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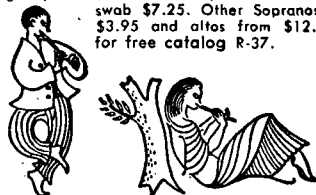
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**LETTERS TO THE
RECORDINGS EDITOR**

WEINSTOCK ON CALLAS

ENJOYED reading Mr. Weinstock's fine article in the current issue (SR Apr. 13). "Maria, Renata, Zinka . . . and Leonora" is a marvelously unemotional evaluation of these splendid singers on the American scene.

E. B. MUTH.

Annapolis, Md.

CATHARTIC EFFECT

BRAVO, Mr. Weinstock! As one who has been overwhelmed by the cathartic effect of Callas's Norma, the incandescence of her Lucia, by the artistry with which she transformed the Tosca of Puccini's "shabby little shocker" into a truly moving tragic heroine, I was highly gratified to see an intelligent appraisal of her remarkable gifts. But Mr. Weinstock has possibly failed to give sufficient emphasis to her striking musicianship. Surely, as an artist—as interpreter and musician—Callas stands unchallenged on the operatic stage.

LESLIE EIDMAN.

New York, N. Y.

PERSONAL AND PASSIONATE

Is SR singlehandedly reviving decent criticism? First came Ciardi's horizon-

lifting point of view, then the fine balloon-bursting of Pealeism. For this reader the matter comes still nearer to home with Herbert Weinstock's perfectly splendid settling of issues in our suddenly opera-mad world.

The gifts of Maria Callas may madden partisans of other Italian-singing prima-donnas, but for any knowing student of lyric standards they are unique and treasurable. To attend her performances in New York this winter was suddenly to discover how grandly personal and passionate the great Italian wing can be. One salutes her for unexampled integrity in a field where precious little has been evidenced.

JOHN WHITBECK CLARK.

New York, N. Y.

PROJECTS FOR PEREZ

IT WAS A PLEASURE to see a picture and read a mention of Lily Berchman (Dolores Perez) in SR Nov 24. This is indeed a great, radiant, colorful, exciting voice, especially in the Montilla recordings of "La Viejecita," "Gigantes y Cabezudos," "Los Gavilanes," and "Cantares de España."

Why doesn't some recording company record operatic arias by Perez while she is in her prime? Even though the catalogues are full of "Seven Songs" and "El Amor Brujo" (De Falla) another by this singer would be welcome. She would do them the justice they deserve.

JOHN FRYER.

Albuquerque, N.M.

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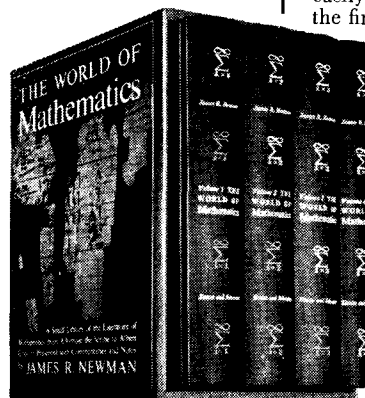
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