

Notes by the Way

(By "Switch.")

THE "frequency test" by 2YA Wellington created all round interest. Many loudspeakers jibbed badly at the audibility tests when the overtones reached the shrill whistle stage. In brief, this simply means that some receiving equipments (not necessarily the speaker alone) cannot reproduce the notes from certain instruments with all their overtones, and thus absolute truthness of tone is not obtained.

HOWEVER, a sufficient number of overtones are generally reproduced sufficiently audibly to be fairly close to the real thing, and only a "super-car" could detect the deficiencies. The 2YA Wellington frequency tests provided an attractive feature of the programme. It was noticeable that the pitch of some of the notes changed distinctly during the first two or three seconds they were being sounded.

WHAT is the average efficiency life of a good valve? is a question of a prospective beginner. The average life can be put down at 1000 hours, but some makes exceed this. To prolong the useful life a valve its filament should not be burned too brightly. The rheostat should be adjusted to give just the best results and not turned any further on.

THE colloid rectifier used by numerous listeners for charging their wet B batteries is apt to get over-heated after a few hours' use. Several listeners have inquired how to meet this difficulty. My own practice is to stand the colloid in a large bowl of cold water with the water a fraction of an inch above the brown liquid in the colloid. The colloid can stand in the bowl of water while it is operating. The water in the bowl can be easily changed when it warms up. This keeps the colloid cool.

AN up-country visitor wishes to know what is the amplification ratio of a step of radio frequency. The practice is to calculate the increase in signal strength for distant reception at the rate of from 3 to 5 times, or even more, dependent, of course, upon the efficiency of the radio frequency valve, correct A and B voltage, and radio frequency circuit, and the method of reducing the natural tendency to self-oscillation of the valve.

A WELL-KNOWN DX listener in the Manawatu asks what should be the value of the leaks and condensers used in a resistance-capacity of audio-frequency amplifiers. The condensers should be about .01 mfd. and the resistances about 1 megohm.

"N. H." (Hataitai) states that his neighbour claims to be able to hear howling valves per medium of his crystal set, and he questions this. It is quite possible, providing the howling valve is fairly close to the crystal set, but both sets must be tuned to the same broadcast station. Evidently some genius starts his valve howling on 2YA Wellington, which is the only station likely to be tuned in by the crystal set.

SOME have asked how airplanes contrive an "earth" for a radio receiving set. The practice is to use the metal parts of the aircraft as an earth, and one aerial wire trailing beneath the airplane supplies the antenna.

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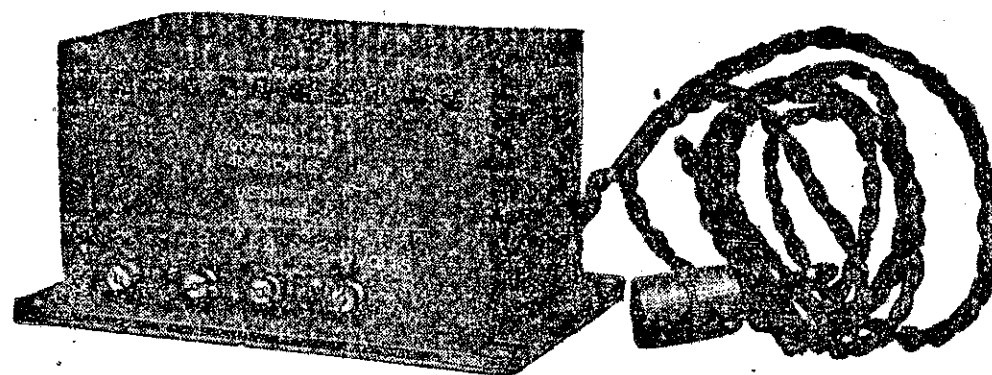
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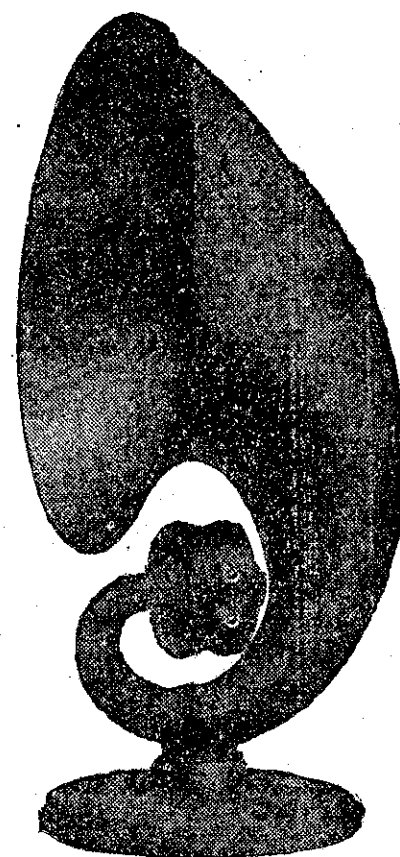
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