

Our Mail Bag

Good Music Appreciated.

"A Listener-in" (Hafaitai).—I would like to express my appreciation of the good music performed week by week, by the Symons-Billwood-Short Trio, including the solo works of these artists, and also the strong quartet. Our visits from artists abroad, who delight us with this class of music, are so rare, that I feel we cannot get too much from the Studio Trio. Personally, I would like one evening a week, solely devoted to their instrumental numbers, which I consider the cream of the programme. It is a great privilege to have music of the high standard given to us by these artists, over the wireless, and I would ask that we be favoured with at least our share of the items we look forward to.

A Query.

B. Wenlock (Waitati).—Could any "Radio" reader tell me of any station giving the call 9XF, as I picked up one last Sunday (April 15) at 10.20 p.m. giving the above call. I thought the announcer said Illinois, but the static was rather bad, so would not be positive.

Identity Wanted.

E. Green, Mount Biggs, Feilding.—In the last issue of your "Record," I read a request by Mr. Crabbe, of Napier, for information regarding a station, apparently American, on about 810 metres. I think this station might be station KSL, Salt Lake City, Utah. I've had them very clearly on loudspeaker many times some months ago, but have not heard them lately. Another station is KNX, California, who used to be spoiled by 1YA.

Could any listener please explain what station this was? Operating on the same wave-length as 2ZF, Palmerston North, tuned in on my 5-valve set at about 6.30 p.m., but thinking it was 2ZF, I switched off, again until after tea. When I switched on again after tea, the speaker was flooded with music (orchestral). A little later a voice, easily distinguishable for an American, announced what I thought to be 9X—something, testing. He acknowledged a report from a Mr. Stapleton in Detroit. Many reports were acknowledged from California, who all said volume was enormous and tone good. The next item was not announced, but was a quartet of ukulele players singing the song "Lucky Days," quite clearly. The next announcement was 9X, something, testing on 60,000 watts. I'm quite positive he said 60,000 watts, and then said something about "here in New York," and then another vocal solo, a woman singing. By this time 2ZF had started up, and were drowning this station out, but during a pause in 2ZF transmission, I distinctly heard someone say, "from California," and saying "Volume good and a little fading." Dear sirs, I trust that some listener in New Zealand has been more fortunate than I was to log this station properly. Stations I have logged after the main Aussies have closed down are 3PDB, Melbourne, 5DN, Adelaide, KZRM, Manila, and CYA, Mexico, and 2UE, Sydney.

Society Wanted in Dunedin.

St. Kilda (Dunedin): Might I be allowed to suggest through your columns that the time has arrived when we should have a Listeners' League, although I do not like the name, in Dunedin. I do not mean a complaining body, because, in common with all my wireless friends, I am perfectly satisfied with the service supplied by the N.Z. Broadcasting Company, but I think that perhaps such a society might be of use both to the company and to ourselves. We note with sorrow that the southern province is far behind in the matter of the number of licenses, but this is in a great measure due, in my opinion, to the benefits of radio not being so well advertised as they are up north. We have a splendid service at a cheap rate, and I am sure that in Mr. Webb and his assistants the company is well represented, but unless some action is taken the number of licenses will not rapidly increase. In the little corner where I live fully one-fifth of the residents have wireless sets, and we often meet, sometimes at each other's house, or more often in the street, and discuss our little problems to our mutual advantage. To give one example. Most of us now have discarded the dry B batteries for the wet batteries imported from America, and I and at least one other have adopted the series of copper pipes for earthing. These and similar questions could be well threshed out

at periodical meetings of a listeners' league, and would help, in my opinion, to further the cause, I would be pleased to take an active part in helping to form such a society, and you are at liberty to disclose my name if necessary."

Melody Wanted.

A.W.L. (Khandallah): I note with interest the comments of G.C.C. (Nelson) in this week's issue of the "Radio Record" relative to the items given by the string trios of the respective broadcasting stations. As a constant listener-in I should like to express my appreciation for the excellent programmes which 2YA has recently been putting on the air—programmes which can bring nothing but credit to those responsible for them. I agree with G.C.C. in this, however, that the 2YA trio confine themselves too closely to "movements," etc., and I feel that the majority of listeners would much prefer to hear something containing more of a melody, while it should not be necessary to depart from the "classics" in order to do this. Your editorial suggestion that a vote upon the subject be taken seems an admirable way of testing the true attitude of the public.

[The nightly selection by the public of items to be played by the new orchestra will, we believe, be appreciated and will give opportunity for close contact with listeners' tastes.—Ed.]

Who's the Stranger?

C. J. Nordstrand (Onerahi): Could you or any other listener-in who may have had the same experience as we had, kindly enlighten us?

On Saturday night, April 14, we were listening-in to station 2BL, Sydney, the time here being just on 12 o'clock. The Sydney station was at the time broadcasting dance music. Suddenly and without warning, over the top of 2BL we heard a loud, clear, but very deep voice, announcing. We listened very attentively, and at a pause between the dance music again we heard it. It sounded very like a "Native war chant" to us more than an announcement. A man was talking in foreign lingo, then presently this loud announcement, or war-cry, as we called it, and a woman sang a peculiar chanting song in a foreign tongue. 2BL started up again, and covered it. All we could hear while the Sydney station was on the air was the loud voice, I suppose, announcing, but, of course, could not understand the "foreign language." However, in time the Sydney station closed down and we heard this foreign programme through. We had it on good loudspeaker strength all the time, but could not understand a word of it. Could you please tell me what station it would be? We are very curious to know. The same morning we picked up accidentally again a programme from "Albert Street, Newport, South Africa" on loudspeaker strength about 2.30. Has any other listener-in received these stations? We should be pleased to hear of any who have. Our set is a five valve. We use a doghla aerial, or, at least, two aerials, and a good ground. As the metres are not marked on our set, we have no idea as to what number in metres these two stations operate on. Could you also please tell me if there is any other small station in Christchurch? We got a call sign recently, though there being a lot of static, we could only hear what sounded like this 2ZC, Christchurch. Thanking you in anticipation. Best of luck to your worthy paper, "Radio Record."

[The Christchurch station is 3ZC, on 250 metres.—Ed.]

A Suggestion.

Englishman (Christchurch): The first part of the "Record" I turn to after running through the programmes is your "Mail Bag," with its ever-changing collection of views from different listeners. It is most interesting and entertaining to see what is being experienced and thought by others, and I congratulate you on the success of your policy of giving the public an opportunity of freely expressing their views. I am writing now to pass on an item from the "Morning Post" for the benefit of our Taranaki friend who blames 2YA's transmission because, in his locality, it is not received perfectly, while other stations come in well. According to the "Morning Post," Brighton, on the Sussex Coast, is in exactly the same position in relation to 2LO. Although only

a few miles away from London, as wireless goes, the South Coast town never has been able to get 2LO well, allegedly because of the close proximity of the South Coast downs, and in point of fact now gets London best through relays from the Bournemouth station. The paper adds: "Curiously enough, the best reception of all is from the far-distant Continental stations in Germany and Austria, which can usually be heard far more plainly than English stations." I pass this on, sir, in case it might be of interest to Taranaki as suggesting some locality or directional fault under which they are suffering. It is not suggested in Brighton that 2LO's transmission is wrong because they do not receive it well. As I am a retiring soul, I advance this information to you under shelter of the white flag of anonymity, as I do not wish to be assailed by any fierce Taranaki champions.

Taranaki Reception.

Seafarer (Wellington): My experience, extending ever since 2YA has been operating, may prove of interest to our Taranaki friends, who say that 2YA is to blame for faulty reception suffered by them. My vessel has a good set—and needless to say it is a great boon which we wouldn't be without—and there is always someone listening. Reception in the New Plymouth area of 2YA is always bad, but as soon as we get out east or west sufficiently it clears up. Why? Get a map and see. Once we get away from the shielding effect of the big mountain it clears up altogether, and the station comes roaring in. The explanation of why New Plymouth people can get other stations while they can't get 2YA well, is simply that the sound waves come from different directions. I know the Taranaki folk won't have a word said about their mountain, but—well, facts are facts. All I know is that once we are out of the line of the big hill reception is good, and that being so, why blame the station?

A Satisfactory Set.

Selector: Having constructed the R.R. selective crystal receiver by "Megohm," I am writing to let you know that it does all it is claimed to do. The first night I tried it I received 2YA on the 'phones clearly. Since then I have had 2YA every night. I cannot get them in daylight until about 4.30 p.m., when they are only just audible. From the children's hour at 6 o'clock onwards the station comes in at good 'phone strength. I can get 2YA when 4YA is on, but not very loud, as the tuning is too sharp, that is, with earth in 6, aerial in 5, and crystal in 4. But when 4YA is not on the air I use crystal in 1, aerial in 2, and earth in 3. I can get 4ZM, Dunedin, very loud, and also 4ZB, Dunedin. The Shakespeare night from 2YA was very good; every item was heard quite plainly in the 'phones. What is the air-line distance from Wellington to Dunedin?

I wound 80 turns of wire on the coil, and I took another tap off at the 60th turn, with crystal plugged into the top of the coil and aerial in the extra tap and earth at the bottom of the coil. There was an improvement of nearly 50 per cent. in 4YA's volume, and the tuning is, of course, very broad. I wound my wire on a bottle, which was 3 inches in diameter, and then smashed the bottle out. This is better than winding on cardboard as you are not liable to stretch the wire or widen the spaces. With E in 6, A in 5, and C in 4, the dial setting for the condenser for 4YA is 108 degrees, and a movement of 3 degrees either way cuts the station out, yet on going down the scale to about 58 degrees 4YA comes in nearly as loud as at 108. I now wish to make an amplifier so as to bring in 2YA on the speaker. Will such an amplifier be described in the N.Z. Radio Listeners' Guide? I use a Neutron crystal, with a copper cat-whisker.—[Yes, the Guide will describe an amplifier.—Ed.]

SHIELDED GRID VALVE

TUNED IMPEDANCE COUPLING CONDEMNED.

An American radio writer, in referring to a new circuit, says:—

"A very special feature of the radio-frequency amplifier circuit of the receiver is that it does not employ the tuned-impedance coupling, which has been believed necessary to the operation of shielded-grid valves. This type of coupling is, inherently, extremely broad in tuning and is far from desirable; though circuits for tuned-impedance coupling are given with the data sheets accompanying shielded-grid valves as a theoretical, but not necessarily a practical, means of operating these valves. This type of coupling is highly undesirable in a radio receiver which is to be sufficiently selective on modern broadcast-receiver conditions, and it introduces circuit losses occasioned by the necessary grid-blocking condenser and grid leak which seriously impair the amplification possibilities of the shielded-grid valve; for, unlike the practice in previous radio-frequency amplifiers, regeneration is not employed in a shielded-grid amplifier and may not well be utilised to offset circuit losses.

"It is apparent to engineers that the amplification obtainable from a shielded-grid receiver is dependent upon the excellence of the tuning circuit (coil and condenser) making up the R.F. amplifier stage; and the selectivity upon the degree of coupling of one valve to the next through the tuned circuit."

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COOKING BY RADIO

NEW DOMESTIC POSSIBILITY

Radio is now destined soon to enter the kitchen and help the housewife cook meals in an incredibly short time. Science has just perfected a new household marvel in the form of a device which may be called a "radio" stove. It is based, strange to say, on the principle of the radio knife which has been so successfully used in bloodless surgery.

The new electric cooker is adapted from the diathermic heat device used by physicians and reduces the time of cooking meals from hours to seconds! For example, steaks have been broiled in half a minute, eggs fried in two seconds, and large potatoes baked to the queen's taste in fifty seconds.

This new cooking apparatus is simply a high-frequency electric device. It broils, bakes, or fries by passing several hundred thousand volts of electricity through the food, at a frequency of a million and more cycles. It cooks the food with a harmless heat. Essentially it is not different from the electric knife used in the latest bloodless surgery, or the machine which generates heat within the body tissues to clear up lung congestion in pneumonia patients and relieve neuritis and rheumatic pains.

Tesla Coil Development.

That high-frequency currents will cook is not a new discovery, for Tesla coil experimenters were baking potatoes twenty years and more ago. But the experimenters are working to develop the proper type of machine and fittings to make high-speed cooking practical in the home. If they succeed, electric cooking may become cheaper than coal or gas, a contributor to "Popular Mechanics" prophesies.

It is explained that while the average high-frequency apparatus has an efficiency of but 50 per cent., as compared with 90 per cent. for good resistance-type heaters, the time element is so much in favour that it more than offsets the losses. It takes about an hour to heat up an oven and bake a large potato, but if the same work can be done in 50 seconds, the cost will be no greater than burning an electric light for one minute, it is estimated.

The problem that the experimenters still have to solve is the type and size of high-frequency generator to be used and the best type of electrodes for different forms of food. Using an electrode that is too small to broil a steak may cause the meat to burn, and one too big will slow up the cooking, as it does not permit the necessary concentration of current in a small area.

A Striking Advantage.

One striking advantage of high-frequency cooking, particularly of meats, it is pointed out, is the equal distribution of cooking throughout the food. It eliminates steaks burned on the outside and too raw within, for the colour, all through the meat, will be exactly the same as the colour on the outside. Neither the metal plate beneath the steak nor the electrode about it becomes hot, since all the heat generated is produced by the resistance of the meat tissues.

Potatoes can be baked by simply sticking a small electrode, or a piece of wire in either end. Eggs broken in a metal tray, which is connected to one side of the electric line, can be fried by touching the other electrode to their surfaces. To hard-boil an egg in its shell, it is only necessary to stick a needle in either end, insert the wires, and turn the switch. Actually the egg is not boiled, in the usual sense, for the current apparently coagulates the albumen by vapourising the water in it. The water, reduced to steam, will burst the shell within a few seconds.

Entirely Different Taste.

Manufacturers of physicians' electrical equipment are rather doubtful that high-frequency cooking will ever become practical for the average home, though its novelty, or the nutritional value of the food or its taste, may overshadow all objections. Those who have eaten meat broiled in this way say that it tastes entirely different from the usual steak, the taste being a cross between broiled steak and boiled meat, owing to the fact that it loses none of its juices and only a very small part of its fats.

One of the great advantages claimed for cooking with the diathermic stove is its cleanliness and simplicity. The stove, which can be used wherever electricity is to be had, is extremely simple in operation. The heat is regulated by a single dial in much the same way as a radio receiver is operated to tune in a station, and to increase or decrease the volume of the music. The

TELEVISION AT SEA

RADIO OPERATOR SEES FIANCEE

A Press Association cable message from London, recently published in the New Zealand Press, reported that, by means of television, the chief radio operator of the Atlantic liner, Berengaria, at sea, was able to see his fiancée in London.

The "New York Times" published following wireless report of the experiment:—

London, March 7.—Television spanned a thousand miles of ocean early this morning to reunite Chief Radio Operator Stanley Brown, of the Berengaria, with his fiancée, Miss Dora Selvy, in London. For twenty minutes, Miss Selvy sat in front of the transmitter in the Baird Laboratory in London, while Brown, far at sea, watched her smile and gesticulate, and saw her big brown eyes looking straight at him out of the Berengaria's receiving set.

A characteristic little habit of Miss Selvy's of arranging her dark bobbed hair at the back of her head first made Brown recognise her in the television, according to a message received from the Berengaria by the Baird Company. Then, when she turned and appeared in profile, Brown was convinced of her identity.

A Thrilling Experience.

The message telling of the success of the experiment was sent to the Baird Company's managing director by Captain Hutchinson aboard the Berengaria. This message told how thrilling it was to see the images from home so far at sea, and said the ship's radio continued to function during the entire test.

Miss Selvy, who is employed in the London office of the Western Union, said later that it was easier than posing for a photograph. She said it would have been even more thrilling to have spoken into the transmitter, or seen an image of Mr. Brown thrown on a London screen.

Talked and Smiled.

"I felt quite natural through it all," she said. "I simply had to face the apparatus, as I had been told to do. I talked, smiled, and turned around—I suppose that was just to prove to him that I was a living being. I was very much excited about it, of course. I wonder how I looked so far away."

J. L. Baird, the television expert, explained that the apparatus aboard the Berengaria was nothing new, and was similar to that which sent images from London to Glasgow more than a year ago.

"We deliberately used an old and well-tested apparatus," he said. "If the Berengaria had had the necessary complex apparatus, it would have been entirely possible to send Brown's picture back to Miss Selvy in London."

Recorded by Gramophone.

A record of the photograph of Miss Dora Selvy, sent by television from the Baird Laboratory in London to the steamship Berengaria in mid-ocean on March 6, (says the "New York Times") was picked up by two amateur radio operators in Jamaica, Queens, New York city, during the transmission. It was learned last night at the home of Boyd Phelps, operator of radio station 2RB at 8505 187th Street, Jamaica.

The picture of Miss Selvy was recorded on an ordinary phonograph disc by Phelps and Werner H. Olpe, operator of radio station 2BFO, 11 Brooklyn Avenue, Jamaica, with the aid of an ordinary receiving set, to which parts worth approximately 15 dollars were added for the test. Boyd said he was mailing a copy of the photograph to the Baird Laboratories to prove his claim that he picked up the picture in transmission.

Phelps and Olpe had been on the look-out for signals, but until the night of March 6 they had been unsuccessful. When Boyd detected the signals, he sent for Olpe, and for a professional piano tuner.

In a written statement given out last night, Phelps said the picture was "heard" about 9 p.m., and the transmission lasted more than an hour.

AS far back as 1889 the War Office adopted Marconi wireless apparatus for use in the field in South Africa.

"radio" cook merely snaps on a switch and keeps an eye on the dial which indicates the volume of heat and also shows when the food is thoroughly done. Another snap of the button shuts off the heat. What could be simpler?

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