



UN INTERVENTIONS

Sir.—My friend Mr J. Malton Murray asks (in your issue, March 29) what I mean by "abstract justice." I am not surprised. In newspaper correspondence little space is available for definition of terms. Mr Murray will know the distinction between "law" and "equity." In English law, when there is conflict, the rules of equity prevail over "common law." Now "equity" gives something of the idea which I tried to express by "abstract justice." I did not use it because, as a term, it is technical and specialised. May I supply the best example I can think of in this context? The UN may have legal and historical and practical reasons (I do not know what they are) for allowing Egypt to commit belligerent acts against Israel without "sanctions," and then applying sanctions against Israel. As I see it "abstract justice" cannot be one of those reasons. The same offence calls for an equality of treatment. The rich and the poor, the big and the little, the Jew and the Gentile stand naked and equal at the bar of equity, of natural or abstract justice—or whatever we like to call her. I do not think the UN can get away with less. We must come to "equity" with clean hands.

F. A. de la MARE (Eastbourne).

URBAN SPRAWL

Sir.—I have just read the first of your two articles on the "Urban Sprawl" and would like to congratulate you on having taken up this problem so vital to us and the future generations of this country.

I think you would be interested to know that yet another branch of the sciences supports this view, to wit, the horticulturists. On March 19, Mr. J. P. Salinger, of the Horticulture Division, Department of Agriculture, gave an excellent though poorly attended lecture on "City Beautification," in which he stressed the importance of town and park planning, and illustrated with colour slides the charm of terraced houses surrounding a garden square, etc.

Maybe a condensation of his talk would serve for an illustrated article which would touch the heart of a vast number of New Zealanders: the garden lovers.

EVA FOULKES (Wellington).

OPEN SKIES FOR PEACE

Sir.—It appears that there are many ordinary people who feel very deeply that they would like to make some formal and public protest against the continuation of nuclear weapon tests, and the threat of nuclear warfare. Some of us feel that the time has come for something more than letters in the correspondence columns of newspapers.

The voice of the mother and housewife is seldom heard outside her immediate domain of the home, but the dangers of nuclear tests and warfare concern her more closely than any other section of the community, for hers is the task of bringing the new generation to maturity. She does everything in her power to ensure that her family will

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

grow up healthy and sound, in mind and body. Therefore, the possible dangers resulting from the continuation of nuclear experiments must be abolished because these, we are told, will affect the health of children—perhaps as yet unborn.

Public opinion is possibly the best method of abolishing this threat and danger to our children. The time has come, surely, for some organisation to be formed to allow the voice of the ordinary people to be heard. We would like to suggest a Parents' League for abolishing nuclear experiments and warfare. It would be a non-political, non-sectarian organisation, and its sole function to unite the ordinary people, and arouse public opinion in order to abolish all possibility of nuclear warfare.

EILEEN FISHER,
CLEMENCY RENNIE
(Maungaturoto).

Sir.—I was most heartened to read Rex Bennett's letter advocating disarmament, in a recent issue of *The Listener*. The general apathy to the problem of modern weapons is most alarming. I wonder how many people heard Bertrand Russell's splendid address, with its urgent warning to mankind. If this could be repeated at frequent intervals, say, at varying times of the day, everyone would have a chance to hear it.

I think, too, that everyone should know about the Napalm dropped on the villages of Korea. This and other deliberate acts of brutality, for which none of us takes responsibility, are the result of our composite apathy. But these are nothing compared with the destructive power of the H-bomb, about to be tested by Great Britain. It is argued that it will be used only as a deterrent; but a deterrent that is not to be used is not effective. Are the centuries of endeavour that separate man from the beasts to be wiped out in a matter of minutes? But words have lost their meaning and man his humanity unless we prove by deeds our peaceful intentions.

Even the tests of nuclear weapons constitute a hazard to mankind. Yet what does New Zealand do when an area of the Pacific is sealed off for the purpose? It is significant that Japan has

registered protests. If we have not the moral courage to protest now, we will be in very poor shape to face the consequences.

I heartily agree with Mr Bennett that Britain and the Commonwealth should renounce war and the wasteful and dangerous preparations for it. This could do much to restore British prestige, and be the first move to allay the fear and mistrust which have taken charge of the world. ALISON DUFF (Auckland).

NZBS PLAYS

Sir.—I read with interest the letter from "Fidget" on this subject, and couldn't agree with him more. With a small family I am forced to spend a lot of evenings at home and listening to radio plays has become one of my principal pleasures. Lately, however, that pleasure has been tempered with a slight feeling of irritation.

Is it because the same people have principal parts regardless of whether they suit them or not, or can one have too much of a good thing? Maybe I have just become bored with hearing them so often. I have a feeling there must be a lot of "out-of-work" radio actors. It would be nice for us to hear them sometimes and to judge for ourselves whether they lack the abilities their exclusion from NZBS plays would have us believe.

IRRITATED (Hamilton).

Sir.—In reply to "Fidget" I make a strong plea to retain the seasoned experienced players, especially Davina Whitehouse. Sometimes a younger feminine voice has a part, and always the play is spoiled for me while I have to listen to her jerky performance. For people sick in bed, for tired mothers and elderly people (and I am sure these make up most of the listeners to these 7.30-9.0 plays), please give us the smooth, experienced, seasoned voices.

GRACE HODGEN (Waimate).

"THE NEW WORLD"

Sir.—In the review by R. M. Burdon of *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, Vol. II, "The New World," it is stated that Shakespeare is not mentioned at all. Your reviewer must have depended on the index for this state-

WORN COINAGE

"As calm as a mill-pond"—the old-world phrase

Slips into speech like a well-oiled engine-rod,
One of a host of familiar tokens
Minted in the remote lives of strangers.

Shall we always traffic in this alien coinage
Lustreless now with use under new skies?
Or strike others from the metal of our sun and wind and water
To bring the glow of fire into our words?

For what have we to do with the reality of "mill-pond"?
Where is the old stone mill and its osiered stream?
Where is the race, the dead or dying water-wheel
Gristling its ghostly centuries of wheat?
Where is the pond, darkened by trees, but darker with Time,
Every drop in its mirror a life in the village's story?
Brooding there like an aged woman hooded in silence?

And the idea of calm, how shall we express it here,
In this country wedded to wind, this tempestuous child of the morning?
Where is the stillness of air, of leaf, of water, of bird,
On this long high ridge, alone in the wandering ocean?
Where even the earth is restless with hidden caprice?

Shall we find stillness only in the mind's sanctuary,
That we must build for ourselves and consecrate,
And there, looking out on the ceaseless ripple of landscape,
Draw absolute calm from our land's unsleeping beauty?

—Alan Mulgan.

ment, for certainly his name does not appear there, but it appears in the text in at least three places—pages 105, 112 and 113. A.S.B. (Masterton).

AUCKLAND NOTEBOOK

Sir.—I was amazed at the correspondent (G.H., of Wellington), who had the audacity to criticise an Auckland restaurant, whilst suffering from hiccups. It would have been far more gentlemanly if he had waited until he had sobered up, and then he would have seen the said restaurant in its true perspective.

MARIE (Auckland).

BIG BEN

Sir.—How often one of the best-known features of London is misnamed! In a quiz recently, when the quiz-master asked, "What is the name of the clock on the British Houses of Parliament?" the reply was "Big Ben." And the answerer got away with it!

The quiz-master's ears should be burning, for the many of us who, visiting London, have answered that same question (usually put by eager London children) in the same way and been gleefully counted wrong. That clock is St. Stephen's clock—and Big Ben is the name of just one of the bells.

BETTY KEENE (Pokeno).

MEN'S HAIR

Sir.—I can't resist entering into the "hair" controversy. I have a nearly seventy years of age spouse, with a good thatch of brown hair. This is despite a hat, tight on the head from 6.0 a.m. until 9.0 p.m. for years. It still is his most important article of clothing, for in thirty-seven years I've never seen him out-of-doors minus his felt hat. He has always been an outdoor worker. It all boils down to choosing one's ancestors wisely. I am the person worried over loss of hair.

MRS MAC (Auckland).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Peter Durbin (Kaitiaki): In the last two years *The Exploration of Space* (four talks) and *Space Travel* (six), together with single programmes such as "Adventures in Space" and "Rockets and Satellites," have developed one of the two interests you mention; no doubt other programmes, in due course, will take it further. Your suggestions about the second are under consideration; thanks.

G.M.P. (Christchurch): Afraid it is impracticable. Late changes make the details unreliable.

C. Walter (Belmont): (1) The desire to take his work seriously was evident in the exceptional length of the time devoted to it in this programme. (2) It was felt that the editor of the programme chose to the best advantage.

B. M. Monheimer (Dunedin): (1) The record shows no "neglect," when all relevant factors are considered. (2) The Civic Theatre, Christchurch, has a capacity of less than 1200. (3) It is, in fact, exceedingly difficult to change the National Orchestra's itinerary, once hall bookings have been made, as they have to be, months in advance.

Enquirer (Timaru): (1) Some years ago. (2) The present owners are not interested in the possibility.

M.H.S. (Wellington): You have omitted your name and address.

M.M.J. (Wellington): The speaker's concern was with the intake of fat.

