

**66** TF you were asked to name, say, five of the world's bestknown DXers, we think you Zealander and then, probably, put him at the top of the list... For, wherever DXing is followed as a hobby or where there is even a little interest taken in what comes out of a radio, the name of Arthur T. Cushen must be a household word . . ."

This tribute to the standing of Mr. Cushen in the amateur radio world was paid by Cleve Costello in his monthly Radio New Zealand feature, This Radio Age, recently. An interview recorded by Mr. Cushen at 4YZ was then presented to Australian and Islands listeners, eventually to be rebroadcast on a worldwide basis by Radio Australia.

Asked if his listening interest extended to both standard broadcast and shortwave bands, Mr. Cushen disclosed that since 1937 he had collected about 2300 verifications of reception, 875 of them confirming broadcast-band reception, the bulk of these coming from North America and including 100 Californian stations.

"If the 'best' stations are those on the lowest power," he said, "then my best have been the Voice of the 8th Army at Bari with 50 watts output power, VUX in India (50 watts) and WVTC, a 50-watt American Forces station in New Guinea. Actually the lowest-powered broadcast station I have logged was 5AL in Alice Springs, which was operating with 30 watts at the time. My report was the first received from outside the town and they were quite pleased to have it."

A lot in any hobby depends on enthusiasm, and Mr. Cushen gained his interest in radio listening on a 5-tube receiver. In 1939 he acquired an English 8-valve receiver, and over the last two years has also been using an 11valve set. His aerial is of the Beveridge type, and runs across a city block, admittedly, but this is necessary to pick up the weak signals in which he is now interested, having logged most of the strong stations. Reception in Invercargill, he says, is usually very good— "especially when the trams go off"-but accounts for Dr. Brabazon's part in it,

reception at Riverton and Long Beach can be really exceptional.

Apart from having 1400 shortwave verifications from 139 countries, another would include at least one New of Mr. Cushen's achievements is the winning of an international listening contest sponsored by Danish and English organisations, for the second year in succession, a few months ago. His best shortwave verifications? CKFX, Vancouver, with 10 watts output, and Bucharest, Rumania, with 75 watts.

"I like listening to the South American stations," Mr. Cushen admitted. "They are on low power, on the low frequencies and their programmes are very interesting."

To the question, "How do DXers assist the broadcasters?" Mr. Cushen cited Sweden's new Far East transmission, which, being heard in New Zealand at 1.0 a.m., cannot gain a great audience. Suggestions as to the timing of such programmes and interference experienced were always appreciated by the stations, he said. At least once a week, as observer for the BBC, he sends a cable to London giving details of reception of the General Overseas Service and Pacific Service in New Zealand and. on special occasions, is called on for a cable covering events such as Royal speeches.

DXing has given Mr. Cushen other interests, too. Finding out where stations are located has brought about a better

tribute printed on this page knowledge of geography and, of course, philately goes hand in hand as stamps come in from all parts of the world. He also sub-edits the N.Z. DX Times, prepares log

LEFT: Arthur T. Cushen, of Invercargill,

who was the subject of

the Radio New Zealand

charts for various radio manufacturers, helps edit his club's annual callbook, and keeps up a news service to many other magazines in Australia, Britain and America, not to mention the international DX broadcasts from Australia, Sweden and other places. Thus many listeners have indirectly benefited. Perhaps the

most appreciated work done by Mr. Cushen and

his colleagues, however, is the prisoner-of-war monitoring service which they have maintained since the start of the Korean war. Some 2000 names, or half of the known missing, have been listed after men have been missing for 12 to 14 months. Many parents, mainly American, have shown their gratitude in no uncertain way. During the 1939-45 war, over 6000 prisoners' messages were passed on. The present work will be carried on until hostilities



CLEVE COSTELLO

## Two-Faced Trouble

IANUARY'S DAUGHTER is the strange title of a new serial now being heard from 1ZB at 10.15 a.m. each day from Monday to Friday. The title reveals the ingenious ability of mystery writers like Anthony Scott Veitch, who probably employed something like the following reasoning to arrive at his title—January is named after Janus, the god of doors, a figure with two faces looking in opposite directions; a daughter of Janus or January would therefore be a woman representing this characteristic in some way. The heroine here-Eleanor Strang Brabazon-is a doctor of psychiatry, and she is, consequently, familiar with the phenomenon of split personality. When murder is involved in the story this personal dualism

as well as her strange alias of January's Daughter.

### **Band Contest Programmes**

STARTING with 1YZ at 7.45 p.m. this Friday (March 21), all YZ and X stations are to broadcast seven programmes of recordings made at the 1952 Brass Band Championships. Each programme, lasting about half an hour, is made up of winning performances by bands, smaller groups or soloists. Grade bands will be heard in the first programme, B Grade bands in the second and third, A Grade in the fourth and fifth, and Championship Grade in the sixth and seventh. The programmes will start from 2YZ about a fortnight after the first from 1YZ and at about fortnightly intervals after that from 4YZ, 3YZ, 3XC, 2XN, 1XH, 2XG, 1XN, 2XA and 2XP.

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