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LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

RELIGIOUS BROADCASTS

Sir.—Your contributor J.C.R. wonders if we could have more religion on the air. I wonder why we are getting so much and why we never hear a contrary point of view. Time was when religious broadcasts were confined to the appropriate day, Sunday, with an annual marathon at Easter and Christmas, but now we have a regular service every morning, the daily Bible reading mentioned by J.C.R.—which, I think, started at 1YA but seems to be spreading to other stations—a number of fullscale services imported from the BBC and usually broadcast on week nights, odd sessions like Christian Questionbox, and so on, and numerous talks on various aspects of religion. All this increasing amount of religion on the air is quite all right if it is the result of wide public demand, but as the Broadcasting Service seems to make no attempt to find out what the public wants, I suspect that it is the outcome of pressure by a comparatively small group. This again would be all right if an opposing view was permitted, but this is not

done, and I submit that to allow one side in the religious controversy to propound its beliefs over a public-owned service and deny the same opportunity to the other side is repression of a most W.G.D. (Auckland). serious kind.

THE GIGLI MEMOIRS

Sir,-Although the interpretation of the book on the great tenor's life is (to a Gigli fan like myself) most interest-ing and entertaining, I could not help feeling disappointed by the second part, which seemed at times, to say the least, ridiculous. It started off well with an account of his debut and his troubles with B flat in La Gioconda, followed by Grimaldo's aria "Cielo é Mar," a wonderful recording made in the singer's prime. Then to continue, we hear of his first Manon. This makes good listening, but why spoil the whole swing of the thing by resorting to Gigli's farewell recital at Carnegie Hall recorded in 1952? This was Gigli way past his best at singing Des Grieux and Cavaradossi. Why not the two standard recordings made many years ago of these two arias? (continued on next page)

THE LISTENER" CROSSWORD

(Solution to No. 870)

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Clues Across

- 1 and 4. If out of order, these are said to cause this complaint (5, 7).
- 8. A property which is too thoroughly this, might come to an arid end
- 9. Uplift in opera is educational (5).
- 10. Do we become due? (4).
- 11. The official inspection of tiny curs (8).
- 13. Nigel's upset, per-haps because he's not married? (6).
- 15. It could be corn (in fact, it sounds like something which frequently is) (6).
- 18. If you do this, the chances are you'll miss (3, 5).
- 19. "The Soul that rises with us, our life's _____" (Wordsworth) (4).
- 22. Part of British Industry from India
- 23. A Gendarme loses a
- 23. A Gendarine loses a letter, with explosive result (7).
 24. If you have 14 down, making this would be an empty arrangement (7).

25. My nag is suffering from a canine complaint (5).

Clues Down

- 1. Conceal nothing before us? That's revolting! (7).
- 2. Humiliate the sailor on a stormy sea (5).
- 3. Hue and cry? No cry! (4).
- 4. Conclude it's deuced upset (6).
- 5. Put forth true pods (8),
- 6. As I come before nine, it's silly **(7).**
- 7. "The greatest to man is man" (Robert Burton) (5).
- 12. Request certain to give satisfaction (8).
- 14. No, my one upset is lack of funds (2, 5).
- 16. All grey? Well, to a great extent (7).
- 17. Only an inconsiderable insult (6).
- 18. One off the old block? (1, 4).
- 20. I want to become two (5).
- 21. Dirty finger marks contain at least one (4).

No. 871 (Constructed by R.W.H.)

