Lodge Listens . . .



"Sorry about that last item, listeners—through a clerical error, a banned number seems to have got into our band programme"

awed and humbly receptive to John Casson's stern, if chummily expressed, views on The Duties of the Audience.

---М.В.

The Curtain Lifted

THOUGH the iron curtain cannot be seen, it may be heard, in the jamming of western broadcasts to the U.S.S.R. and her satellite states. In a recent BBC documentary from 4YA this jamming was heard, bringing home a reality which the phrase "iron curtain," tarnished by over-use, can no longer do. The programme, Through the Iron Curtain, was up to the usual BBC standard, though in half an hour it passed rather too briefly over material which might have been profitably examined in greater length--the curious case of the Rumanian Communists distributing typewritten copies of the latest forbidden BBC bulletins, for example. It would have been interesting, too, to have heard a little more of Soviet reactions to the broadcasts. The snippet of a Russian satire on the unemployed porter with his ten-roomed flat may have sprung, as the programme suggested, from envy of higher living standards in the West; from what we were given, it may equally well have derived from a sceptical view of reports the BBC gave of those same standards.

Judicious Silence

A RADIO programme is improved by a judicious use of silence; not the embarrassing silence that hangs thunderously between the phrases of an understanding the natives gree. That they don't is very much to their Atkinson, in an NZBS and Settlers in Kenya.

practised speaker, but the brief period of quiet (four seconds? five seconds?) which allows the listener to catch his breath and savour again the thought, or the final phrase, before passing on to the next. I was struck by the necessity for such silence in a recent broadcast of First Hearing, edited by M. K. Joseph. in which poem followed commentary, and commentary poem, at a breakneck pace. The same fault occurred in A Sheaf of Royal Letters, a collection of readings from the correspondence of English kings and queens from Norman to Victorian times, These readings contained some rare pieces of writing, and were of great variety, and the individual performances were good (though perhaps James I was a little too senile); but the general effect, thanks to the speed. was of confusion. ---Loauax

"[WENT to Kenya from the Sudan and the difference in the attitude between native and Englishman was very striking. In the Sudan nearly all the white men are Government officials, very carefully chosen, who administer the tribes for the sake of the Sudanese themselves. They're paid a salary and have no financial temptation to bully or exploit. The bulk of the white men in Kenya have gone there for adventure or profit, or both. The Government isn't on their doorstep, and they're often sharply opposed to its policy. Only their own better nature can keep them from exploiting the natives to a certain degree. That they don't do it more often is very much to their credit."-Alizon Atkinson, in an NZBS talk on Kikuyu

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