressing liberal opinion, and that when this happens we might as well have saved ourselves the trouble and allowed the Communists to overthrow by force our lawful government?

But, of course, Mr. Downey does not think very highly of liberal opinion for he uses the words "run-to-seed" to qualify it. I do not know what run-to-seed liberalism is exactly, but I will take the liberty of presuming that it is the kind of liberalism to which Mr. Downey does not subscribe. He would almost certainly insist that he was a man of liberal beliefs although he allies himself with the policy of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, a necessarily narrow-minded body under the chairmanship of McCarthy. He would say that he was a man of liberal beliefs but that he had made the sacrifice of modifying them temporarily because this is necessary in combating Communism. But per-

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haps it is more accurate to assume that Mr. Downey condemns all liberalism.

For a few phrases further on he mentions that present-day society has substituted Almighty Man for Almighty God. History shows that people who have enlisted God as an ally and as a justification for carrying out their megalomaniac misdeeds have been notably unliberal. What, exactly, has God to do with the differences of opinion between ourselves and Communists? Can we believe that our way of life has been founded and is run as God would wish and that the Communists do not have this Divine blessing? Surely this is crediting God with views as parochial and narrow as our own, and this is nothing if not flattering, worshipping ourselves, the very thing Mr. Downey finds fault with.

We always arrive at the inevitable paradox. Inquisitorial methods used to combat Communism result in the most undesirable characteristics of Communism appearing in our own free community—the stifling of freely formed and expressed opinion, the prostitution of the mediums of enlightenment such as the press and radio and the glorification of our own State at the expense of some other State. In other words, by combating Communism by these methods the purpose of Communism is achieved. Mr. Downey says that run-to-seed liberalism could not be a more hopeless way of defeating Communism. What, then, is the way?

J. MICHAEL D'ATH
(Hamilton).

THE CASEMENT DIARIES

Sir,—In the course of a review of a book about Roger Casement in a recent issue of *The Listener*, mention was made of diaries said to have been kept by Casement which proved that he was a homosexual. I accepted this, but I have since read *The Eyes of the Navy*, a biographical study of Admiral Reginald Hall, Director of Naval Intelligence in World War I, by Admiral Sir William James. The book makes it quite plain that there was official interference in the course of justice to defeat Casement's appeal and the book casts strong doubts on the existence of the diaries. Admiral James, a great friend of Admiral Hall, writes:

... Typewritten copies of pages of the diaries and photographic reproductions of specimen pages were circulated in London clubs and the House of Commons, and were seen by journalists who were known to be sympathetic to Casement and by the signatories of the appeal for Casement's reprieve, whilst the appeal was pending (my italics). The effect was to kill all sympathy for Casement, and John Redmond and others ceased their efforts on his behalf (p. 113).

On the next page the author writes:

According to Dr. Maloney, Hall showed extracts from the diary to Mr. Ben Allen, of the Associated Press . . . and told him that he could have them for exclusive publication in the Associated Press. Mr. Allen would not submit the extracts to his chief in the London office without first establishing their authenticity from Casement. This was not permitted. . . . Hall took no steps to dispute Dr. Maloney's statements when they appeared in the *Irish Times*.

In his articles Dr. Maloney also said that the extracts were circulated at the psychological moment by Hall himself. This was not denied either. Admiral James goes on to say: "It may be thought that Hall's action was not entirely to his credit, but to him Casement was a traitor"—and should not get away with it.

Some would argue that all's fair in war. In this instance, however, Casement was supposed to have had a fair

trial. This is hardly so when the Director of Naval Intelligence is allowed to circulate nauseating accounts of homosexuality allegedly done and written by Casement at a time when Casement's appeal was pending—accounts which not only had nothing to do with the indictment but came from diaries which to this day no one other than those engaged in prosecuting Casement has ever seen, and the diaries were the only source of the allegations. Admiral James states that there is no doubt that Hall and Thomson, then head of Scotland Yard, plotted the leakages. Thomson resigned on request a short time after the trial. Hall was not honoured by his country after the war, as were all other military leaders in comparable positions, his brilliant work notwithstanding. He was not retained by the Navy. He became a politician.

G.B. (Wellington).

TIME ON THEIR HANDS

Sir,—While agreeing with many of the remarks made by "Not Amused," I think we cannot discount the value of such a report even regarding it as "a patient's report on fellow patients . . . due to die of the same mysterious pestilence"—that is, unless the cause as well as the cure is revealed.

There are some people who are aware of the possible tie-up between the cult of "you must not curb your child" and the resulting (?) youth problem of today, but they do not seem to be observers who write reports. Lack of self-control, or lack of controlled living, is possibly the answer to the world's problems today, including the hydrogen bomb, but the cure must come down to the personal level. A child who is not taught control of temper, moods, etc., at an early age, surely will not have the ability to control himself physically, mentally or morally at a later age. He will do what he wants when he wants to and take what he wants when he wants it without consideration for his neighbour or the rest of mankind.

WONDERING
(Hastings).

Sir,—Did it strike anyone else as disturbing, that the observations of immature students spying on their contemporaries in public places should be published in a popular national weekly? I also accord pretty low rating to the sallies of F. W. Craddock at the expense of our toddlers on their public playground, now precariously held in the face of the attacks of beach motorists, water skiers, speedboat fiends and dogs.

E. M. (Wellington).

BOY SCOUT MOVEMENT

Sir,—I wish to reply to Mr. J. Stewart Smith's letter (*Listener*, February 1) on the subject of the Boy Scout movement's early beginning.

For over 60 years, the Annual London Display of the Boy's Brigade has been a central feature of Brigade life. The Display of 1903 was of special, if at the time unrecognised, significance. For from it can be traced the start of the great Boy Scout movement. General Baden-Powell at that time was already a popular national figure; the aura of Mafeking still lingered about his person. He was not yet well known in England as he had stayed in Africa to reorganise and command the South African Constabulary.

He arrived back in London in time to be present at this 1903 London B.B. Display, in Royal Albert Hall, as the

Chief Guest. It was a case of "Veni, vidi, vici." His coming was received with a tumultuous welcome from the packed Albert Hall. He saw his first view of the boy "in the mass." From this gathering commenced an immediate and sincere friendship between General Baden-Powell and Sir William A. Smith, the founder of the Boys' Brigade.

The first article on "Scouting for Boys" appeared in the 1906 June issue of the Boys' Brigade National magazine *B.B. Gazette*, "Scouting for Boys," after appearing in fortnightly parts, was published as a whole in 1908, five years after the first contact with boys en masse at Albert Hall. This foundation year of the Boy Scout movement, 1908, was the silver jubilee year of the Boys' Brigade.

General Baden-Powell's first four meetings in London were organised by the Boys' Brigade London Committee. When he held his famous experimental camp on Brownsea Island, he asked the Boys' Brigade for boy personnel and they were provided by the 1st Bournemouth Company.

The same spirit of co-operation exists today between the two movements. The only difference is a difference of method and purpose. The Boys' Brigade method is based on a build-up of discipline, with a strong religious purpose based on its object, which is "The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys, and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect, and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness." HOWARD L. TROTMAN, Brigade (N.Z.) Secretary.

GERHARD WILLNER

Sir,—It is sad that Gerhard Willner, who used to play Beethoven so beautifully to us, is dead.

I remember standing with him in High Street one morning. When I asked him what he considered the tempo of life in Christchurch to be, he looked affectionately along the sunlit, unhurried street, and said, "Andante, molto tranquillo."

I. M. LOUGH
(Christchurch).

TOO MUCH BINDING

Sir,—Spelling names right is a terrible bind, but people, like bank managers, are pedantic about it. I had a talk with Earl Rowell (*Listener*, Feb. 1, p. 10), but your contributor J.C.R. in the same issue, mentions Earle Rowle (p. 26). As a third shot, I nominate Eris Raoul, and suggest that these three be submitted to the gentleman for arbitration. He may have a couple more good ones himself.

G. LEF. Y.

(We owe an apology to Earle Rowell for two slips in one issue, and it should be no consolation to observe that our correspondent is also "spellbound." But it is.—Ed.)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

C. I. Potts: You have omitted your address. J.V.R. (Lyttelton): Bill North is played by Guy Doleman and June by Moira Redmond.

Constant *Listener* (Wellington): (1) Because programme design and economy both supply excellent reasons for the link of those stations for opera broadcasts. (2) The YC type of programme is an evening programme. Naturally, when a YC station is brought on during the day to provide an alternative to a YA sports programme it broadcasts the type that YA would otherwise be broadcasting. (3) The Games could not be comprehensively covered without displacing other programmes. It was realised that listeners uninterested in the Games would be worse off; but every effort was made to treat all sections equitably. In fact you exaggerate. There was much good music on the air. (4) On the contrary, full choice is restored at 5 o'clock. The point about "hymns, bands and requests at approximately the same time" is not very clear; but the possibility of detailing ZB programmes during the day will be studied. The difficulty is space.