

## Reader's Amusement at "Jazz" Correspondence

To the Editor.

Sir,—Allow me to congratulate your letter-writing enthusiasts on their highly amusing entertainment provided during the past few weeks on this page. I refer especially to J. D. Parkin, "Amused," and several others who rush in like heroes to do battle with that vexing subject, "Should Jazz be Broadcast or Not?" I should say certainly not.

The type of music known as jazz was featured about 1922 to 1925, if my memory serves me, so don't let's resurrect it now. I know these unconscious comedians really mean modern dance music, but I have endeavoured to illustrate how ridiculous their little controversy appears to a musician. I wonder that Sir Edward Elgar did not point out to his pal J. D. Parkin that to really appreciate any form of music one must be educated to that form of music. For example a trombonist plays a solo. Ninety per cent. of his audience would admit in their opinions a little of that sort of thing would go a long way, yet the piece might be packed with technical difficulties that literally thrilled wind instrument players. —I am, etc.,

WALLACE J. GODDARD

Petone.

[This correspondence is now closed.—Ed.]

## A Reader Replies to Mr. Bardsley

To the Editor

Sir,—I am indeed grieved that I have unwittingly been the cause of your Otago correspondent being "hauled over the coals" by the annoyed Mr. Bardsley. The fact of an abominated anonymous scribbler being considered worthy of "headlining" in the "Radio Record" and on its posters in every town in New Zealand with the famous "more kicks than hap-pence" phrase has evidently got below your indignant correspondent's waistline. Mr. Bardsley sighed for publicity, didn't get it, so finished up by asking for it. Truly a painful exhibition of ill-temper and fretfulness. However, the only thing I object to is Mr. Bardsley's painfully un-ericklike presentation of his case, not his personal objection to my abominated self. He carefully lumps together several of my written words in such a way as to suggest a highly insulting attitude in my original letter. This added to his petty suggestions that I am "in the fold" (presumably meaning I am connected with the YA station) because I dared to criticise his letter and avow myself a "friendly supporter and critic" of the New Zealand Broadcasting Board would seem to suggest that Mr. Bardsley's spleen has considerably upset his judgment. Why not go the whole hog and suggest I myself am the writer of the Otago notes. As a matter of fact I am a little peeved at this gentleman saying "at last an anonymous, etc., etc." when as a matter of fact I have been writing off and on for about two years in a semi-friendly way about our YA service, purely and simply as a lover of fair and constructive criticism. Mr. Bardsley assigns purely

unworthy motives to the anonymous writer, disregarding the obvious possibility that anonymity may be preferred by some people to self-aggrandisement.—am, etc.,

C. A. STIGLISH.

Dunedin.

## N.Z. Broadcasts Outclassed by American

To the Editor.

Sir,—Please allow me to contradict your references to unpopularity of radio fare in America. I have recently made a study of radio fare in U.S.A. and I find great contentment there with wireless programmes and policy. The firm I represent intends to open a branch to its London house there. It will not do so here because radio is so unpopular. The licenses in New Zealand are falling away by thousands. In America programmes and announcers are bright every day and all day. Here, excepting the chief announcer at 1YA and at 2YA, announcers, especially 3YA, are painful and slovenly. They run words into one another and tell the public to "stand by." No "please." They cough and there is no "excuse me, please." The amount of classified music is fatal, especially on Sundays. The 2YA orchestra is like the village orchestra. There is not a YA dance band, 1YA, 2YA and 3YA are weak stations. Especially are 1YA and 3YA washouts.—I am, etc.,

AMERICA FOR ME.

Wellington.

## High Praise For the "Radio Record"

To the Editor

Sir,—I feel I must express my appreciation of the great improvements made in your paper recently and the splendid service you are now giving to New Zealand listeners, with complete programmes of Australian and New Zealand stations and also short-wave stations. The arrangement whereby you publish the B.B.C. short-wave programmes is of wonderful assistance to me, as I am an enthusiastic short-wave listener, having an eight-valve all-waver which gets everything worth while.

I was very pleased to see the publication of the German short-wave stations, New Zealand and Australian zone programmes in the "Radio Record" this week. I hope you will be able to keep this up; as I had received a December programme from the German station authorities and was wishing I could get further programmes, your enterprise has now made this unnecessary.

The announcement of the new schedule for the Moscow station was very timely, as it enabled me to hear the first of the programmes on January 3 at 10 p.m., and your notice this week of the special talk for New Zealanders by Max Riske was really express news and will be keenly listened to by me at 11 p.m. Sunday, as the 4 p.m. broadcast will not be received here.

The short-wave notes are also very much appreciated, being very up to date, and for owners of all-wave sets the present guide for listening—especially for

## Ring Out the Old . . .

### N.Z. Parliament Undressed Before Australian Congress

THE serene, the yellow leaf of parliamentary capacity in New Zealand has supplanted the vigorous, more intelligent, more responsible membership of the House of earlier days, according to Mr. Leicester Webb, leader writer for the Christchurch "Press," and political lecturer at station 3YA. His views on the decline of the quality of the Dominion's politicians



were fearlessly expressed last week in Melbourne at the congress of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science.

Reasons which he gave for the fall in quality were the insecurity of political life, dependence on party support, decline in the part of Parliament in government, and the increase in the average age of members. Furthermore, there had been a deplorable reduction in professional and business brains in the House in the last few years, and membership was now almost reduced to "small farmers over 60, education above elementary stage a disadvantage."

It is certainly no compliment to New Zealand to have its administrators described thus abroad, but Mr. Webb has sufficient judgment and wisdom to make such statements only if they are justified. Those who have enjoyed his talks over the air know how keen is his mental penetration of politics as they are in both New Zealand and overseas. There is a twinkle of humour in his talks too, which makes the sad story of our parliamentary life a little more bearable.

Perhaps when he returns from Australia he will have something with which to cheer New Zealand, if the scope of the Association for the Advancement of Science can be extended to include the purging of parliament.

new owners. I am pleased that you realise the increasing number of short-wave listeners, and trust that you will continue to cater for them as well as at present, and New Zealanders will be able to look on the "Radio Record" as the premier wireless journal of any country. Wishing you every success.—I am, etc.,

ALL-WAVE.

Westport.

OUR Church has been violated.—Dr. McIsler.