

Letters from Listeners

EDITOR



Sydney Listener Enthuses Over New 1YA

To the Editor.

Sir,—It may interest you to know that I have been enjoying 1YA's programmes during the last few evenings. They come through in Sydney very clearly indeed. Although I have only a short indoor aerial there is no fading, but there is, of course, a fair amount of static by reason of the season; nevertheless in the winter the new 1YA should be very clearly heard here.—I am, etc.,

F.E.L.

Sydney.

"Ear-splitting Cat-calls" of Time Signals

To the Editor.

Sir,—May I be permitted a space in your columns to protest against those terrible tearing noises which at 11 a.m. are inflicted on listeners who have committed no other sin than that of paying their subscription to the Broadcasting Board? These time signals may be of great use to a small number of listeners, but to the majority they are just a signal to "switch off" for a few moments.

These ear-splitting cat-calls seem to me to be of little use and of less amusement. Let them be transmitted from one of the YA stations by all means, for those who require them, but from the others let us have some amusement instead of ear-shattering noises from every YA station one turns to.—I am, etc.,

LISTENER.

Glenavy.

N.Z. Listeners' "Plague of Complaints"

To the Editor.

Sir,—It seems to me that within the last few weeks a plague of complaints has settled on New Zealand. Of all the letters printed in the "Radio Record" I think that "America for Me's" letter is the most unjust. To think that 2YA and 3YA's orchestras should be termed "wash-out" is in itself an insult to their conductors, whose musical ability and knowledge is so well known not only in New Zealand but also overseas. Your correspondent is also unfair regarding the announcer at 3YA. It is quite obvious that he does not tune in to 3YA, or he would not have made such a ridiculous statement; in fact, ~~his~~ is the first complaint regarding 3YA's announcer that I have heard.

I am sure other readers would like to know "America for Me's" opinion of 4YA. as I am not sure if he thinks it is the perfect station or unworthy of his criticism. There is of course always the remedy that if one person is not satisfied with another's attempt, then let him try and see what sort of a mess he will make of it. Otherwise "America for Me" has the alternative of switching on to his beloved America and leaving us ordinary people to enjoy our so-called "bad music," "rotten broadcasts," and "slovenly announcers" in peace. If people only tried

to help instead of always pulling to pieces the world would be far happier.—I am, etc.,

Christchurch.

FLAP-JACK.

Improvements Suggested For Classical Hour

To the Editor.

Sir,—We find the "Radio Record" a most useful paper. We are also interested listeners in—but feel a little disappointed in the classical hour. The pro-

Details of Programme Plan This Month

An important announcement regarding the New Zealand Broadcasting Board's new programme plan for main and auxiliary stations will be made in the "Radio Record" on Friday, February 22.

gramme for this is comprised to a great extent of the heavier works of Beethoven, Bach, Schubert, and others. There is such a host of beautiful music to select from. Schubert's "Ave Maria," solos from "The Messiah," and violin solos by Heifetz, Kreisler, or Mischa Elman, just to mention a few. Surely we could be given a more varied and consequently a more enjoyable programme.

The average person says he does not care for classical music, and in my opinion the selection for the classical hour does not assist in forming a love for the better class music.—I am, etc.,

MUSIC LOVER.

Feilding.

YA Announcers Compared With Americans

To the Editor.

Sir,—I read with pleasure every week the numerous interesting letters from listeners. One in particular that I could not pass over was the one written by the American fan regarding the unpopularity of radio fare in that country. Although he was only contradicting some references, I would like to say that American announcers are (to most New Zealanders) much more slovenly and painful than the YA announcers in this country.

With regard to telling the public to "stand by" and no "please," I am sure he is quite wrong. Practically every day I hear the words "please stand by." Then, of course, we could not expect the announcers to say "excuse me" every time they cough. If this listener were more reasonable I am sure he would not have mentioned the fact.

He also mentions the amount of classical music on Sundays. Well, I can agree with him when he says it is fatal. The YA orchestras are to my mind more like backyard bands. But of course they will improve, we hope, as the days go by.

I must thank you for your valuable

space, and hope that most New Zealand listeners are proud of their announcers, and also the varied programmes.—I am, etc.,

Ashburton.

KIA ORA.

Several Pats on the Back For YA Stations

To the Editor.

Sir,—"America for Me" will be feeling very satisfied with himself, after saying so many unkind things about our announcers, programmes, 2YA Orchestra, and stations. If everything connected with the radio service in New Zealand is so inferior, don't listen in. Stick to the American stations all the time if they are so perfect. Our announcers have at least one redeeming feature—they don't speak with that nasty nasal accent. I fail to see why the programmes should be found so much fault with, for I certainly think the Broadcasting Board cater for our entertainment splendidly, and we are well provided for. We have interesting talks, beautiful grand and light operas, delightful radio plays, soothing and restful divine services, amusing episodes, splendid little dramas and theme programmes, broadcast relays of all sporting events, thousands of recordings, humorous, light, band and classical, and especially those talented artists that have been touring the stations from time to time. If we had less perhaps we would be more satisfied, and know how to appreciate it. The best of luck to our Broadcasting Board, radio announcers, 2YA Orchestra, and national stations, especially 2YA and Mr. Clive Drummond, an announcer that cannot be beaten.—I am, etc.,

(MISS) E. A. ROBINSON.

Marton.

Tempo of Recorded Items Needs Watching

To the Editor.

Sir,—Radio programmes have reached a high standard to-day both in the selection of subject matter and in presentation, but it has always been an incomprehensible thing to me to find that little or no attention has been paid to the tempo in recorded musical selections.

No doubt many of us have set ideas, based on technical or intuitive insight, as to the "speed" at which a piece should be run off, but the fact remains there are obvious examples of faulty tempo. It would of course be impossible to alter the speed of the turntable to suit the selections of slightly varying tempos, but I am sure attention to the classical and "semi-classical" items would be most welcome to the not-too-discriminating listener. I think I can anticipate an "official reply" to the complaint, and would like to venture that possibly the speed indication on the many records has been overlooked.—I am, etc.,

Wellington.

VIGILANT.