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LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

(continued from page 11)

ALCOHOLICS

Sir,—It was surely with a sad heart that every listener heard the broadcast "The Portrait of an Alcoholic," and will be grateful to the organisations which seek to alleviate those afflicted. It is appalling to be told authoritatively, not only that there is a reliable estimate of 12,000 people in our small country suffering from this dreadful disease, each with a background of misery endured by wife, children, parents, but that every year sees an addition of 600 to these ruined lives. It has been said that this is the greatest unsolved health problem of our day; yet the simple, practical and complete solution is here all the time. "I started with social drinking," says the alcoholic; and no one can tell, no father or mother can tell, who is doomed to become one of those 600 yearly victims. They all think, "I can stop when I like," but example is better than precept, and the infallible remedy lies in the A.A. motto: "Just for today I will not drink."

What useless, fabulous sums are spent in drink in New Zealand—and what a harvest is reaped on the roads alone! Sir, there are hundreds of thousands of people in this country who have found that they can live full and satisfying lives without liquor. It may require courage for a young man or woman to say "No" to social drinking, but those who do so will lose nothing in the respect of their fellows, and will probably be envied for their pluck.

A. H. REED (Dunedin).

HOUSING FOR THE AGED

Sir,—It is unfortunate for the good cause on which G. C. Chalmers wrote that the issue of Aid for Ceylon has been drawn across his plea for the many older folk badly in need of homes. I will not labour the subject pounced on by other correspondents except to point out that our high standard of living is not a gift from heaven but the reward of hard and unremitting struggle for social betterment by men and women with a strong belief in man's ability to help himself. As to the merits of granting large sums to aid less well-off countries, it seems to me that a policy of being just before we are generous would rid us of the shame of leaving a large proportion of the aged and enfeebled to fend for them-

selves in the quest for living accommodation. Is it not a matter of simple justice that any government pledged to "Homes for the People" and engaged in home building operations should place the requirements of those on small incomes and declining strength prominently—if not first—when building plans are prepared?

These citizens have surely earned the right to foremost consideration. They reared the taxpayers of today and maintained homes in difficult times when no State aid of any kind was available. Now, whether living in single rooms, flats, or homes of their own which have become an economic burden, they find themselves left in the outer darkness while others benefit from building schemes some of these older ones helped to promulgate. Their present unhappy plight has been publicised so that most people must be aware of it, but so far we look in vain for action. We tend to become weary of being talked about at conferences, seminars, and on public occasions while those in their 70s and 80s wonder if relief will come in their lifetime.

The time has come to ask for the formation of home-building groups whose members will lend money at a low rate and, with the aid of Government subsidies, will acquire sites and build flats and small individual homes to be rented within the scope of the age beneficiary's pension. For over twenty years I have known this to be done as part of the British Home-building Association with immense benefit to many thousands of old people. New Zealand claims to set an example in humane legislation. Why allow this cause for shame to remain?

ONE OF THEM (Auckland).

(Abridged.—Ed.)

THE BRITISH ELECTION

Sir,—In *Lookout* on October 10 Professor Danks gave his views on the British Election results. He characterised it as a dull affair—no big issues on either side. Apparently he overlooked Labour's leading plank—resocialisation of steel, previous experience of which must have caused thousands in every electorate untold loss and unemployment. Again, only as an afterthought did he mention the Conservative success in giving a lead in world peace affairs, and the hope of all civilised persons that that effort would not be interrupted. If these two

Getting thin on top?



DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT NOW! Many men, proud of the head of hair which their mirrors show them from the front, receive a jolt when their wives point out thinness on top. Easily overlooked, this is often the first stage of more serious trouble to come. Now is the time to act!

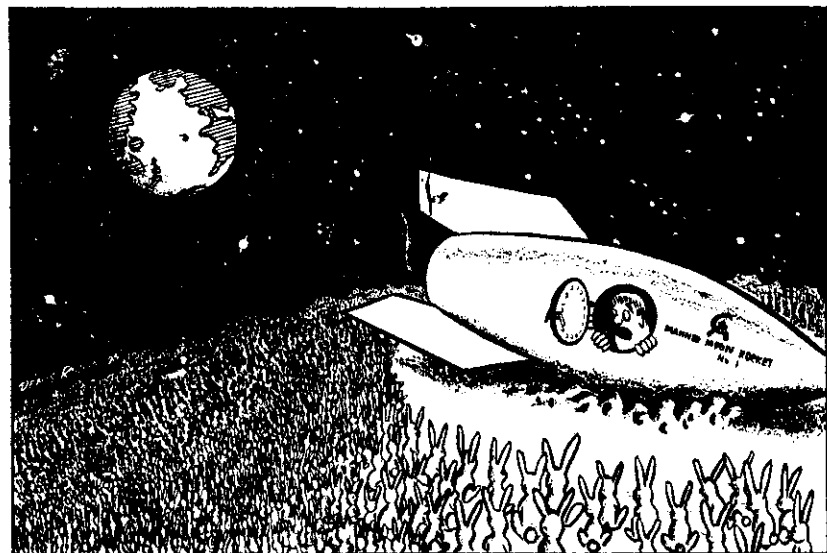
That thin patch on top has probably started, like so many hair disorders, because the roots do not receive their proper nourishment. If your hair is undernourished the use of Pure Silvikrin is recommended. Pure Silvikrin contains, in concentrated form, all the eighteen hair forming substances, known as amino-acids. Pure Silvikrin massaged into the scalp thus helps to provide what the hair roots require to produce healthy vigorous hair. Start using Pure Silvikrin today—as a positive step towards lasting hair health. But remember, Pure Silvikrin is a biochemical treatment. Persevering use is essential.

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"Hey comrade, remember those two rabbits they sent into space . . .?"

N.Z. LISTENER, OCTOBER 30, 1959.