

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS . . .

Wanted—Shakespeare's Plays on the Air

To the Editor.

Sir,—I see in last week's "Radio Record" that Val Gielgud, the drama director of the B.B.C., has arranged for one Shakespearean play a month to be broadcast until the end of the year. Is there not here a hint for the Broadcasting Board, which at last seems to be making a definite effort to encourage that neglected field, the radio play? A production of Shakespeare would, admittedly, have to be very carefully done to make it worth while, but there are undoubtedly men in New Zealand who are capable of seeing to the production, if only the Broadcasting Board can be persuaded to unloose the purse-strings a little so that the best talent available may be secured. The fact that there would be no royalties to pay would mean a saving in one direction over most other broadcast plays, in any case.

In the last year we have heard practically nothing of the works of Shakespeare on the air, apart from an occasional recorded recital, and the recent theme programme from 2YA—all of which have admittedly been excellent, but scarcely enough to satisfy the listeners who are really interested in radio drama, of whom there is a rapidly-increasing number.—I am, etc.,

W. D. JACKSON.

Wellington.

"Quality of Individuality in Every Paragraph"

To the Editor.

Sir,—Having been a reader of the "Radio Record" for some time, I may perhaps be permitted to offer you congratulations upon one particular feature of the paper—I mean the personal column. The peculiar quality of individuality, so rare nowadays, is in every

paragraph. One seems to know the men and women there described. I was astonished the other day in going through my file of the "Radio Record" to see how few comments there were upon the character of these personages, and yet your gossip writer manages a very definite little impression in each case. It is hardly necessary to add how much this impression, to say nothing of the facts themselves, adds to the enjoyment of the items which cause their inclusion.—I am, etc.,

MARGARET McMARTIN.
Palmerston North.

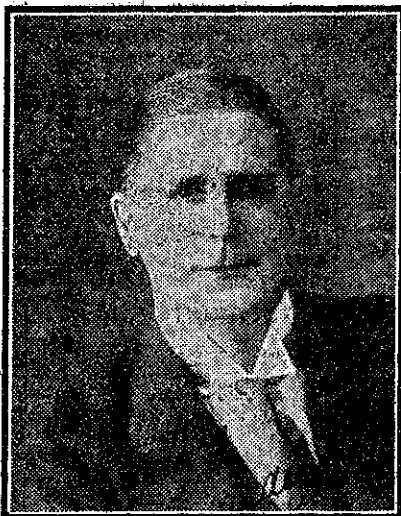
Correspondence

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.

New Zealander Prominent In Sydney Radio Circles

NEW Zealanders seem to be coming to the fore in Sydney, and the recent appointment of Mr. Francis F. Levy, an old Wellingtonian, as service manager for the well-known Sydney B class station, 2UW, is another indication. Mr. Levy was well-known in advertising circles in New Zealand, where he was, for many years, manager of the Auckland branch of the Goldberg Advertising Agency, until he was transferred to Sydney, remaining as a director of their Sydney organisation for four years.

His interest in his native country has been already made apparent by the introduction last month of the special New Zealand session, which runs at 11.15 p.m. (New Zealand summer time) every Friday evening. This has been commented favourably upon by New Zealanders resident in Australia. Mr. Levy is an old Wellington College boy.



Alexander Browne, Popular Australian Baritone, Engaged by Broadcasting Board

THE Broadcasting Board has completed arrangements with Mr. J. Alexander Browne, the well-known Australian baritone, who has been touring the country as assisting artist with Philip Hargrave, the big pianist, to give a

series of recitals from the national stations. Mr. Browne is well-known on the air in Australia, where he is a frequent performer from the Melbourne national stations. With his natural baritone voice he is recognised as one of the finest singers performing regularly on the air in Australia to-day, and he has received praise from critics in all parts of Australia and New Zealand.

As a boy in Bendigo—nursery of so many famous Australian singers—John Alexander Browne early showed promise of making his mark, and during the years he has lived in Melbourne he has achieved an enviable place in the musical world. He maintains it by constantly adding to his repertoire and choosing works that have character and that extend his capacity to the utmost. Mr. Browne has taken part in many concerts in his own city, singing in grand opera, in a performance of Beethoven's great Choral Symphony, which was given great praise by the critics, and also lighter numbers, such as "The Sergeant-Major on Parade," and "The Floral Dance," which he sings pre-eminently well.

Mr. Browne, who has already been heard from 2YA on November 16 and from 3YA on November 18 and November 20, will be heard in further recitals from the national stations as follows: 1YA, Saturday, December 1; Sunday, December 2; Wednesday, December 5; 2YA, Thursday, November 29; 3YA, Monday, November 26; 4YA, Friday, November 23.

THE Southern Pacific Railroad in Mexico is building a high-powered radio transmitter of its own which will carry on widespread propaganda for tourist traffic by extolling the natural beauties of Mexico.