

New Radio Features

Notes by "Observer."

WHILE nothing revolutionary has taken place, nor is likely to take place in the immediate future, there are fresh modifications and developments creeping into our system.

In strolling casually round town when all radio dealers are demonstrating, many new and pleasing features are to be seen. Probably the most momentous feature is the appearance of the popularly-priced dynamic cone speaker, to which reference has already been made. More than one dealer has introduced this speaker, and on their first appearance good-sized crowds congregated round the shop doors. Many expressed admiration of the beautiful effect produced by a fully reproduced base—the music was characterised by tone and colour.

Browning Drake Unit.

A NEW Browning Drake, single drum dial unit, has appeared. It is prepared so that when mounted a minimum of controls (3) will appear on the panel. The coils are slightly smaller, but according to accurate tests, are not appreciably different from the standard three-inch coils. A new feature has been introduced. What is comparable to a tickler to the aerial coil is used to compensate for the ganged condensers. By this means the set does not lose one iota of sensitivity. The coils are widely spaced and so spaced as to make shielding unnecessary.

This new unit makes it a comparatively easy matter to add a screen grid stage. Mr. C. C. Fear (Messrs. Fear and Co., Wellington), an authority on the circuit, states that this unit is easily built in to a circuit and combined with a s.g. stage of R.F. makes a receiver which for efficiency and appearance the home constructor would find difficult to surpass.

A Shielded Short-waver.

ANOTHER very fine combination is on view. A completely shielded short-wave set, with coils that can be changed for broadcast reception, promises remarkable efficiency. A switching arrangement makes it possible to obtain music at any time through a gramophone pick-up also embodied. The set is "fool proof," all wiring being concealed by a sub-panel. This very pleasing model, encased in an aluminium cabinet is finished in duco. The designer is Mr. S. McCarthy ("Macks" Radio Company).

One-Stage Amplifier.

THE beginner will find many efficient one-valve amplifiers on the market. Many of these are very inexpensive. One particular dealer has built a complete outfit into a very neat cabinet and supplies a well-known make of speaker, yet very reasonably priced.

Railway Parcels Rates

Continuing its policy of providing the most attractive service for its customers the Railway Department announces that from October 29 the extra charge of 25 per cent. on parcels for which the freight is not prepaid will not be enforced. Parcels consigned

"carriage forward" will be charged the same rate as prepaid parcels.

The use of freight stamps on prepaid parcels at present compulsory, will, from the above date, be optional.

It is anticipated that these alterations will be much appreciated by the business community and will have the effect of popularising the already attractive railway parcels service.

Auckland Notes

(By "Listener.")

LAST Wednesday's "Mystery Night" at 1YA aroused even more interest than its predecessor, and large numbers of listeners, even though they did not actually compete, showed themselves quite anxious to test their knowledge of music and performers. Such a night as the one given by 1YA is a fine demonstration of the educative influence which broadcasting is having on the realms of music. Undoubtedly the general public does not yet realise the full extent of this influence, but it is gradually coming to do so.

THE enthusiasm with which the local musical and dramatic committee is facing its tasks is displayed in the scope which it is now affording to local literary talent. This is being given the chance to delve into the new field of the radio play—a field which offers great scope. Too much publicity cannot be given to the competition, and it is to be hoped that Aucklanders will respond as enthusiastically in the submission of libretto suitable for the air. Plays with a real New Zealand atmosphere would arouse intense interest among listeners. Let us hope that Auckland soon has them—plenty of them.

DURING last week-end local set-owners were decidedly "up against it." Never, to the writer's knowledge, have atmospheric conditions been worse. Our small station, 1ZQ, was almost blanketed by static, it was torture to attempt to tune 2YA, and to hear Australia was an impossibility. The disturbance disappeared as quickly as it came, and on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings ideal conditions returned.

ENTHUSIASTS in radio development are eager to examine the automatic "S.O.S." alarms with which several steamers visiting the port are now equipped. Ship operators are invariably courteous to inquirers, and many an Auckland has had a demonstration of the working

of one of the latest piece of radio wizardry. Many are surprised to learn that the S.O.S. signal has been superseded by another, which the instrument handles unflinching, and that our arch enemy, static, even takes a hand in raising false alarms by exactly duplicating the new-adopted signal.

THERE is a growing demand that politics, in homeopathic doses, should be on the air during the current campaign. Radio has been an outstanding agent in the Presidential campaign in America. In Australia it is being used extensively by party leaders, and everyone in Britain anticipates that next year's election will be fought largely over the air. Country listeners particularly would welcome brief radio addresses by representatives of each party, but, of course, the present regulation banning controversial matter stands in the way. The feeling exists, and it is growing, that the Government might waive the regulation, in no party spirit, but for the advantage of the large body of electors who would rather hear the real voice of the leaders than read their speeches in cold print. The suggestion may not be a feasible one with the brief time now available, but even if 2YA alone could be utilised, affairs political could be broadcast for the benefit of the whole Dominion.

TWO factors contributing to the grow of radio licenses in this district are the popularity of short-wave reception and the incorporation of the latest types of valves in high-efficiency sets. Local retail firms are finding a keen demand for screened-grid sets, and the assembly of these is becoming quite an important part of radio trade.

AS an aid to navigation in the frozen North, the Canadian Government is installing three powerful stations in the vicinity of Hudson Bay. They are to be equipped with direction finding equipment, so as to render service to planes operating within their range.

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