

The Flight Service.

A FEW lines to show my appreciation of the wonderful service put up by the Broadcasting Company during the history-making flight. It was the goods, and I thank you and all concerned. My set is a two-valve working a cone speaker, and I have the following stations to the set's and my credit (I built it):—1YA, 2YA, 3YA, 4YA, 2ZF, 2ZK, 2AQ, 3ZL, 4ZL, 4ZB, 2BL, 2FC, 2KY, 2GB, 2UE, 2UW, 3LO, 3AR, 3UZ, 3BY, 4QG, 7ZL, 5CL, JOAK, JOBK, C. A. Larsen, 4ZM.—Kenneth McKenzie (Masterton).

I WOULD like to congratulate the company very heartily on the wonderful way the stations kept up the interest of listeners during the great Southern Cross flight. We would have liked to know the names of the records, but they were enjoyed just the same. It was all so wonderful. We are in the bush 40 miles from a railway, could even hear the noise of the 'plane landing in Christchurch, and never for one minute did our interest lessen. We listened to the broadcasting of the other fatal flight, and I often thought it a wonderful performance for the announcer to keep the public interested as he did for so many hours. Mr. Kingsford Smith did not hear half the cheers that went up on his landing. There were some hearty ones here, and I have no doubt in very many places in New Zealand and Australia.—Douglas C. Waldie (Waitotara).

A Thought for the Sick.

NOW that the Wellington Hospital is equipped with radio receiving sets may I ask if arrangements could be made with the station to take about one minute from the children's hour in each session and wish those who are unfortunately there—both children and adults—a word of cheer. I am sure this would be very much appreciated by the sick and maimed. It is probably only for want of thought that this has not been already done, as every night this can be heard from the Australian stations during the children's session, when either opening or signing off. With best wishes.—"Battery."

The Racing Ban.

AS a wireless owner, and also as the secretary of a racing club, although I do not in any sense write in that capacity, I have read all the correspondence and comment on the question of broadcasting the description of races, with considerable interest, and must confess I have been surprised at the very bitter attitude adopted by "The Record" on the subject. Let me say I have on occasion enjoyed the description of a race, as have members of my family. There is, however, the in-

Our Mail Bag

Will correspondents please practice brevity, as heavy demands are now made on space. All letters must be signed and address given as proof of genuineness; noms de plume for publication are permitted. Address correspondence Editor, "Radio Record," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

controvertible fact that the broadcasting of race descriptions distracts from work and business in places and towns away from the course, the attention of hundreds of people who should be otherwise occupied. I see it constantly in my own town, even in my own office. It is the same everywhere, and I venture to say you know it as well as anyone else. The very fact that numbers congregate around wireless sets in hotels, clubs, etc., increases illegal betting, and interferes with work and business hundreds of miles away from the racecourse. There are not a great many people in New Zealand who have not the opportunity of attending at least one race meeting now and again, and in any case, the results and details are always broadcast in the evening, only two or three hours afterwards. Your latest correspondent, "Common Justice" speaks of "the numbers congregating at hotels and other places where broadcasting is to be heard." That is just the point. By all means let people have a few days' holiday at the races when they can, but I think any unbiased person must admit that it is no good to the country, the employers, or the people themselves, to be constantly wasting time every week listening to races over the wireless, and with their minds on the time of the next race in between times. One other point: Why did the Broadcasting Company suddenly cease announcing before the race, the positions at the post, and the order of favouritism? Was it that this important information was being made too good use of by bookmakers' supporters listening in? Your last correspondent adds that the Racing Conference should do its best to make it possible for people to telegraph their investments to the secretary of a club holding a meeting. As all interested in racing know, the racing authorities have been fighting for this privilege for years, and it was included in the defeated Bill which was before Parliament last year.—Commonsense.

Sunday Evening Concerts.

IT is with deep disgust I read your Sunday evening programme. I trust you do not intend to foist such music on the patient listener each Sunday. We have hitherto looked forward to the band concert as a means of relaxation for the busy farmer, fresh

from the cow-shed, and other tasks. After listening to the children's service, and the church service, surely we have had sufficient religion to last us the week. How can a farmer in the back-blocks ask his neighbour, on their only day of semi-relaxation, to come in and hear such high-falutin' stuff. Frankly, it goes over our heads, and provides no amusement, but merely provokes a polite interest. No doubt, it appeals to the over-educated minds of the city dweller, who is in the fortunate position of being able to go outside and get his music to suit his taste if the radio doesn't. It certainly does not appeal to us. Give us back our band concerts.—R.H.P.

May Have Been 5CL.

MIGHT I say to your correspondent, C. Hodson, of Wairoa, that I picked up station 5CL, Adelaide, on the date and time mentioned, the items on the air being a boxing contest. I heard about five of the last rounds, and clearly heard the winner, "Marcus," announced, and almost immediately I heard the announcer say 5CL Adelaide operating on 395 metres.—G. Gay (Wellington).

The First Television Transmission.

I TUNED in short-wave station 2XAF this afternoon, and heard the play "The Queen's Messenger" transmitted. It was announced that it was the first television transmission, and was by the General Electric Company. Reception was excellent, 100 per cent. readable, and very steady, at good loudspeaker strength. My S.W. receiver is a three-valve radio record, of my own construction. Good wishes to New Zealand "Radio Record."—J. Durrant (Ohaui).

Appreciated.

IN no small way do I express my appreciation of the services rendered by Radio Broadcasting. All I can say is that I am perfectly satisfied with the programmes from the four stations. I must say that I have taken a keen interest in the rebroadcasts of boxing, football, and also the landing of the Southern Cross in Christchurch.—"Six Valves" (Oamaru).

"Homo" and the King's English.

IN your last issue you publish a letter by "Homo." I'm sure "Homo" must be a woman, as no man worthy of the name would pass such catty remarks. If the announcer makes "Homo" squirm, why doesn't she tune in somewhere else where she will hear some voices—rich and full. In the opinion of quite a number, if votes were taken on the most popular announcer, Mr. Drummond, of 2YA, would top the poll. He does not speak in a dull, monotonous voice, but is "alive" and "interested." His rendering of the King's English is the rendering understood by at least 90 per cent. of the listeners in this country. Continue with the good work, Mr. Announcer of 2YA.—M.P. (Napier).

I SHOULD like to voice my opinion, and, I think, the opinion of the majority of listeners, in opposition to "Homo's" remarks on 2YA's announcer. I may state that I consider this announcer to be one of the best I have heard over the air, either in New Zealand or from overseas stations. I assume that the majority of listeners prefer an announcer whose voice may be heard clearly and distinctly, and also imparts a pleasing radio personality. Undoubtedly "Homo" would rather have an announcer who adheres strictly to the "King's English," even if his voice were utterly unsuited for broadcasting purposes; I suppose "Homo" could understand this class of announcer, but, unfortunately, all listeners are not educated up to this high standard, and would rather have 2YA's announcer just as he is.

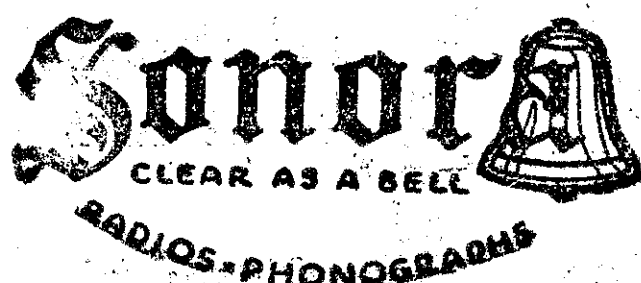
Perhaps if "Homo" gave a practical demonstration of the King's English, combined with radio personality, some evening, he might convey to the listeners the idea of a perfect announcer. I am sure many of the listeners (including myself) would be only too pleased to forward to him much valuable criticism and many useful hints if he attempted such. I say, carry on good old 2YA announcer, and please the easy-going majority and not a few fanatical faddists.—Practical (Pukekohe).

MAY I, through your excellent little paper, express my deep appreciation of the pleasure I have received through listening to the announcer of 2YA. I was amazed at the letters which have appeared in your paper and the local Press in regard to this. When I heard that he was coming back to 2YA after an absence, I was delighted, as I had enjoyed his announcing for about eighteen months prior to his departure. I may say that I have travelled extensively, and I think I may claim to have some knowledge of the human voice! in fact, I have made a study of the subject. I have never met the gentleman in question, and have therefore no cause to champion him, but as I have honestly enjoyed him, I feel compelled to express another side of the question. What we need is less destructive and more constructive criticism.—(Miss) D. Day.

AT the request of many of my friends might I respectfully suggest that your paper, "Radio Record," ceases to publish "criticisms" from clients apparently suffering from the blues? "Homo" in your last issue attacks the announcer at 2YA and objects to his good-night, meanwhile squirming at his English. Radio is popular in this area and reception from 2YA is generally excellent.

Many owners of sets and other less fortunate friends have remarked on the pleasant voice from 2YA, and especially the famous "Good-night." Might we suggest to "Homo" through your "Mailbag" that he disposes of his set and purchases liver pills with proceeds, so assisting himself to refrain from criticising a gentleman who is carrying out his duties in a capable and pleasant manner.—James G. Heath (Motueka).

I NOTE replies from "Masterton," H. J. Findlay, "Fernleaf," and R. S. W. Hunt. What made these correspondents think the cap of my criticism fitted the announcer of 2YA? I never



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