

Letters from Listeners

(continued from page 11)

THE CHICKEN-HEARTED

Sir,—Your recent editorial "The Chicken-Hearted" illustrates delightfully that the mind of man is still in the early stages of evolutionary development, and not far separated from that of the higher animals. Of course, most of us would be loath to admit this disquieting fact. The mind is no doubt slowly improving, but the rate of improvement is not keeping pace with the rate of scientific discovery, and all the consequent depressing possibilities. Superficially it would appear that man is doomed, and this may well be so. There are those who think that there is still hope.

Man has a great capacity for intolerance, both of his immediate neighbours, and more particularly of people of other nations whom he knows even less about. This state arises largely from inaccurate subconscious associations spurred on, of course, by newspapers and other propaganda. In most cases our conclusion is not reached by any intelligent logical form of reasoning. This state of affairs has, of course, existed since man first appeared on the scene, but now the possibilities resulting from such thinking are far graver.

As long as this constant international tension exists, man must be heading for eventual extermination, just as an individual mind with internal stress is heading for lunacy. Is there a solution to the problem? The only possibility would be a mental mutation taking place in mankind in the fairly near future, and some feel this is imminent. This mutation would be in the form of an increased awareness, a state of higher consciousness, a disentanglement of our subconscious from our conscious minds. Probably some minds do reach this state, and it appears to be the goal of various sects such as the Zen Buddhists, Christian mystics and others. Jung described it as the state of "Individuation" attainable in some by a long period of psycho-analysis.

Dr Rolf Alexander, better known for his psycho-kinetic "cloud-busting" ability, has recently published a book entitled *The Power of the Mind* (Werner Laurie), in which he sets out a workable method by which a Westerner can attain a higher state of consciousness. This, however, involves persistent mental exercises for a long period of time, and most students will no doubt fall by the wayside. Most of us still prefer to live amongst our dreams. The subconscious mind is a tolerable, relatively pleasant place.

We are, however, becoming increasingly aware that man's mind has greater potentials than originally thought. J. B. Rhine's work on parapsychology at Duke University, North Carolina, has recently been published as a Pelican, *The Reach of the Mind*. Two recent NZBS programmes, "Frontiers of the Mind" and "Native Magic," have told us of such research. Psychological investigation is increasing throughout the world.

Whether this will delay the threat of "the bomb" is doubtful. To quote C. G. Jung: "Now the integration of unconscious contents is an individual act of realisation, or understanding and moral evaluation. It is a most difficult task, demanding a high degree of ethical responsibility. Only relatively few individuals can be expected to be capable of such an accomplishment, and they are not the political but the moral leaders of mankind. The maintenance and

further development of civilisation depends upon such individuals."

The mind of man will, of course, gradually improve by the normal evolutionary process. The time available for such improvement would appear to be the all-important factor.

J. C. HAYES (Kamo).

UNITED NATIONS

Sir,—The letter of your Auckland correspondent calls not for counter arguments but rather for an extension of the meaning of my letter of May 10.

My use of the term "master mind" referred to the genus Planner, which desires to collectively organise the lives of individuals. This is contrary to the right of the individual to govern his own life or of a group to govern its own interests without being forced to accept collective decisions with which it does not agree. Law requires, however, that each individual or group shall keep the peace and respect the rights of others, and it is this law which our police force is designed to uphold. Is an international police force the proper instrument of a similar law between nations?

If it had the task of maintaining the law among a large number of States which were individually much weaker but collectively much stronger than itself, then the answer might be yes, but because of the nature of the association which it would have to protect, the only effective world police force would be comparable with or even greater than the remaining mobilisable strength of the member States.

It is the ironic consequence of our fear of the rival planners of this world that we are in danger of putting our final signature to a potential dictatorship of this sort. Do not over-estimate the importance of universal suffrage and the ballot-box; a democracy which can only give or withhold public sanction to central authority is not government by the people.

NORMAN WALWYN (Te Kuiti).

"DOCTOR PAUL"

Sir,—May I ask through the columns of your paper when (if ever!) the radio serial *Doctor Paul* is likely to come to a conclusion? If my memory serves me right, it is over six years since this feature first commenced, and Virginia and Dr Paul are no nearer to getting married than they were then.

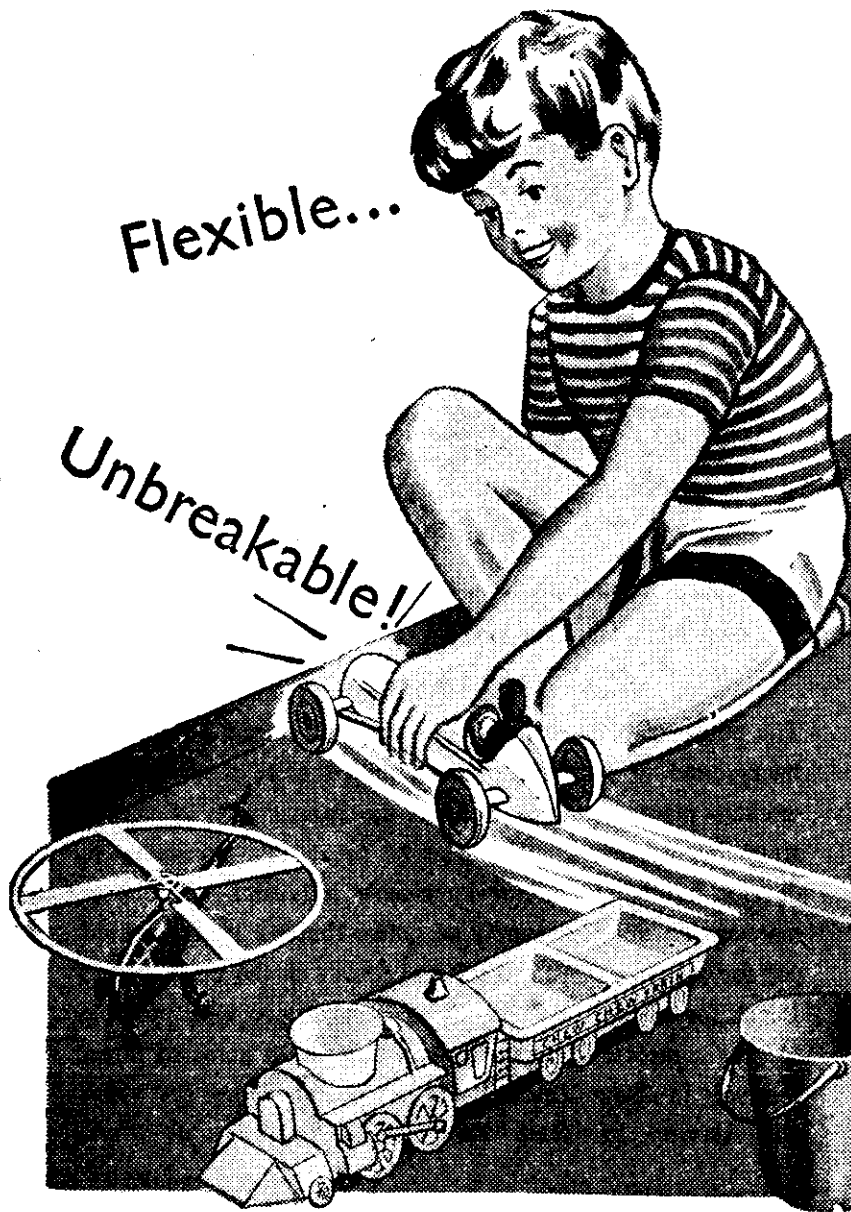
How much longer are we poor, long-suffering housewives to be kept in suspense, wondering how Elizabeth is to be got out of the way so that the hero and heroine can be finally married? By the way, if they ever do get married before the story ends, this will be Dr Paul's third attempt at marriage—two with Elizabeth, and one with Virginia.

Another point is this: The serial always commences with the words—"A story of adult love." Adult love is right; it is more like adult crime and corruption, with a few murders thrown in for good measure. Talk about child delinquents through listening to "horror" serials; if *Doctor Paul* goes on much longer with its crime and intrigue, you will be having a few "delinquent housewives" on your hands. Even the original heroine who played Alice Logan and later Virginia Martin has faded out of the picture, and to my knowledge this is the third person who has taken the part of Dr Paul since the serial commenced.

Maybe I am alone in my criticism of the length of this serial, but I don't think so. I can hear some folks saying, "Well,

(continued on next page)

N.Z. LISTENER, JULY 12, 1957.



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