

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 11)

"TWO PERFECT SATIRISTS"

Sir,—F.A.B. (Listener, October 4) should be thanked for his "discovery" of two perfect satirists, T. E. Miles and my humble self. (Satire: A composition in which wickedness or folly is held up to ridicule—Dictionary.) Discovery usually fills one with elation. Columbus sailed West and discovered—the Indies; no, only America. But, of course, that was something. Had F.A.B. thought a little more deeply he might have discovered beyond his Dickens characters, the Lord Jesus Christ, who certainly rebuked wickedness and folly. Perhaps these simple lines will help F.A.B. to further discovery:

Without Light, however good our eyes,

We cannot see.

Without air, however fine our frame,

We cannot breathe.

Without God (Our Father), however strange it seems,

There is no mine or me.

Alpha and Omega, Lord, we live and move, and are in Thee.

May F.A.B.'s happy "congratulatory mood" increase.

ROBERT J. STRONG (Auckland).

WOMEN IN SPACE

Sir,—Is it not time even the rigidly domesticated female discarded the cult of extreme complacency over her lack of comprehension of scientific affairs? You included quotes by housewives and a typist on the satellite story (Listener, October 25), which had no significance whatsoever, except as specimens of almost unbelievable vacuity. "What's the point?" asked the typist (just like the Astronomer-Royal). And: "Women just don't get excited about such things!" gloated the housewife, with sweeping inaccuracy. Well, they should. Many women, overseas, enjoy technical and scientific interests, many are fascinated by outer space phenomena. Intelligence is sexless. Even the standardised New Zealand housewife is not, in every instance, running to her sport-crazed husband for explanations of the atom, physics, relativity. Those still totally sunk in personal gossip, babies, and cook pots should wake up and realise the dawn of a new age when quality of mind may well matter more than routine breeding.

FEMINA (Wellington).

THE BATTERY HEN

Sir,—It was indeed pleasing to read that "Sundowner" was very much against the modern battery way of keeping hens. I saw six fowls in a battery in a London back garden, and as I went on my travels my mind kept thinking of these poor wretches and comparing them with my own flock in New Zealand which were comfortably housed with a run for further freedom. There was room in the London garden for such a house and run, but they evidently preferred the cheaper way of putting up a set of batteries.

I am hoping that freedom-loving New Zealanders will not take up with this new-fangled way of keeping hens.

H.M.A. (Timaru).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENT

N.K. (Dunedin): (1) The broadcasting arrangements for that concert, made far in advance, were of course appropriate to the programme originally designed. When the first half was replanned for that memorial purpose, they had to stand. The disturbance of other programmes to permit a link would have been too great. (2) For very similar reasons, stations were left to broadcast the recording of the first half at a convenient time, but as soon as possible. The memorial purpose would have been defeated, or poorly served, by delay.

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