



FROM THE HOME FORUM

Would Give Announcers a "Kick in the Pants"

To the Editor

Sir.—"Where is this American tendency going to stop?" This bright thought is filched from that subtle literary effort of "Britanica" in last week's issue, but I beg to inquire just when did this tendency start. As an Enzeder who has been domiciled in Uncle Sam's stamping ground

Wait a minute. I guess I'd give one a break, that guy who was so presumptuous as to refer to Mr. E. Branscombe as "Ed." The cheek of him.

PAX BRITANICA.

Dunedin.

Wants New Board to Give Brighter Fare

To the Editor

Sir.—Some time back you took a vote of listeners through the columns of your paper on what kind of musical entertainment they favoured over the air. Well, as far as I can remember, crooning, classical music, and grand opera, were away down the bottom of the list with very few votes. But still the Broadcasting Board continues to bore us with this sort of stuff. You will be listening in to a really good programme and all of a sudden they will switch over to classical music, which, I am quite positive, 90 per cent. of the people abhor, and, besides, it takes the announcer as long telling you about the thing as it takes for the item. What the object is I don't know.

I was talking to a highly-trained musician the other day, and I inquired his opinion on this high-class singing and music over the air. He told me he loved good music, and when it is convenient for him to attend he never misses a recital by any of the prominent overseas artists who visit us. "But," he says, "that class of music, canned and put over the air, I hate and abhor—in fact, I can't sit down and listen to it. It loses all the tone and expression."

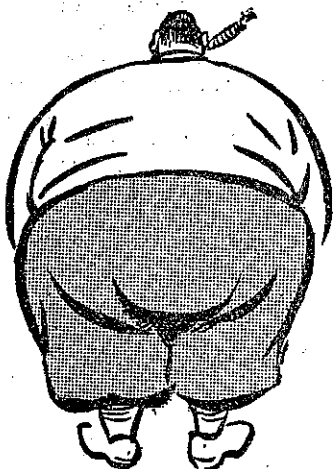
He says there is only one way to appreciate that kind of music, and that is to go and hear and see the artists first hand. He says if the object is to try and educate the people to appreciate this class of music he is afraid it will do the cause a lot more harm than good.

Mr. Ernest Newman, the "Sunday Times" critic, in referring to the old-time seventeenth and eighteenth century music, such as Bach and Handel manuscripts, says they were good for the period. Essentially it is second-rate stuff which is inflicted on our audiences. He says, take for example the overture to "Acis and Galatea," anyone with the least bit of music in him, and the least knowledge of the period, could produce this sort of thing any morning with the hand he did not require for shaving. The pattern is to be met with thousands of times in the Bach-Handel period—a pompous opening gesture, followed by a few bars of bustling semi-quavers over some sequential harmonies—the gestures again and so ad infinitum. Sir Thomas Beecham, at an Authors' Club dinner, talking about grand opera says that not one word in ten can be heard in the singing of an opera. He says that this is a very serious

matter, and it should be stopped.

I am just quoting these two critics to show that if they can't appreciate it, how can ordinary people with no musical training appreciate it?

Here in Auckland we get really good bright records from the main station in the day-time and at night-time, when everybody is home, we get this "high-class" stuff, coupled with old dry talks on some person's pet hobby. I quite under-



for some years I guess I am privileged to express an opinion, and, by heck, I will!

What our announcers don't know would fill several large tomes, but this particular bone I am picking most affects them. I guess they are about as stiff as a Polar bear with the mange and it would do them a heap of good to do a bit of dicing on Americans. It is this stiff artificiality that is stultifying the growth of radio entertainment in the "shivery isles." The artist is some sort of demi-god to be referred to only in hushed, eminently respectful tones and his "moniker" to be prefixed by a guaranteed starched "mister," and when our friends take the liberty of using his christian name, one would think it was a piece of rare china or a Mills bomb. I select an example of American methods at random.

John McCormick when he broadcasts over the Columbia network in the "Firestone" hour, conducts his own session, spinning a yarn or two, and appearing as free as he would in his native bogs. This brings radio right into the home circle and does not leave it somewhere up in the clouds, to which zone it seems to have been elevated by our home-made pseudo-Oxford-accented products. If I had my way I would line up all our announcers and give them a good kick in the pants to see if they really are human and 'f there is any possibility of bringing them back to this commonplace, hide-bound little world we live in.



stand that it is a hard job to please everyone, and it is easy to talk without offering a suggestion. Well I would suggest increasing the power of 1YX and reserve this station for programmes that they think the people will enjoy—you quite understand, a large number of us have our trials and tribulations these troublesome times—and what we want is something to make us brighter, if it is only for an hour or so of an evening. I would suggest musical comedy, comic opera, old-time music and singing, and any local talent that would offer their services to try and amuse the listeners. I would also suggest increasing the hours till 10.20 p.m.

This is only a suggestion for a trial, as I know the Board are out to try and please the people if they possibly can. I am positively sure that if the suggestions could be adopted it would please at least ninety per cent. of the listeners, and we would not be continually hearing the Government stations harshly criticised.

MODERN MUSIC.

Auckland.

Speaker Cut Off When Politics Mentioned

To the Editor

Sir.—On a recent Sunday evening I was listening to 4ZM, Dunedin, and on two occasions the speaker was deliberately cut off the air. I have not seen the incident mentioned in the "Radio Record," though the circumstances are rather strange. I did not get the speaker's name, but he was addressing a packed house in the Dunedin Town Hall. Something about a Radio church was mention-