

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS . . .

"Cease Pandering to the Suburban Intellect"

To the Editor.

Sir,—I heartily agree with "Briton's" views in last week's "Radio Record" regarding the putting over of hosts of birthday greetings in the children's hour. The sooner that twaddle is cut out the better for both the children's hour and the children. It is nothing short of an insult to the men and women concerned with the broadcasting of this daily feature that they should be expected to take up so much valuable time telling little Tommy and baby Betty that if they look under the dresser or in the canary's cage they will find some footling present. These men and women, from what I know of them, are people of intelligence, and quite capable of giving young listeners a programme that will both amuse and instruct them. And this radio present idea is having a bad effect on the children—turning them into present-grabbing little publicity-seekers. Broadcasting authorities in other parts of the world have cut out the birthday greetings years ago. Let New Zealand do likewise and cease pandering to the suburban intellect.—I am, etc.,

BROADER OUTLOOK.

Auckland.

Praise for "Radio Record's" B.B.C. Number

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I offer you my congratulations on the special B.B.C. issue of the "Radio Record"? A very happy coincidence happened to me this morning connected with the "Radio Record," so I thought I would like to tell you about it. I received a reply from the British Broadcasting Corporation, London, and also a book containing views of different parts of that building, and then when my copy of the "Radio Record" arrived I had another delightful surprise in finding all about the B.B.C. inside. I have sent a number of copies of the "Radio Record" away to people outside New Zealand, to let them see what a fine radio journal we have, so one can imagine what will be said about the new copy when it is sent away.

Please accept my sincerest wishes for the "Radio Record."—I am, etc.,
(MRS.) M. E. HINDS.

Dunedin.

Appreciation of Recent Programme From 2YA

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I beg some of your valuable space to give a word of praise to the Broadcasting Board for the excellent programme presented by "The Man in the Street" from 2YA on Wednesday, November 7? It is some time since we heard anything so well done as this from the national stations, and though I have often criticised the board in the past, I feel that very great praise is due for this programme. The annotations were not too long, and the items were well selected to form an attractive variety programme.

I cannot understand why the board does not arrange more of its programmes in this way, the light style of the commentator was exactly suited to the type of programme, and certainly added to our enjoyment of it.—I am, etc.,

NOT A CONSTANT LISTENER.
Paekakariki.

Engage One Celebrity or Many Local Artists?

To the Editor.

Sir,—It is with regret that the announcement in last week's "Radio Record," that the editor had no idea of the character of forthcoming programme revisions, met my eye. I agree whole-heartedly with many of the criticisms of the Broadcasting Board over minor programme matters; but I think no one could deny that it is very obvious that the board is making a sincere and successful effort from day to day to fulfil its very difficult task of pleasing its many listeners. None the less, it would, in my opinion, have been preferable for the board to submit its proposals to the public, through the medium of your columns or in some other way, in order that they might have had some guidance from the criticisms which are so sure a sign of public interest.

There are some alterations that I hope will find a place. Local talent may need encouragement, but it should not be encouraged at the expense of listeners' sensitivity. Some few of our artists will bear comparison with the front ranks of other countries; but they are not the majority. An effort is made to see that only good local artists are put over the air. Would it not be bet-

ter to close down almost entirely on local talent in order to spend the money on an occasional star of the first water, a visiting world-famed celebrity? That would give country listeners a treat which is right out of reach at present.

There are many who do not approve of canned music and monologues. I myself prefer English as she is spoken rather than any variety of twanged colonial patois, but that only shows how tastes differ. Talks are another bone of contention. Let us forget our isolation and become oblivious of professors and lecturers who have long since ceased to live. Why not get ourselves in touch with the outside world by listening to our own citizens when they return from travels abroad? Why not buy up Blattnerphones of talks delivered—in English—in England?

I suppose all this seems very critical. It is impossible not to be in discussing something which has come to mean a good deal in our everyday life. But I at least give the board credit for the best of good faith and the most amazing improvement in the programmes during the last few years. I only suggest that open discussion might strengthen the hand of the powers that be. Even the National Budget stands criticism and amendment before it becomes law.—I am, etc.,

CUTHBERT K. KORK.

Wellington.

Correspondence

Letters to the Editor must be written in ink, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication. As space in the correspondence section of the "Radio Record" is strictly limited, correspondents are asked to restrict their letters to 250 words or less. Writers who disregard these rules will excuse us from noticing their letters.

"Fed Up" (Woodville): You have not sent your name.

"Santa Uliva" (Dannevirke): The Italian cruiser is expected to arrive in Wellington this week, Saturday, November 17. It is doubtful whether any of the functions will be broadcast.

Away From Home (Christchurch): Details of the Australian broadcasts in connection with the Duke of Gloucester's tour of the Commonwealth were given in the "Radio Record" of Friday, October 19.

G. D. Johnstone (Hastings): Thank you. We have received many complimentary references to this year's "Radio Record Annual."

King Kole (Westport): Your letter makes it obvious that you did not listen in to the broadcast you condemn.

F.J.D. (Invercargill): A change of scenery may make you a little more tolerant.



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Pulmonas

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