

Sir,—Replying to Mr. Sid Scott: I contended that the dictionary definition of proletariat, namely, "the whole body of wage-earning workers," does not apply in Russia today, and that quotations from Lenin, Stalin, etc., used by Mr. Boswell and Mr. Scott sustained this contention. Mr. Scott now says that the quotations used do not apply. Well, he used them first; what was the point of using them if they do not apply? He again repeats that Lenin saw the dictatorship of the proletariat "as an alliance between certain classes," which obviously means that there are other classes not in the alliance. As all classes are (at any rate, theoretically), "toilers," Mr. Scott once more demonstrates that the dictatorship of the proletariat is in fact that of a minority, an autocratic minority ruling the rest.

Mr. Scott's guileless acceptance of the wording of the 1936 Soviet Constitution is most touching. When one instances cases of Soviet actions contradicting Soviet professions, it is astonishing how often the Communist declares one to be wrong because the Constitution, or Lenin or Stalin says so and so, which shows the contradiction to be impossible. John Dos Passos, notable student of international affairs, wrote of this Constitution in 1951: "A Constitution was promulgated on the Western models. The entire vocabulary of Western government was borrowed and applied to the machinery of despotism. It was from the success of Soviet propaganda in calling evil things by good names that Hitler learned the lesson he stated in *Mein Kampf*."

As for the voting; our press carried, dated May 15, 1953, a Reuter dispatch from Vienna dealing with Communist elections in Hungary. It said: "Voting will be for a single list of candidates chosen by the (Communist) Independence Front's central committee and it will be impossible to vote against it." Mr. Scott blandly declares: "As there are no longer antagonistic classes in the Soviet Union, there is no need for separate political parties." But if that be so, why the frequent "purges" and "liquidations" running from top to bottom? Why the maintenance of the vast machinery for ruthless suppression of "counter-revolutionary" or "deviationist" activities? More than that: why not throw the political field open so that nobody need take his life in his hands if he wishes to nominate somebody else besides those chosen by the autocratic Communist committee? If all the lions are now blissfully lying down with the lambs, the squashing of strikes or other demonstrations by means of troops and tanks seems, as Alice might say, "Curi-ouser and curiouser."

J. MALTON MURRAY.

(This correspondence is now closed.—Ed.)

ELIZABETH KURZWEIL

Sir,—We crave the indulgence of your column to bring a matter of some importance to the notice of friends of the late Dr. Elizabeth Kurzweil, who died in Wellington just over a year ago, much mourned by her many friends and pupils for whom, as an inspired teacher of the piano she did so much. We feel strongly that some effort should be made to honour her memory and we have therefore formed a committee which has decided to try and collect subscriptions to make a fund which it is hoped will be sufficient to pay the fees of two deserving students from the Wellington district each year to attend the course at the Cambridge Music

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

School. If a sufficient sum is subscribed the fund would be established as a permanent endowment, in which case the income only would be used. Any contribution will be welcome; all interested are invited to send their subscriptions to the Secretary, Elizabeth Kurzweil Trust, c/o Box 5055, Wellington. In this way all who knew her will be able to help in a manner she would entirely approve to keep vivid in our minds the memory of a great teacher, a great woman.

BRUCE MASON,

For the Committee (Wellington).

MAORI THEME SONG

Sir,—I have listened every morning at 6.0 a.m. to the 2ZB Maori theme song, and not knowing any Maori am wondering whether the station would occasionally give the English translation. I feel sure there must be many more listeners who would appreciate this too.

E. BOYLE (Wellington).

(A full translation of the song, "Mate Peni," is as follows: "It is on occasions such as these that we are again brought together in friendship and in peace. The ties are strengthened and goodwill is the theme. From each we learn and have better understanding of tribal traditions." It is not practicable to introduce the translation into closely-timed programmes.—Ed.)

PASTEURISATION

Sir,—After listening to the arguments for and against pasteurisation of milk given by a Christchurch panel, may I ask just one question? If pasteurisation makes milk safe for human consumption, why do the Plunket authorities stress the fact that milk to be given to infants must be boiled even though it has been pasteurised and is supposedly already safe? E. CAIN (Auckland).

Sir,—From *Feminine Viewpoint*, 1YA I heard a discussion on pasteurisation versus raw milk. I don't know if I am on the side of the angels, but I am most certainly on the side of the lady member of the panel. I was amused that one point was not pounced upon. Dr. Kennedy, I think it was, said that 6000 children in England had been tested for one year. Half had been given pasteurised and half raw milk, and there was no difference in the result. If that be truly the case, why waste money on pasteurisation? One point which I consider important was not mentioned, perhaps because of the limited time at the panel's disposal—the delay in delivery due to the handling.

One sees on every hand great efforts being made to care for the citizen of the Welfare State, but the increase of pests and diseases with humans, animals and in the vegetable world seem to indicate that the cycle of soil, animal manure, grass, animal, animal food has been disturbed and carried away by excess of scientific zeal.

So I still like fresh raw milk—fresh vegetables, fresh ordinary cheese. I am now approaching three score and ten and there is nothing wrong with my metabolism. SHEBA (Auckland).

AGGRESSIVENESS

Sir,—It is quite true, as "J.B." says, that human beings possess innate propensities (i.e., instincts) towards, inter alia, sexuality and aggressiveness. Nevertheless, it is quite bad psychology to conclude, as "J.B." appears to do, that nothing can be done about it. Human instincts (unlike those of ants or bees, to cite an extreme case) are nothing more than very flexible tendencies that

can be directed into various channels, either of a socially useful or of a socially disruptive nature. For example, the instinct of sexuality is usually channelled into the behaviour pattern which we know as family life, to the common benefit of society and of the individuals concerned. Aggressiveness likewise can be readily sublimated or transformed into socially useful forms of behaviour. In a stable society conscious of the value of constructive labour this is particularly easy.

It is a sign of the failure and decay of a given civilisation when the tendency towards pugnacity is elevated into a cult, Nietzsche's literary worship of the Superman, and the Nazi system in which it received practical expression, were symptomatic respectively of the frustration of a maladjusted individual and of the widespread despair of modern German society. So likewise a society which allows the technical achievements of 3-D cinematography to be perverted to the glorification of brute force is publishing a commentary upon its own sterility. In refusing to acquiesce in this perversion Mr. Mirams is acting as the conscience of us all.

Modern psychology has a great deal to say about that warfare which "J.B." so complacently appears to accept as inevitable. For example, Thouless in *General and Social Psychology* (p. 191, 2nd Ed., 1943) has this:

There are, of course, psychological factors favouring the continuance of war. These, however, are not innate propensities (e.g., instincts), but attitudes favourable to war built up partly as a secondary result of attitudes of national loyalty and hatred of other national groups, partly by social approval of warlike activities and of those who take part in them. Such attitudes are, at the present time, very strong because warfare is a recognised mode of social activity. There is no reason for doubting that if war was renounced by the civilised world, other attitudes would be built up and other outlets could be found for men's aggressive tendencies. Ignorance, disease and vice are enemies demanding all the courage, self-sacrifice and determined pugnacity, which are at present poured out in the socially useless activity of soaking the earth in blood.

H. W. YOUREN (Napier).

BOOKS FOR ANGLERS

Sir,—I should like to congratulate those responsible for the splendid anthology compiled from angling writings presented from 3YC on a recent Sunday. Both selection and presentation were excellent. Towards the end of the programme, however, was an opinion over which I should like to break a lance (or should it be a rod-tip?). The speaker considered that, despite the increased popularity of "the contemplative man's recreation," surprisingly few men had followed Walton's example and set down their experiences and thoughts on paper.

Now, if there is one thing (other than fishing) for which anglers should feel grateful, it is the literature of their sport. Surely for extent, diversity and quality no other pastime can produce such wealth, and when one regretfully puts up one's rods in the autumn, such reading keeps the sport alive through the winter and helps to make each spring and the new season more welcome than the last.

Space precludes a truly representative list, but it could include such notables as Charles Cotton (it has been said that "Walton without Cotton is like good manners without meat"), and a long list from the 15th Century to the present day. Poets such as Gay, Thomson, John Denny and Pope, scientists such as Sir Humphrey Davy, clergymen,

medical men and at least one cook have written on fishing, while two politicians in Viscount Grey and J. W. Hills have written books which are gems. In addition there are the more technical writers such as Halford and Skues whose books have an appeal to novice and expert alike.

TAPERED CAST
(Christchurch).

POETS' CORNER

Sir,—There is a story (which I'm quite prepared to believe) of a light-hearted wit who won a prize in a Poets' Corner competition run by a local periodical with some lines that were proclaimed as "deep seated and thoughtful," "lyrically inspired," "a triumph of rhymeless metreless verse," and so on, and drew acclamations and paeans and eulogies from the "poseurs" of the neo-romantic cult that festered in the locality. He became so revolted with all the adoring sycophants who clustered round that he finally admitted that the prize-winning ode had been compiled by stringing together lines pitchforked completely at random out of: Wisden's Cricket Annual, Omar Khayyam's *Rubaiyat*, an advertisement for tooth-paste, the Bible, Mrs. Beeton's Cookery Book, *The Pickwick Papers*, Johnson's Dictionary, an Act of Parliament, a newspaper's leading article, and a lot more of such matter.

Would someone be kind enough to let me into the secret of the code that will provide clues to some of the enigmatical unmetred puzzles that *The Listener* occasionally publishes?

AREJAY (Christchurch).

YC DINNER MUSIC

Sir,—This is a sad letter to write. It is about my friends the YC stations; they have a strange illness. When the first signs of this illness appeared I ignored them, believing that my companions were having some minor disorder; but now when I look back I can understand those Mantovanis and Kostelanetz, which at first shyly performed in the dinner-hour programme, were the metastasis of a primary that has now spread to involve completely the programmes from 5.0 p.m. until 7.0 p.m. Can the surgery be done now and stop the malignancy from spreading to the other healthy 3½ hours? But then there is a strange peculiarity with this disease: the patient rallies (no doubt with careful nursing) to perfect health on Sundays. Now what makes this persist? I have just thought that perhaps this same treatment might also be effective through the week. But then again it may be dangerous and lead to complete collapse.

R. G. SUTHERLAND (Oamaru).

(The YC stations were never intended to assume their own programme character until 7.0 p.m. From 6 to 7 they play dinner music, which on YA stations would be interrupted by news, announcements, and so on.—Ed.)

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

D.B.C. (Christchurch).—(1) No. (2) See page 19. (3) It was screened in March.

Interested (Wellington).—Several inquiries brought no reliable result, but it is a little outside our province.

R. E. Lowry (Dunedin).—Full information about the series was given before the first broadcasts in January and February. The programme you heard was a "repeat."

Parent (Wellington).—Fully agreed in principle; and it is a principle the NZBS, like the BBC, takes much trouble to apply. But whatever may be the correct measure of the man and his actions, you do not correctly measure the significance and the effect of a fleeting phrase and its casual reference.