

## No Complaints.

I WOULD like to add my word of commendation both of your excellent publication and of the splendid broadcast night by night from the various stations. One reads numbers of letters in the Record and elsewhere condemning the company for this and that, but for my part I have no complaints and merely marvel that with the comparatively small revenue such a high standard of service can be maintained. For the past year's service I would like to say "Thank you" and "No complaints."—H. L. Stone (Ashburton).

## The Racing Ban.

I AM one of those out in the bush who have looked forward to race broadcasting, and can only express regret for the many country listeners who have been deprived of this pleasure. I think the conference is making a great mistake as broadcasting goes to make anything popular—music, vocal, sport, news, etc. I have followed racing for years, and when I've had the chance have gone to a meeting. A few of my listener friends had talked of going to Christchurch for the big meeting. I for one am not going now, owing to the results of the conference's decision, and if others took the same view the racing clubs may realise that broadcasting does not deplete their revenue.—K.E.P. (Murchison).

## Hubby Speaks Up.

"THE only alteration I would like would be a change of programme occasionally after the Church service on Sunday evenings," wrote a Christchurch lady, in renewing her subscription. The letter was endorsed by "hubby" (who put in the ten bob) with "Yes, cut out Wellington, and give us some of the beautiful stuff to be had on records!"

## That 50 Per Cent. Standard.

MAY I say how much we enjoy what comes over the air from your stations. From the announcers down to the youngest cousin we have nothing but praise. I am amazed and ashamed often at the unfair criticism with regard to programmes, etc. One man (a dealer, I presume, by his having four prospective buyers in the house with whom he may yet do a deal), says that 2YA was 50 per cent. rotten the other night. Judging by his remarks one is inclined to think that programmes are not the only things that might be improved on, to say nothing of it from a business point of view. I must say we have very different dealers down this way. It would be interesting to know the kind of programmes some people would like.—"Satisfied" (Timaru).

## Notes and Comments

(By "Switch.")

THAT grand opera is wonderfully popular with all classes of the community has been evidenced by the attendances of stage presentations in New Zealand. This gives a very broad hint to compilers of broadcast gramophone sessions.

SUNDAY afternoon sessions are particularly suitable for the inclusion of grand opera records. The writer has met many listeners who would vote for grand opera for the whole programme. At all events a leavening of grand opera would be widely welcomed.

THROUGH the medium of the gramophone records, the world's vocal stars are brought right into the home, by radio, and a diversity of programmes is offered by radio which is quite beyond the pockets of the average gramophone owner.

PERHAPS 2YA, Wellington, could devote a whole evening session to grand opera records which are now abundantly available. The operas would be heard on a vocal, artistic plane, high above the standard of the opera companies which occasionally pass through New Zealand.

A GOOD radio set and loudspeaker will reproduce broadcast gramophone records with incomparably better tone and more realistic acoustical effect than the average high-grade gramophone. Therefore, the broadcasting of grand opera records creates far greater pleasure for listeners who have good radio equipment.

THE testing of some of these smaller stations must cause a deal of amusement among Wellington listeners, judging by the chorus of howling valves which surrounds the

## Appreciated by the Blind.

I WISH to let you know how we enjoy radio. My husband is blind, and it's a "Heaven-sent blessing to him." It passes away the time for him better than anything else. He enjoys everything, the old songs, recitations, lectures on the British nation and other countries, etc. The only complaint he has is when there is too much static about and we have to shut it off.—A.W. (Otago).

"wave" of the stations. Anyway, these tests have one gratifying result inasmuch that they attract howling valves away from those stations which are offering real music.

THE Melbourne "Listener-In" says:

"The upshot of the conference between representatives of the Commonwealth Government, the G.P.O. and the 'A' Class stations held in Sydney recently was that the Prime Minister has made an announcement of what appears to be a definite policy under which the Government will take complete control of wireless broadcasting in Australia, with all its privileges and problems. The Australian daily papers have already published some informative and a good deal of speculative detail about the proposals, but it is impossible to say when definite steps will be made to take over 'the plant, equipment and mechanical means of broadcasting.' Meantime the present programmes will be maintained."

A PROSPECTIVE city radio listener asked the writer how many broadcast stations could be heard in Wellington with a good outfit on an average night. The inquirer consented to observe a test. The stations which gave sufficient loudspeaker reception to prove entertaining were:—2YA, Wellington; 1YA, Auckland; 3YA, Christchurch; 4YA, Dunedin; 2BL, Sydney; 2FC, Sydney; 2GB, Sydney; 2UE, Sydney; 3LO, Melbourne; 3AR, Melbourne; 4QG, Brisbane. This made a total of eleven stations which provided good entertainment. As a stunt JOAK and JOHK, Japan, were brought in on the loudspeaker and were worth while if only for the novelty. The Jap music was freakish and soon became monotonous.

WHILE eleven stations were sufficiently loud and clear to afford entertainment, other Australian stations were heard, but owing to regular cycles of intense fading they were not a joy to the musically inclined.

5CL, Adelaide, is weak as compared with previous winters.

THE Japanese stations JOAK, just below the wavelength of 2BL, Sydney, and JOHK, on a corresponding wavelength, compared with that of 4QG, Brisbane, are coming in loudly every evening now. The other night the writer thought he was receiving Japanese grand opera from JOHK. A chorus of Japanese men chanted in unison, unaccompanied by instrumental music, but the occasional tolling of a bell produced a weird effect. Generally the crashing of a tin can accompanies the Japanese choral singing, but the man who customarily beats the tin can was apparently having a night off.

JOAK, Tokio, put on some dainty Japanese soubrette items the other night, or if they were not soubrette items there was a brightness about them suggestive of such. The Jap. girls have strangely shrill voices, but they possess a flexibility which is surprising to us Western barbarians. Both JOAK and JOHK are putting out a tremendous lot of talk stuff. One feels curious as to the nature of the talk. The writer is looking around for some tame Jap. to interpret the Jap. talk from JOAK and JOHK.

A NUMBER of radio enthusiasts were discussing the recent frequency tests by 2YA, Wellington, the other day. One man put the position aptly as follows: "A loudspeaker should be more than a mere musical instrument; it must be all musical instruments in itself. Supposing you were listening to the 2YA orchestra, your loudspeaker should reproduce the tone of each of the twelve instruments faithfully, otherwise the music will be lifeless or distorted. Not only should the loudspeaker reproduce the deepest pitched notes of the double-bass and the shrill pitched notes of the piccolo, but the notes of each should have their characteristic overtones to give the characteristic sound of each instrument. Think it over."

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