



## CHRISTIAN SCIENCE LECTURES

Sir.—Could you please advise me as to whether a mistake has been made in an advertisement on page 23 of *The Listener* dated October 4? I would be pleased to know whether the lectures are given under the auspices of the Christian Science Churches (which seems to be the case) or under the Christian Churches of New Zealand. If the latter, my church has no knowledge of such a campaign, and I am positive would not counsel it. The Christian Science Church is not even a member of the National Council of Churches, and I feel that the advertisement is misleading.

May I also inquire as to the reason why the programmes do not commence on the first day of the week when you print them, rather than the second? The British Broadcasting Corporation journal, *Radio Times*, and other similar journals, commence from the Sunday.

However, I do wish to congratulate you on an excellent magazine.

D. JACKSON INGLIS (Wellington).  
(1. The advertisement was printed as supplied. We understand that the word "Science" was inadvertently omitted. A correct announcement was made in last week's issue. 2. Our programme week begins on Monday mainly to provide sufficient time for distribution of *The Listener* throughout New Zealand.—Ed.)

## SPELLING

Sir.—Mr L. D. Austin appears to be unfortunate in his choice of "spelling errors" in *The Listener*. He complains that Barbara Brewer three times wrote "adaption" instead of adaptation, and remarks, "It would be interesting to

# LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

learn whether this is just carelessness, or lack of education." I think Mr Austin will have the candour to withdraw his criticism of Barbara Brewer—and incidentally of your proof-reader—when it is pointed out that at least one authority, Webster, admits "adaption" as a synonym for adaptation.

Another of the four *Listener* "errors" quoted by Mr Austin is that of "retraction" for retraction. Here I am afraid your unfortunate correspondent has fallen into a pit dugged for another, for he will not only find "retraction" in the Concise Oxford Dictionary, but Fowler (*Modern English Usage*) advocates its general use in preference to retraction.

A. H. REED (Dunedin).

## CROWN AND COMMONWEALTH

Sir.—Mr J. Malton Murray's little pot-shots at the Commonwealth structure do him no credit, either as a marksman or as a New Zealander. He aims with more malice than justice, and his ammunition is recognisable as part of the same old low-calibre job-lot which professional anti-British propagandists in their less enterprising moments scavenge from ancient battlefields. In Mr Murray's opinion—which he elevates to the status of "the facts"—the British Commonwealth and Empire was built by the "self-centred operations of individuals, groups and nations who never dreamed of building such a world-wide association." To support this airy generalisation he instances Cromwell's campaign in Jamaica 300 years ago: he ignores the tremendous developments of the last century—the truly formative years of the Commonwealth as we know it today—and the influence of such men as Rhodes and Wakefield, who not only dreamed of building such an association of British peoples, but worked all their lives to make this dream a reality.

Countless thousands of British pioneers worked to the same end, though their motives—various as their

individual temperaments—ranged from disinterested devotion to an ideal, to the desire for new wealth and new homes in new lands. The predominant influence in Commonwealth development, however, has always been a spirit of co-operation, the result of what Godwin Smith called "the connection of blood, sympathies and ideas" and allegiance to common purposes. Perhaps the outstanding modern example of this co-operation was the tremendous Commonwealth effort which alone saved the free world from destruction during the early years of the Second World War. Although as a result of this we may now rank third as a world military power, the British system of alliances and bases offsets any temporary disadvantage in the possession of armaments, and the political experience and leadership of the Commonwealth still remains a decisive force in international affairs.

Mr Murray goes on to express the opinion that all the "peoples over whom we have held dominion" suffer from "under-nourishment, illiteracy and general backwardness." Instances of these conditions may be found all over the world, including parts of the myriad,

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multi-racial communities of the Commonwealth, but it is nonsense to contend that they exist amongst all the peoples "over whom we have held dominion." Mr Murray need go no further afield than his own country for proof of the progress of an indigenous population under British guidance. The advancement of native peoples, and progressive training for self-management of their own affairs have long been cardinal principles of British colonial policy: there is ample evidence of this in the emergence of one self-governing Dominion after another in recent years.

Mr Murray's final lament—"the glory has departed and we have to adjust ourselves to the new conditions"—reveals the measure of his perception. Fortunately for the welfare of mankind, this negative "lie down and die" attitude has never been a British characteristic. The Commonwealth, like every other living organisation, is in a state of constant change and development. The new conditions which obtain today are not by any means devoid of "glory": on the contrary, there never was a time in the long history of the Commonwealth when its many peoples were faced with such tremendous issues and immense opportunities within and beyond its frontiers. F.C. (Sumner).

(Abridged.—Ed.)

## MUSICAL STANDARDS

Sir.—Why must we be afflicted so often by a certain type of recording that is becoming prevalent in the radio world? It is not only on the ZB stations that one meets these strong repellants to music—either as an art or entertainment; they have crept also into the YA programmes, where a certain standard of music is expected.

Particularly irksome to me is the lifting of quite good pieces of music, either wholly or in part, from their original scoring, and transcribing and distorting them most unsatisfactorily into the medium of harmonica or that modern creaking atrocity—the electric organ. I do not like the "Sabre Dance," but it is certainly not improved by being forcibly squeezed out of an organ,

and Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* becomes only ridiculously reminiscent of the original brilliant scoring for piano and full orchestra when strangled by a harmonica. Nor can I honestly admit to liking the combination of time-honoured organ and "swing" music as played by Ken Griffin and Co.

Good serious music—yes, good jazz—yes, but not these heterogeneous cacophonies of sound produced by hybrid organ and swing "music."

C. W. CHAPMAN-COHEN (Dunedin).

## NO COMPROMISE

Sir.—In reviewing Geo. N. Shuster's book *In Silence I Speak*, G.D. follows the old pattern of getting after the hated Communists, and trots out all the old trimmings and gags centred round that "holy" man, Cardinal Mindszenty. I have always been under the impression that this gentleman was guilty of treason, espionage and black market dealings in currency. That is what he was charged with and found guilty of, and it should be stated in all fairness that the inquest was attended by representatives of all the foreign press. After all, a copy of a letter which was written to him by a representative of a foreign Power thanking him for information was presented in court. An extract from that letter I enclose separately in case you do not think it advisable to print. I think you will agree that this letter is ample evidence to prove his guilt, truth drugs or not!

D. HARE (Wellington).

(We have no means of checking the authenticity of the letter enclosed by this correspondent, and even if it is exactly what it purports to be we would hesitate to judge its value as evidence.—Ed.)

## THE MUSICAL CLIMATE

Sir.—The portraits of various jazz exponents on *The Listener* cover and elsewhere are very illuminating, in that they make clear the questionable influence of jazz upon immature minds. Intelligent readers of your publication are at a loss to understand the increasing space given to this species of broadcasting, which can result solely in lowering still further the sub-zero tastes of the listening masses. An anti-jazz crusade is urgently needed in this country to cleanse the Aegean radio stables and thereby purify the aesthetic atmosphere. Have we no young people of vision, culture and enterprise to undertake this worthy mission?

L. D. AUSTIN (Wellington).

## WASTE PAPER BASKET

Sir.—How much longer has your waste-paper basket got to go? I have followed it since its creation in March but still cannot find its motive for being on the page. Why can't you think of something new to replace this space-filler? TONY WILSON (Auckland).



# HARK! HARK! THE SPUTNIK

SINCE Russia's artificial satellite (the sputnik) began whizzing round the earth on Friday, October 4, NZBS technicians have kept an ear cocked for any changes in the "beep" it transmits back to the mother planet. At the time of going to press, they were fairly certain it was a common or garden kind of beep, with no built-in codes or catch phrases or quotations from Marx.

The monitoring staff of the NZBS station at Quartz Hill first heard of the satellite's launching in the BBC news at 2.0 p.m. on the Saturday. At 6.15 they heard a recording of the beeps in the BBC's Radio Newsreel and knew what to listen for. By 7.30 they had tuned in to the satellite themselves, and half an hour later, when the signal became stronger, they made a recording of the sound for use with the nine o'clock news. The sputnik was then thought to be somewhere over India.

According to V. M. Stagpoole, at present in charge at Quartz Hill, listeners whose sets lack a beat frequency oscillator (and that means most) will be unable to hear the sounds as broadcast. On an ordinary set, the satellite's signal sounds like a succession of slight bumps. Reception, he says, varies a great deal, the beeps sometimes remaining clear only for a minute or so and at other times for upwards of half an

hour. He thinks it likely that the signals are behaving in a similar fashion to short waves from earthbound stations, except that they bounce off the outside of the ionosphere and are reflected away into space. The station anyway is recording its observations, and hopes they may prove useful to scientists studying the propagation of radio waves. "But at the moment," says Mr Stagpoole, "listener interest is our main concern, and we will be trying to determine just when the satellite is in our piece of sky."

Judged by the radio watch, the closest the sputnik had then approached New Zealand was between 11.35 and 11.40 a.m. on Monday, October 7. Twenty minutes after it had been tracked over Hiroshima it passed somewhere south and west of Quartz Hill. The signal on that occasion was so clear that technicians thought they could detect a "Doppler effect" consequent upon the enormous speed of the satellite's approach. Other variations in the signal they are inclined to attribute to interference by other stations, shortcomings in receiving sets or, if the sputnik is rotating, to movement of its transmitting aeriels. Any one or all of these factors might produce apparent variations in frequency and lead to reports that the satellite was sending back scientific information.