

realise the difficulties the B.C. is up against, and I hope my criticism might be of some little assistance. A few repeat items might be "Glow, Glow," sung some time ago by Mr. Barnes and partner. "Drinking," sung by Mr. Marshall, and "Honolulu Moon," Melodie Four.—B.M.B. (Kelburn).

Tom Heeney on the Air.

A LEPPERTON correspondent writes pointing out that Tom Heeney, inspeaking over the air from 1YA on his welcome home, broke the rule regarding controversial matters, and asks why he was allowed to do it. Properly speaking, of course, Tom should have been promptly floored by the announcer, or tapped on the head with a brick. It must be admitted the announcer failed—that is why he is still talking. However, we understand the other party to the incident evened up by counter-controversial matter, so it may be regarded as all-square and unnecessary at this stage to give any party a further opportunity of talking on that point. We prefer not to publish the further remarks made by our correspondent about Tom Heeney—we might meet him some day.—Ed.

Amateur Transmitting.

A CORRESPONDENT has written asking the wavelength and hours of transmission of certain New Zealand amateurs. No definite wavelengths are allotted, but certain bands are available. These are 120-160, 85-95, and, with special permission, 30-32, 17-21, 10-10.71, 5-5.36 metres. The majority of amateurs work on the 30-32 and 17-21 metre bands. There are no particular hours when they shall transmit.

In the Early Hours.

ONE evening recently I enjoyed listening to a relay by 3YA of 5SW, London, on the occasion of the signing of the Kellogg Peace Pact. After 3YA closed down I picked up a station at 2.35 a.m. operating on a wavelength of approximately 370 metres. A lady vocalist was singing "Way Down Upon the Swanee River," but I could not identify the call sign. Last evening I tried for this station again and picked it up at 2.45 a.m., receiving a programme of vocal and instrumental items, but the signals were very weak. I again failed to gain any further knowledge of the whereabouts of the station other than the fact of it having a lady announcer. I am a regular subscriber to the "Record" and would be delighted if any other reader could give me any information concerning this particular station.—Henry Jakeman.

[7CA, Calcutta, sometimes heard in New Zealand, operates on 370.4 metres; 2.35 a.m. New Zealand time would be 8.45 p.m. at Calcutta.]

Harmonies.

DURING the whole evening, news session included, I have been listening to 2YA's programme on about 210 metres. Could you say whether this is the second harmonic or is it another station rebroadcasting? They would hardly re-broadcast news items. Also, last Sunday night I received a station on about 275 metres; I did not get his call sign, but he said something about Atwater Kent Radio Station. They gave a children's session up to about 7.15 and then closed down. A "Cousin Bill" gave mouth organ selections; would this be 2ZM Gisborne.—G.S. (Matamata).

[Wellington on 210 metres would be a harmonic. The other station was 2ZM.]

Too Much High Brow.

IN reference to the programmes put on by the New Zealand Broadcasting Company, I must and can only say that they are getting worse, and the cry for cutting out the "highbrow stuff" is left unheeded. The general public to my knowledge do not want highly classical music night after night, and while I don't want it myself, I can put up with it for a couple of nights a week, provided light stuff or popular music is given more often. Most of the licensees I know of do not want the classics, and if they are not "cut out" to a certain extent, there will be a reduction in the number of old licenses renewed next year, and I'll be one of them.

The Broadcasting Company expect more listeners. How can they get them unless they provide entertainment for them? For, the average set owner classics may be likened to Esperanto to be uninitiated, we know they are both perfect, but most of us don't know why. I should never expect to entertain my friends under the circumstances now prevailing. However, I do not envy the New Zealand Broadcasting Company, for in order to cater for the public they cannot please everyone, but I should suggest, that they give a special week, giving the "highbrows" and the "common herd" a chance to register their wants by naming on a coupon, in the "Radio Record" the night they got the most enjoyment, and the other programmes in the listeners' order of merit. They can then show the listeners they are catering for the major portion by supplying their wants on at least three nights of the week. Thanking you for your space.—"Unsatisfied" (Gisborne).

The Racing Ban.

NOW, thanks to Mr. Duncan, we are getting down to the real reasons for the racing ban. It is apparently to satisfy the snobbish instincts of the plutocratic racing owners. If we don't belong to the leisured class, we have no right to enjoy racing or want to have anything to do with it. Those that cannot go out to the races, obviously belong to the working class and consequently must have their noses kept close on the grind-stone. Really, Mr. Duncan, I am surprised at you, I didn't think it possible. I thought this was a democratic country where the shilling of Tom was as good as that of his master. Not so, apparently. Racing is for the leisured class and the leisured class only; so "ban" the broadcast and keep the races sacred for the plutocratic few. But me and my mates are going to import a few whippets and breed our own "racehorses" now.—Tyke.

A Crystal Experience.

JUST a line to say that I checked up the pronunciation of 2YA's announcer one evening, and he was correct in every particular, according to Webster's standard dictionary. His voice is very pleasant to listen to.

I must tell you of an experience with a crystal set. The other day I was wondering what would happen if a lightning flash came in and the guard failed. I adjusted the slider to engage the first turn of the coil and idly made and broke the slider points contact with the coil when I obtained a blue-coloured

spark like that obtained from a 6.V.A. battery if the terminals are short-circuited. The current was from the aerial, and was caused by an electrical discharge from the atmosphere. This current, if passing through the crystal circuit, will often cause the crystal to become a poor conductor of the carrier wave. The remedy is to clean the cat's-whisker point and to try another face of the crystal. It is therefore good practice for crystal set users to disconnect their cat's-whisker from the crystal when the set is not in use, and, if they do not have lightning guards in circuit, to run the slider down to the first aerial turn of the coil. Any atmospheric electricity will then pass from the aerial direct to the earth, and save possible trouble to the coil. Attention to these points will tend to popularise the crystal circuit, which will become more valued as reception is improved. The ideal the N.Z.B. Company should aim at, is to make relaying a feature, so that anything of real interest in other centres may be had by all crystal users. The catering for valve users all the time is not in the best interest of business. The average valve user can not obtain the purity of tone that is given from a crystal circuit even when the latter has added valves to work a loudspeaker.—"Crystal" (Blenheim).

Sleepers Awakened

Protest in America.

A SPECIAL message to the "New York Times" from Washington, dated August 6, says: "Complaints against early morning and late night broadcasting because it interferes with the sleep of persons who do not like their radio at such times, and because in the summer they are forced to keep windows open and consequently are harassed by the neighbour's radio, are being received by the Federal Radio Commission. That body, however, has

no authority to curtail such broadcasting.

"Three letters have been received from residents of Brooklyn, and the bulk are from the eastern zone and from other urban areas where apartment houses predominate and where loudspeaker radios can be heard clearly by neighbours.

"M. Fields of Brooklyn appealed to Commissioner Caldwell to prevent musical programmes after 11 p.m., with the possible exception of Saturday nights.

"I ask this out of consideration for those who would like peace after that time, so that they may enjoy a restful sleep," he said.

"This matter may seem humorous in a way, but it is detrimental to the general public health if radio stations are permitted to broadcast jazz music until 12 midnight or 1 a.m., as some of them do. It is comparable to a jazz band standing outside one's door and playing till that hour every night."

O. H. Sandman and P. H. Henckel, both of Brooklyn, also objected to the present time schedules.

Criticising "calisthenics and breakfast entertainments," Mr. Sandman said that for every person "benefited" there are many whose rest and comfort are disturbed, particularly in apartment houses during the "open window" season.

"Not everybody wants to be awakened at 6.45 a.m.," he wrote.

Jazz was characterised as a "public nuisance of the worst kind" by Mr. Henckel, and he expressed surprise that "the police department does not stop it." He lives on a block where a radio store, he says, broadcasts from 11 a.m. to 11.30 p.m.

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