

DEATH OF KING GEORGE VI

Sir.—May I have a small corner of your valuable space to express the appreciation that I think many people feel for the excellent way in which the announcer of the NZBS handled the broadcasting of events connected with the death of the late King and the accession of Queen Elizabeth II? Without at any time descending to emotionalism, they gave a very warm picture of events they were describing, with an occasional hint of the depth of feeling that must have been experienced, and made "the voice" somewhat less anonymous to the listeners. They should be thanked for a job well done.

GRATEFUL (Wanganui).

Sir.—May I congratulate the Broadcasting Service on their excellent choice of recordings on the day that the news of His Majesty's death was announced? The music was not only in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion but was also intrinsically of the highest quality.

APPRECIATIVE (Wellington).

FOUR QUEENS

Sir.—Your issue of February 15 contains an interesting article entitled "Four Queens Have Reigned." The four Queens named are Mary (1516), Elizabeth (1558), Anne (1702), and Victoria (1837). Now I was taught that Mary, the elder daughter of James II, succeeded her father as Mary II (together with her husband William III in 1689, following the so-called Glorious Revolution, as Queen Regnant and not as Queen Consort. I always understood that they had been crowned jointly as William III and Mary II and had reigned together until Mary's death in 1694, as joint Sovereigns.

Statutes passed during the five-year joint reign bear the name of William and Mary. After William's untimely end in 1702 we know that the last Stuart succeeded in the person of Anne. Has not your article done an injustice to Mary Stuart in not according her an honourable mention in the biographical notes?

JACK C. FLETCHER
(Christchurch).

(Our purpose was to draw attention to Queens who, like the present Sovereign, were called upon to reign alone.—Ed.)

TRUBY KING

Sir.—I should like to reply to "Honour Where Honour is Due" about the name of the Plunket Society. Perhaps it is not generally known that Sir Truby King, then Dr. Truby King, gave the name "Plunket Society" in honour of and with the permission of Lady Plunket, wife of the then Governor-General of New Zealand, who, like Sir Truby King, was very interested in child welfare. I think I am correct in saying the younger children of her family were brought up on Sir Truby King's methods.

F. CAREY (Birkdale).

SCHIZOPHRENIC WRITERS

Sir.—If I am not mistaken, schizophrenia is associated with some sort of rift in the mind, the outcome of a tension between opposing forces of will and desire that is too great to be sustained, and may produce something in the nature of a "split personality." In applying the term to Australian writers I was using metaphor and hyperbole, both legitimate figures of speech. (Metaphor, indeed, is more than a figure of speech—it is the very substance of language.) I would therefore defend myself on purely linguistic

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grounds against the complaint "J.K.L." levels at me. Having said that, let me hasten to admit that he is, in this case, for the special reasons he puts forward, probably quite right. I agree that one should be wary of using such narrowly technical words in a loose, journalistic way. We heard quite enough from the novelists of a couple of decades ago about the "inferiority complex" to make us cautious about importing such terms into other contexts. In point of taste, too, it is perhaps a little like using a bayonet to carve the joint, or a grease-gun to serve the butter.

A. R. D. FAIRBURN (Auckland).

"THE MUSIC GOES ROUND"

Sir.—I would like to congratulate you heartily on your editorial of February 1, "The Music Goes Round." How right you are when you say that it is not so much the quality of the tune as the conditions under which one first hears it. Might I give as an example a melody of which I am exceedingly fond. Whenever I hear it, my mind goes back fifty years to the very first time I heard it. It is that beautiful waltz by Waldteufel, "The Skaters." When I was about ten I heard this beautiful melody played as background music for the very first film ever shown at our local theatre. It was a scenic film of a trip down one of Germany's many beautiful rivers. So whenever I hear the tune I immediately think of this occasion. And so it goes on: "The Lost Chord" always reminds me of Clara Butt, whom I first heard in London singing this lovely Sullivan composition; the "Those Were the Days" polka, which the NZBS feature in the oldtime dance programmes by Harry Davidson's Dance Band, brings back memories of my first dancing lessons when as a small boy of ten, dressed in my Eton suit, I ploughed my way through my first polka to the strains of that lilting and never-to-be-forgotten melody.

As you say, all catchy little tunes, but not exactly in the same category as Beethoven. I am not a musical student in the strict meaning of the expression, but I am a devoted lover of such melodies as those which emanated from the Gilbert and Sullivan operas and many of the dear old musical comedies of a by-gone day.

I expect, too, that there are many others of my contemporaries who think the same. I know that I shall never forget those lovely melodies which I heard from the time I was about eight until that time when the First World War crashed about our heads, bringing with it the introduction of jazz and later on the more terrible music called swing. I am not decrying the latter type of music; it certainly must have something to commend it as so many of our younger generation go for it. I suppose it just boils down to this: "other days, other fancies."

FRANK BROAD (Takapuna).

LIFE AFTER DEATH

Sir.—Could I say how surprised I was to hear Professor Wall on the basis for man's belief in a future life? He said that the large majority of spiritualists are of remarkably low mentality, and usually are uncultured to a large degree, also that spiritualist services are nothing more than entertainment. I would like to ask the Professor why, if he had no other answer or evidence to produce, he should speak of mediums

and spiritualists in such a manner? I feel very sorry that his statements and contradictions should give such false impressions. Perhaps he could spend his time a little more wisely by study of such a vast subject, and read what the great authorities have to say—men like Sir William Crooks, William Barrett, Richet, Flammarion, Sir Oliver Lodge, Edward Marshall Hall and a hundred others. These scientists were men of intelligence who, after long years of investigation, gave to the world their findings.

Apart from these great men there are many like myself who are convinced that there is a future life. Facts and evidence have proven to me that there is such a thing as human survival. I would say that the Professor has a lot to learn and certainly is missing the most wonderful and lovely thing, when he says that there is no proof that personality survives death. Let him look a little further. GERTRUDE BROOKS, Minister, N.Z. Spiritualist Church, Auckland.

Sir.—"The Student" of Wellington claims in his letter that life after death has been proved over and over again. May I ask him, then, "Why is salvation through faith?" If these things can be proved, where is the need of faith? Proof, unlike faith, will force all people to believe, despite their disinclination to believe. No one need exercise faith in things which can be proved. There must always be a trace of doubt in faith. Because proof will force belief, Christ never gave a public demonstration of His omnipotence. He performed miracles but none of them with the object of proving that He was the Son of God. To those people who pressed Him with requests to give them a sign of His power, He said: "A wicked and an adulterous generation seeketh after a sign but there shall be no sign given it." In short, Christ refused to give proof. God in His wisdom allows us to choose our own beliefs and has made "these things" impossible to prove, lest proof force us to do His will in terror instead of choosing to do His will with pleasure.

I am afraid that if "The Student's" theory that "these things can be proved" were to be correct, salvation through faith would become an absurdity and salvation through proof must become its substitute.

D. MARTIN (Palmerston North).

"UNDISCOVERED ENDS"

Sir.—We have recently read with great interest and appreciated the autobiography of Rev. W. H. Elliott, *Undiscovered Ends*, which was reviewed on Sunday, February 3, by Rev. P. O. C. Edwards. To say that we were disappointed, is to put it mildly. Canon Elliott's life and his ministry, especially over the BBC, has been a marvellous inspiration to many, particularly to those who like him have suffered from ill-health for many years.

The reviewer, by laying emphasis so strongly on the story of early poverty and what was then and for years after an apparently incurable affection of the glands of the neck, failed to bring to his hearers' notice, first, the writer's testimony to the sustaining power of God and then, the eminent position he has held both as preacher and broadcaster.

The book reveals contacts with people famous in many lines of life—church,

politics, art, and royal circles. A more comprehensive and sympathetic review would have secured for the book quite a number of appreciative readers.

G.F. and E.L.M. (Wanganui).

FEATURES FOR THE YOUNG

Sir.—Now that the BBC feature *Winnie the Pooh* has passed through the studios of the NZBS and the equally joyful *Wind in the Willows* pursues its circuit, I should like to mention other features which could delight the young in heart.

The *Wind in the Willows* character, Mole, spoken by Richard Goulden, an old favourite of English children-listeners, recalls to my mind two series of plays by L. du Garde Peach written for the Children's Hour of the North Regional programmes and broadcast during the late nineteen-thirties. The *Famous Men and Women* series are short biographical plays of such eminent personages as Florence Nightingale, Clive and Cook. Another series, *Hill-tops of Britain*, present by a narrative to children and dramatic action the events which gave historical significance to the hills throughout Britain. The names of these hills, little known perhaps to New Zealand children, would in no way decrease the enjoyment afforded by the presentation, and if they should persuade the children to peruse the physical atlas, so much the better.

R. A. BRADBURY (Auckland).

STUBBORN BACTERIA

Sir.—In your issue of February 1 appears a statement (column 1, page 16) that deserves a much wider publicity. "They (bacteria) can be boiled for six hours and even then can wake up happily and cause poisoning."

This is contrary to all previous practice based on Pasteur's fundamental thesis that boiling kills all living matter. The new discovery was made by a group of Soviet scientists headed by G. M. Boshzan, Doctor of Biological Sciences, when investigating an obscure disease of horses. They discovered the possibility of transforming viruses of various diseases into their bacterial and crystalline forms.

They boiled pathogens of infectious diseases for 40 minutes and then put them twice through an autoclave at a temperature of 120 deg. C. Yet the viruses remained alive. They isolated living initial bacterial cultures from biological bacterial preparations considered dead.

These facts provide a new basis for the theory of the nature of bacteria and viruses and will shed new light on many problems. A fuller report, including photograph, can be read in the publication *Soviet Union* of August, 1950, from which I quote.

B.B. (Mairangi Bay).

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

A.P.F. (Auckland).—The programmes you mention have not been transcribed by the BBC. The *Twenty Questions* you have been hearing was not a BBC programme.

A.C. (Timaru).—The field strength of 3YA in Timaru is greater than 3ZE. Your receiver has probably lost sensitivity at the low-frequency end of the broadcast band. A good service-man should be able to restore it.

Sport (Waitara).—As you say, "It is a poor radio that can receive only one station." The match in Christchurch was fully covered by 3YA; 2YA broadcast five full progress reports on it during the afternoon, and relayed commentaries on the Wellington match from the ground at 10 periods from 11.45 on. Quarter-finals tennis is normally covered by review, not by commentary.