

# Amongst the Listeners

This is the Listener's Corner. It is available for reports of receptions from individuals; the correspondence of Leagues of Listeners and reports of their proceedings; constructive criticism or suggestions for the betterment of radio in general and the consistent improvement of the service that broadcasting can render in our community life. We wish this page to be the meeting-place of listeners and officials for the better understanding of points of view and the problems of others. It is a "Service" page, and we invite you to make use of it. Address all communications: Editor, "Radio Record," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**H.P. (Fairton, Canterbury).**—Communicate with H. Sime and Co., Independent Agents, Wakefield Street, Wellington, and state model of your set.

**A.D.W. (Dargaville).**—Send 3s. in a money-order to the Citizens' Radio Service Bureau, 508 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill., U.S.A., and ask them to mail you their latest "Citizens' Radio Call Book."

**B.E.M. (Wairarapa).**—The only Adelaide station on about 300 metres is 5JN (The 5DN Proprietary, Ltd., No. 2 Montpelier Street, Parkside, South Australia), which operates on 313 metres. There can be no 3FN Sydney, as the "3" denotes Victoria. "2" is allotted to all New South Wales stations. No record can be found of any 3FN in Australia. It may be a new lighthouse station on the Victorian coast.

### Interference from Dynamos.

Instructions have been asked for regarding the elimination of interference from local power plants. The use of a counterpoise in place of the usual earth connection has already been advised in this column. Where a counterpoise under the aerial is impracticable it may consist of a couple of wires, well insulated, run round the sides of the garden. If it is possible to get the co-operation of the authority running the power-house, sparking at the generator brushes can be minimised and the interference almost, if not entirely, eliminated. This method consists in connecting a fixed condenser of large capacity through a fuse, to each brush. The other side of each condenser is then earthed to the frame of the machine. The capacity of condensers must be suitable to the amount of current being generated, and a transmitting type should be used. The fuses are to prevent trouble in case of a condenser breaking down.

In the case of an ordinary electric motor or small generator, as low a value as two microfarads for each condenser may be effective.

## Our Mail Bag

### Would This Cure Oscillation?

Clarity (Invercargill): Are persons allowed to interfere with our pleasure at a theatre concert by interrupting the various items? Why should we have to tolerate a similar interference when listening to radio concerts? The oscillation fiend has been with us too long. No years now attempts have been made to reduce the trouble by educational methods, but there seem yet many individuals who either cannot or will not benefit by the numerous instructions that have been given in the art of tuning the type of sets that are prone to radiate when carelessly tuned. Do you not think that some more drastic action should be taken to cut out the interference these sets cause? If the P. and T. Department would refuse to grant (at the expiry of the present license) a license to the owner of a radiating set until it is converted into a non-radiating one, it would overcome the difficulty once and for all. The cost of such conversion would not be great, and would be offset by the increased efficiency of the receiver and the boon conferred on other listeners. What do your readers think of the proposal?

### Any Backers?

Back Blocks (Westport).—Allow me to congratulate you on your fine paper, much looked forward to. I have been a listener in from the early years of broadcasting, and ought to know a little about stations, programmes, etc., and how they come in. The stations are improved a lot since the earlier times, but even yet just when you want to hear something important away she goes and you don't get it! Now, I consider the programmes are too good for anybody, and for myself I would like to see the company put the surplus more into the stations, not on to appointing directors of this thing or the other thing, that can't bring it to us. The reason why I write this letter is to advance a suggestion to listeners-in and everyone interested in wireless. Now, this is it: What about a big station in Dunedin, 10,000 watts? I suggest that every listener-in lend £1 on interest, and the £1 be returned in a few years. We then would place between £25,000 to £30,000 for the company to go ahead with. Of course the subscription would only be voluntary. I am quite sure no real listener-in would refuse. He would have interest on his pound and a station to listen to. The Government lent £15,000, we understand, and there was a lot said about it, and I think now the listener-in can go one better. Now then listeners-in, set the ball rolling!

### Sunday Broadcasting.

Miramar: I would respectfully like to suggest to you that as Sunday is the day set apart in which we are solely to worship our God, and that as the present representative of Christianity to-day is the Church, so I would suggest that Sunday be reserved wholly for that body, irrespective of denomination.

tions. We have six week days to enjoy many forms of music, but only one in which the sacred music, combined with the church service, does so much for the uplift of the soul. I would suggest that from 6 p.m. to 6.45 p.m. be reserved for children's services, with appropriate ministers; for children, 6.45 p.m. to 7 p.m., sacred organ music; and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., the ordinary church service, prolonged with music rendered by individual or combined choirs. Closing down at 9 p.m. would allow of hearing Australian services, if required.

### Sydney Satisfied.

G.D. (Coogee, Sydney): This reception was obtained on an eight-valve super-heterodyne, using a loop, and situated 250 yards from station 2BL's aerial, so I think this is a very good performance. There is every reason for me to tune into your station more often, as the items are quite up to any other station I have heard.

### The Gramophone and Wireless.

B. T. Watkinson (Christchurch): You are aware that I am very deaf, as the "Radio Record" published some weeks ago gave an account of what wireless has done for me. Now, I have a cabinet gramophone, a first-class instrument, and piles of records that have been taken great care of—most of them better than new, for records improve with use, if a new needle is used every time the record is used. It has been no use to me for years, as I have gradually got more deaf. I could not hear the gramophone with my head in the loud-speaker.

Now, thanks to wireless and later inventions, I can hear it ten or twenty times louder than ever I did before, and the tone is greatly improved. The little adaptor that has done this is called the electric tri-tone for modernisation.

ing gramophones, and consists of a microphone with needle attachment to fit the arm of the loud-speaker of the gramophone. This is connected by flexible cords to the volume amplifier or regulator, and from this by two cords to an ebonite plug to fit in place of the valve. It can be changed over from the air to the gramophone in a few seconds.

My grandson brought me it a few days ago, thinking it would give me pleasure—he knows I've a good gramophone and have to sit dummy while other people enjoy it. I am telling

Mr. Alex. Dey, one of the drollest of humorists and thought by many to be the chief of radio comedians in Christchurch, will "do his bit" to aggravate the cheerfulness of Saturday night's entertainment at 3YA.

you this so that other sons and grandsons who have friends and relatives afflicted by deafness can take the hint and give them pleasure, and at the same time get entertainment, should wireless fail you, or you want a bit of music when radio is not on the air, or when your local station is closed down, and the small fry are making night hideous and making it impossible for a well-behaved, respectable set to get any other station.

I should have told you that the electric tri-tone can be used by either a three, five, or seven valve set, but I find it better to work on 4-volt instead of 5-volt, on the A battery, when using a seven-valve set. The only advantage I can see in it to people of normal hearing is as I have stated, but to any-

one deaf it is a wonderful discovery and should be taken advantage of wherever possible.

### A Warning.

H. F. Cook (Hastings).—Recently I have read about people receiving electric shocks through handling electrical appliances while wearing headphones. Although not wearing headphones I had a similar experience a few days ago which may serve as a warning to those of your readers who use electric soldering irons. Getting very poor results on my set I inspected the wiring and found a faulty joint. I then turned off the batteries, leaving the aerial and earth wires attached, and heated my electric soldering iron. Holding this by its insulated handle, I grasped the wire I intended to solder. Immediately I received a sharp shock. I do not know whether this occurred before I applied the point of the iron to the joint or after, as it all happened so quickly. Remembering the caution about disconnecting the earth lead I did so, and had no more trouble, so I am inclined to believe that the shock came before the soldering iron touched the joint. It seems that it is not wise to rely upon the insulating properties of the handle of an electric soldering iron.

### Experience of Fading.

Robt. Davidson, Tauranga.—A subject of interest to many listeners-in would be an investigation of the areas round the main broadcasting stations within which reception is distorted and weak. I give particulars of my own case. Previous to the change in wavelengths 1YA was received here (65 miles north of 1YA) at splendid strength and without any distortion on a four-valve set. 3YA was received at about half the volume of 1YA, and was subject to fading. Since the

## Some Features from Next Week's Programmes

(Continued from page 7).

Mr. T. Vernon Griffiths will give one of his popular musical addresses at 3YA on Thursday.



—Moore, photo.

**MR. T. VERNON-GRIFFITHS.** At present lecturer in music at the Training College for Teachers, at Christchurch, conductor of the Royal Christchurch Musical Society, and conductor to the Christchurch Savage Club, Mr. T. Vernon-Griffiths, M.A., Mus. Bac. (Cantab.), L. Mus., T.C.L., comes to New Zealand with high testimonials. Born in Cheshire, he was educated at Norwich Grammar School, and Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he took an active part in all sports, particularly cricket, rowing and football. He served in France during the war as an officer in the Sherwood Foresters, being invalided home in 1918. Mr. Vernon-Griffiths entered Pembroke College as Organ Scholar, and was subsequently elected organist and master of the choristers. He studied music under Dr. Edward Burnetts, Mr. J. Meers, Dr. E. Markham Lee, Cr. O. B. Rootham, Dr. E. F. Horner, the late Prof. Charles Wood, and the late Prof. Sir Charles Stanford. Mr. Vernon-Griffiths was appointed senior music master, Downside School, Somerset, England, and prior to coming to New Zealand under engagement to the Education Department, he was senior music master, organist and choirmaster at St. Edmund's School, Canterbury, England. He has numerous compositions to his credit.

### S-O-S

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Pedro, California, wrote to 3YA to ask who the organist was, and requested that his photograph should be sent. Solos by Mr. Lake will be interspersed in Friday's programme at 3YA.

There was no more picturesque figure in the early days than was the coachman. He was the guide, entertainer, and friend of every passenger entrusted to his care, and the memory of him will live long. Some of the coachmen were outstanding and unique characters, and some interesting anecdotes concerning them are to be told at 3YA on Wednesday evening by Mr. W. Hayward, whose father was one of the "old school." Everyone in Christchurch, in Canterbury, and, in fact, all over the South Island, knew Hayward's coaches and buses. But the name of the "Rink Stables" has given place to that of the "Rink Taxis," which Mr. Leo Hayward, a grandson of the old pioneer, controls. It is a case of "like father, like son" in more ways than one, for both have taken "to the air." Mr. Leo Hayward is the gentleman who is telling the story of the trip round the Southern Lakes.

**Captain Findlay** has taken to the air in another sense. He will be on at 3YA on Monday in a talk about the Wigram aerodrome, of which he has charge, and will give listeners a brief account of the history of aviation. Captain Findlay is a son of Sir John Findlay, and had a fine war record.

Miss Lucy Cowan, talented elocutionist, and a most popular artist at 3YA, will be on the air from that station on Friday.

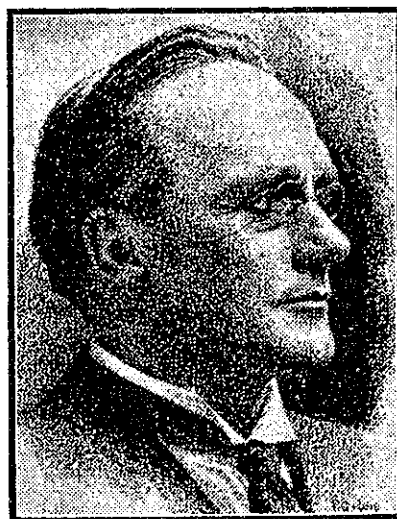
### DUNEDIN NOTES

"The Banded Brotherhood of 'Bacca Burners'" is the title of Pastor W. D. More's weekly discourse at 4YA on Tuesday. Mr. More labels his talks well.

The service to be broadcast on Sunday evening will be from the St. Andrew's Street Church of Christ. The preacher will be Pastor W. D. More, whose voice is known to thousands of listeners. His addresses from the studio on Tuesday evenings are always appreciated.

Tuesday afternoon's session at 4YA will include addresses by Mr. H. Greenwood and Miss Puechegud. This lady, continuing her talks on "Interior Decoration," will deal this week with the "Redecorating of Old-fashioned Bedrooms." She will give many valuable hints for making inexpensive alterations, consistent with the latest ideas.

The evening concert on Tuesday will comprise a large programme of well-known songs of the popular type, and will be given by the 4YA entertainers. Amongst the vocalists to be heard will be Mrs. J. Marshall, Misses Gwen Cooper and M. Bills, Messrs. A. Watson and Billy Gay. Instrumentalists include Mr. M. Horn with his saxophone, and Mr. Norman Scurr with Hawaiian guitar selections.



—Sketch, P. S. Reid.

### MR. ERNEST JAMIESON.

popular and unassuming, and perhaps one of the best known and most capable all-round musicians in Australia and New Zealand. Mr. Jamieson, known for many years as the leading flautist of the Dominion, has by his talent, hard work, and wide experience, gained a position at the top of the tree—conductor of the largest theatre in Canterbury. A pupil of Mr. John Lemmone, world-famous flautist, Mr. Jamieson has fulfilled many important appointments such as principal flautist of the 1906-7 International Exhibition Orchestra, and he was for many years with Messrs. J. C. Williamson's companies. Mr. Jamieson has toured and appeared on the stage with some of the world's leading singers, including Emma Calve, the greatest Carmen in musical history, and Lydia Lipkova, the renowned Russian soprano. Listeners-in readily class him as one of the Dominion's best conductors, for only an artist of his calibre could put such artistic interpretations over the wire. Just recently the world-renowned master pianist, Sir Jan Paderewski, during his visit to Christchurch, attended the Liberty Theatre, and at the conclusion of the performance congratulated Mr. Jamieson on the wonderfully correct rendering of his celebrated "Minuet." It was, he said, his ideal interpretation.



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change, 1YA comes through at about one-third of its previous strength, and is so subject to distortion and fading that it is painful to listen to. The change in wave-length did not alter the strength or clearness of 3YA. From the foregoing it would appear that (unless something is radically wrong with 1YA) at a certain critical distance from a broadcasting station, distortion and weak reception occur, and that this critical distance varies with the wave-length used. I would like to hear the opinions of other listeners-in on this matter, especially those at a distance between 50 and 70 miles of the K.W. stations I would like to express my appreciation of the improvement in programmes of 2YA and 3YA lately. 1YA I cannot vouch for, not being able to listen to them. Mr. McAvoy from 2YA last Thursday sang remarkably well, and his voice evidently suits the microphone, as it came over very well. I hope we shall hear him again.

### Humorous Items.

R.M.O. (Remuera).—In looking through the various programmes in your issue of the 16th inst., the almost total absence of humorous items is again noticeable. Might the attention of the various programme organisers be drawn to this omission, as it should not be a difficult matter to procure talent in the above line, and thereby further improve otherwise excellent programmes.—[As a matter of fact, humorous items are difficult to procure for broadcasting purposes. Nothing varies so much as the personal standard of humour. Vaudeville items with somewhat broad humour are not always suitable. Humour that depends for results upon double meanings is obviously barred. The cosmopolitan nature of the radio audience limits the scope of the humorous items that may be broadcast. Humour that is quite in keeping, say, at a footballers' smoke concert may not sound so nice in a suburban drawing room per medium of the loudspeaker. The subject is not so easy as it may seem at first glance, but the organisers are always ready to welcome suggestions as to items or performers, and would be glad of your help.—Ed.]

### GOOD WORK BY "HAM"

### TWO-WAY WITH FIVE COUNTRIES IN ONE EVENING.

Mr. A. Grubb, of Gore, sends particulars of good two-way communication with Europe and America on the evening of September 11. Operations were conducted at station OZJAB, Gore, and two-way communication was obtained with Germany EK4UH, France EF8RO, Britain RG5QR, America N4ARM, and Australia all on the same evening.

The transmitting equipment in use consisted of tuned plate and tuned grid circuit, using two 1X210 valves with an input of 35 watts and wave-length 32 metres.

Two-way communication was also established with France, using two 201A receiving tubes as transmitters.

### A DOMINION FEDERATION

#### IS IT WORTH WHILE?

"B.C.I.," in the "Taranaki Daily News," writes as follows:—An endeavour to obtain a Dominion federation of the various New Zealand listeners' organisations is being made by the Amateur Radio Society of Wellington, which has suggested the council of the proposed Dominion league should consist of a delegate from each of the societies. The council would meet once a year in Wellington, and would have a paid secretary residing in Wellington. It is suggested the listeners' societies should link up with the Dominion league now and that the first meeting should be held at the end of the month. In the opinion of the Auckland Listeners' League the proposed meeting of delegates in Wellington this month should be purely a conference to decide whether a Dominion league will be formed, as it is not prepared to unite with an institution without a preliminary complete discussion of its aims and objects. Both the Canterbury Listeners' League and the Radio Society of Christchurch have already decided against joining the Dominion league proposed by Wellington listeners.

Besides being an unnecessary burden on members of societies in the way of dues to meet secretaries' salaries and other expenses, the proposed Dominion Council will, in the writer's opinion, serve no useful purpose. As the proposed rules provide for a delegate for each 50 members, or portion thereof, the members of large societies, such as Wellington, would simply "rule the roost," and it is quite evident that, from our point of view, their views on broadcast matters, such as power, would not coincide with those of Taranaki listeners. It is to be hoped, in the best interests of listeners-in, in view recent developments, that all delegates from the smaller societies cast a block vote against the proposed Dominion league.

The installation of a radio set seems to mean to most new radio fans simply the putting up of a good aerial. The earth connection for some unknown reason is ignored as far as an efficient connection goes. In putting a radio set in a house it should be remembered that a good earth connection is just as important as a good aerial.