

SEEING how many references there have been lately concerning the terrible floods over most of the west side of the country, I feel that your readers may be interested in the rainfall figures here for 1954, as they do certainly show that, at any rate in this part of Northumberland, we have been wonderfully fortunate.

Month	1953	1954	19 yrs av. ins.
January ..	1.10	2.14	2.36
February .	1.03	2.55	1.57
March	0.05	1.21	1.44
April	2.34	0.28	1.52
May	1.21	2.77	1.85
June	2.65	1.41	1.97
July	3.08	1.26	2.48
August ...	3.23	5.13	2.97
September	1.91	2.57	2.12
October ..	0.83	3.74	2.36
November .	1.42	3.25	2.53
December	1.04	1.66	2.10
Total ..	19.89	27.97	25.27

There are three points of interest in these figures: first, that the first six months of 1954 were one-and-a-half inches drier than the average; secondly, that the total fall for the year was only two-and-three-quarter

LETTERS

inches above the average; and thirdly, that—owing to the dry July (only half the average for that month), and the wet November — for the first time since I have kept records, the month of November is now slightly wetter on average than is July; but August, the "holiday month," is still leading all others as the wettest!

J. M. CRASTER,

Craster Tower,
Northumberland.

Worth waiting for

THE people of Stocksfield and neighbourhood will have been much distressed to read your account of the Bywell Pageant, marred as it is by your reference to the grumbings of a few disgruntled persons who failed to reach the church in time for the first performance and were too impatient to wait for the second.

As one of those who travelled in the bus and was turned away, I can only say that my own reaction at seeing the crowded doorway was one of deep satisfaction that the Pageant had attracted so much deserved attention. Waiting for the second performance, I spent the time very contentedly listening to spontaneous carol-singing in a comfortably warmed room in the vicarage, where not a word of grumbling was to be heard.

The Pageant was indeed well worth waiting for. The religious spirit in which it was conceived, the beauty of its presentation in the ancient church, the charm of its musical accompaniment, the fresh voices of the children were deeply moving.

The blending of a religious service with episodes of local history was most worthily accomplished; and the linking of the present with the past could not fail to impress the hearers with a sense of the

continuity of life and the value of human relations.

All those present, whether members of the church or guests, like myself, must feel very grateful to the Vicar and his colleagues and to all who took part in the Pageant, however small, for the devoted labour which such a production must have involved. The parishioners, instead of being "upset," to use your word, may be justly proud of the achievement of their Church.

GEORGE W. TEMPERLEY,

"Resthanow,"
Stocksfield.

NEWCASTLE
JOURNAL 1954