

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Genetic vaccines

Sir — What wonderful warm fuzzies will go through the heads of most of those who read your November 10 article in which is stated "The only disease for which no genetic vaccine is in sight is Aids".

How careless then, when in an attempt to justify the replacement of a whooping cough vaccine which we were all told was effective, safe, and rarely caused side effects, that Professor Nossal admits what they have refused to say so far, that:

"The current vaccine produces dangerous side effects in about one in 2000 children."

To any thinking person, this should sound alarm bells in their heads. After all, how safe is safe?

Are your readers reassured by the statement that: "The experts had reached an overwhelming consensus that the new products were safe"?

I have found it impossible to find out the means of manufacture of genetic vaccines for reasons of "commercial sensitivity". Are we all supposed to fawn over these very profitable pharmaceutical companies with gratitude — on the

basis of blind faith?

On a more certain note however, anyone with any doubts as to where to play the stocks and shares market need look no further than an industry buoyed by society's preoccupation with "mysterious" cure-alls for every sickness.

HILARY BUTLER

Tuakau