

## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Enough Said: Your letter was not signed. We are inquiring into the figures given.

L. Rapley (Puponga): The answer to your question is that the observer was in touch with 2BL from the beginning of the description about the take-off, but the clarity was not sufficient for rebroadcasting. Listeners were informed that such was the case, and a summary was given of what had been heard. This was apparently not heard by you. The observer on this occasion was not a member of 2YA staff, but an independent outside expert.—Ed.

"Kellogg," Auckland.—Kellogg transformers are obtainable from F. J. Fear and Co., whose advertisement appears elsewhere in this issue, at 21s. each.

## Aussie on a Crystal.

I NOTICED in this week's "Radio Record" in "A Corner for Beginners," by "Observer," where he mentioned that a 2-valve amplifier and crystal set will only get Australian stations on the 'phones. I would like to say that I have heard 3AR, Melbourne, and 4QC, Brisbane, on the speaker faintly. I have six Australian stations in my log book. Also an article on aials (by "Switch"), saying that the lead-in should always be from the lowest end. My aerial is about 30ft. high at the far end 50ft. high at the lead-in end, with an aerial of 150ft. of 7/22 stranded wire. I can hear on an average two or three Aussies every night. I also wish to congratulate the R.B.C. on the wonderful performance put up by them during the flight of the Southern Cross.—E. W. Powell (Christchurch).

## A Crystal Puzzle.

YOUR "Record" to hand, with its usual interesting news and articles. As usual, I turned to "Our Mailbag" page first, as I find considerable interest in reading other listeners' views and opinions. Of particular interest to me was a letter from a Petone resident headed "A Crystal Puzzle." I may state that I have had a somewhat similar experience, having made quite a number of crystal sets of different types. I recently constructed a crystal set upon which I tried various types of crystals. The set referred to comprised 30 turns of 22's enamelled wire on a 2½in. former, the coil being tuned by a .0005 condenser, with the usual connections to aerial, phones, det., and earth. I

## 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.

first connected a carborundum crystal to this set, which for some reason was a complete "wash-out." All my connections were tested, so it was not a break in the circuit. However, when a crystal of the R. I. Varley type was used with this set it functioned quite well, but as the volume was not as good as I expected I stripped 10 turns of my coil, which made a big difference. I had heard a friend say that the carborundum det. seemed to work well with only certain types of sets, so I constructed another one, this time simply passing four pieces of string through a cardboard boot box. I wound 100 turns of 22 D.C.C. wire lightly on to a former, pushing the latter out, so as to leave only the wire, which I then slipped over the string, tightening this up at the end by tying a knot in it. I then tapped the coil at exactly the fiftieth turn and connected this tap to the aerial terminal, one end of the coil going to the detector, the other going to the earth. To tune the set all I had to do was to pull the wire along the string like a concertina. I used the original carb. det., which gave great results, showing that the det. itself was perfectly good. Various other crystals were tried, but I decided that the carb. was the best. Although I now possess a three-valve set, I still use this "little chap," when the other members of the family do not want to listen-in. Inquiries from a number of our Auckland dealers led me to believe that I had one of the first shipment of these detectors put on the market, and that numerous complaints had been received from customers regarding all subsequent shipments. I will be only too pleased to give any further information on this subject to my southern friends or others interested, if they care to write to me at the address which I leave with you. Hoping this may be of interest to your correspondent, and thanking you for your valuable space.—N.D.C. (Auckland).

## Historic Ground.

I THOUGHT possibly some of your readers may be interested to know the exact spot where the Southern Cross commenced the flight over New Zealand after crossing the Tasman Sea from Sydney. If you get a chart of the coastline and look on the northern

part of the west coast of the South Island, you will find Paturau River; it is about 16 miles north of the Kahu Rangi lighthouse, and about eight miles south of the West Wanganui inlet. About a quarter of a mile south of Paturau River is the exact spot where the 'plane commenced its flight over New Zealand. The Paturau River Post Office is situated almost directly where the 'plane started overland. Of course, all the people there were out looking for it, but it was a very cloudy morning, and the 'plane was not visible. The time was just 5.58 a.m., and Mrs. Richards, our local postmistress, advised Collingwood postmaster over the wire about seven minutes before it reached Collingwood.—George Nicholls (Mangarakau).

## 1YA Mystery Night.

JUST a line in reference to the 1YA mystery night, which was conducted some time ago. Great interest was taken in it here. I had a party of friends here that night, and we made a fairly complete list. Now you will understand that the condition laid down that each entry must bear the postmark of the following day prevented us from competing, as our nearest post office is 15 miles away. Our intention was to compare our list with the correct one, which we expected would be published in the "Radio Record." Would it be possible for you to print a correct list for the benefit of those who for various reasons were unable to compete, or who, while keenly interested, did not possess sufficient knowledge of the artists to prepare a full list, or, rather, a list full enough to give them a chance. I wish to thank the Broadcasting Company for the way in which they rose to the occasion during the Tasman flight; they deserve great credit for it.—J. Sklenars (Honikiwi).

[The list is published on page 8.—Ed.]

## Appreciation of Records.

MAY I take this opportunity of expressing, through your interesting paper, my appreciation of the fact that gramophone records are now being included in the evening programmes from 2YA, thus enabling those not possessing a gramophone to hear and enjoy the world's best artists, and at the same time, I think, providing variety in the programmes. Regarding the remarks of "B.P.S." in this week's "Record"—in my opinion the more well-known classical music is always most acceptable. Certainly the works mentioned, namely, "William Tell Overture," "Barcarolle," and "Blue Danube," may be "murdered" nightly by third and fourth-rate orchestras, but that is not to say the 2YA orchestra or performers are going to "murder" them, as they are all of a high standard, and "J.K." (Trentham) evidently gives them credit for this. "B.P.S." seems to suggest that those items should be avoided because of their being "hackneyed," but there are many who will never tire of hear-

ing them in spite of this. One could also mention "Humoreske" as being overworked, but does that make us one whit less keen to hear this beautiful melody played by a good artist? I should very much like to see this included as a violin or piano solo in one of the 2YA programmes shortly.—"Fominas" (Brooklyn).

## An Auckland Station.

COULD some listener kindly let me know the call sign of the Auckland station that was on the air about 10.30 on Sunday evening, the 23rd. The wave-length was somewhere near 2KY, Sydney.—G.F. (Dunedin).

## Proportion of Jazz.

LIKE many other letters which appear in your mailbag, this is somewhat in the nature of a growl. The first is with reference to a certain remark of "Switches" in your current issue. He says: "The Sunday afternoon broadcasts by 2YA are immensely popular . . . and a considerable proportion of listeners are glad to be rid of the eternal jazz and foxtrot stuff, for one session anyhow." The italics are mine. After reading this I looked through 2YA's programmes for the following week. This is what I found:—Monday, no jazz; Tuesday, about one-third of the programme jazz, all records; Thursday, one item might be called jazz, but certainly not foxtrot; Friday, no jazz; Saturday, about half jazz, mostly records. The Sunday programmes, of course, are notorious for the tremendous proportion of foxtrots. As each week's programme from the above station is almost a duplicate of the previous week, I think "Switches" use of the word "eternal" is a little lax. To my certain knowledge a considerable number of would-be listeners are put off by the absence of the lighter forms of music from the programmes. About 90 per cent. of the dance numbers put over at present are records which the dealers apparently cannot sell, and so "push" by advertisement. I am not, however, a jazz maniac. Few of this species really exist now among listeners. A large number of 2YA's items, however, are neither "highbrow" nor popular. As an example, some time ago an item announced as a request item was played on a mandolin. The announcer said it was the "Miserere" from "Il Trovatore." If Verdi had heard this I am sure he would have awakened and haunted the "artist" for the rest of his life. I have heard and liked solos played by the same player on the same instrument, but Verdi did not compose this glorious duet, to be played like this was. This is an outstanding example, but there have been others of less severity. The "Lost Chord," for instance, was not composed as a cornet solo.

Next I come to the transmission itself. As others have remarked, records always come through very much better than studio items. The tone is more full, there is no distortion and blasting, and there is less hiss in the background. I do not know why, but I would like to know.

After that, a little appreciation. Billy Hart is always very popular; so also are Doug. Stark, George Titchener, Mr. Marshall, and the Melodie Four, and, last but not least, Mr. Announcer. A concert by the Petone Maori Entertainers some time ago was a good move, and could well be repeated, while the orchestra is always worth listening to. I am not going to write all night. I



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