

## "THE GOOD ROAD"

From Mr. D. M. BUCHANAN,  
K.C. (Temple Chambers, 4,  
Wale Street, Cape Town):

Last Saturday under the heading "Stage, Screen, Music" a report referred to "His Majesty's Theatre", London, and reviewed "The Good Road" now running there.

Information reaching me from other sources in London gives a totally different impression of this, I believe, important production, though I have not yet personally seen it.

I have been struck by certain comments made on it by some who had seen it. Mr. Clive Carey, Director of Opera at the Royal College of Music said: "Without a doubt this is the greatest production I have seen anywhere in the world" and asked if he could bring his students to learn from it. A British M.P. remarked that "this brings the stage back to its original function of presenting great ideas—and away from the trivialities of the bedroom and the 'triangle'". One cannot help wondering at the contrast between these and your correspondent's remarks.

Miss Lena Ashwell who, it must be admitted, has had considerable experience of the stage, having played leading roles with Sir Henry Irving and speaks from 60 years in the service of the theatre, commented on the inadequacy of the London Press reports: "The public are with you, and they are what count," she said. "The Press having missed it as badly as they did on the Truman election."

This possibly referred to a review in the *London Times* very similar to yours. Was it from the same source? Anyway it caused an English lawyer, Sir Roy Pinsent, to write, and the *Times* to publish the following: "I am proud of our British institutions, among which I have always included the *Times*. But I cannot help feeling that in allowing to be published the criticism of the M.R.A. Review 'The Good Road', you have failed to live up to your great tradition . . . . I do not think that any member of the audience who read the article in the *Times* can ever have quite the same degree of confidence in your paper. In these critical days I feel you have served your country ill by failing to report the truth and I am deeply distressed."