

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A.D.R. (Thorndon): The performer upon whose absence you comment, in wartime language, "disappeared without trace." This illustrates some of the difficulties of programme organisation. In the circumstances substitution of gramophone selections was inevitable.

Mystery Stations.

HEARD a station on about 320 metres open up with "Hello, Everybody, Randwick calling, station 2B—" something, and seem to fade away. Heard him no more. Who is this strange Aussie? Also, on November 10, Saturday, using a six-valve set, heard a station clear and very distinct on a fox-trot, "At Sundown," on 420 metres, it was not 5CL, KZRM, or JOBK, the announcement was foreign. Could it be the C. A. Larsen? Did any listener hear it after 2YA closed down? Cheerio.—S. Ellis.

An Explanation.

I FEEL I must come to the rescue of Mr. Ireland, Taradale, seeing no other DX listener helped him out of his difficulty. The station heard is KPLA, Los Angeles, California, 500 watts, "Official station of the Los Angeles Examiner." This station is on the air at 7.30 a.m. and sometimes earlier on their "Breakfast Frolic," on a wave-length of 288.3 metres. I heard him on Saturday, November 17, at 1 a.m. Sunday, advertising Firestone tires, etc. I was using a six-valve factory-built set at the time. Cheerio.—S. Ellis, Okato.

Grand Opera Enjoyed.

I FEEL that I must express my appreciation of the performance of the "Bohemian Girl" broadcast by 2YA last Thursday. It certainly was a treat. The Wellington station certainly has a good collection of first-class gramophone records, and programmes have been greatly improved by including some of these. I wonder if the gentleman responsible for the programme arrangement would let us hear, some evening, the quartet, "Bella figlia dell' amore" (Verdi), and the aria, "Eri tu che macchiavi quell' anima" (Verdi), both of which are on H.M.V. records. I am not trying to state what "all listeners want," but for my own part can say: Let 2YA give us plenty of grand opera music, vocal

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.

and instrumental, and I for one, would be quite willing to pay twice the license fee and would still say, "Viva Radio." —"Zedder" (Masterton).

Service Appreciated.

I WISH to say how I appreciate the company's services in regard to broadcasting in New Zealand. I am sure most listeners must recognise the difficulties in arranging and securing artists for the four stations in New Zealand, and I for one enjoy the concerts very much because there is always a variation. I also wish to thank you for the excellent broadcasting of the Southern Cross flight, and also last week of the racing results at Christchurch, which came through lovely and distinctly. The "Record" is very handy for the listener because you know what is coming next week and one can arrange for his friends to come and hear anything special.—W. Nelson, junr. (Clinton).

Diggers' Night Enjoyed.

WE wish to record our appreciation of the "Diggers' Concert" given on Saturday, 10th inst., by 2YA. We thought that the concert given on August 4 was very good, but this one left it well in the shade. We invited a few ex-service men and had a great time, and would like to suggest you put on similar evenings three times a year—two as has been done this year and one before Anzac Day.

We had practically a perfect evening for reception—two only slight fades during the whole transmission.

We also received the rebroadcast of 5SW at 11 p.m. quite good enough to make it interesting, and were able to follow the prayers and hymn quite well; also "Last Post" and "Reveille." —S.P. (Milton).

Country Appreciation.

KINDLY allow me to thank all those responsible of the staff of 2YA who put such an excellent broadcast on the air on election night (14th). As

is usual in the country districts, we "called our neighbours in," and one and all thoroughly enjoyed every item from start to finish. As an old Wellingtonian, I was quite excited at the sound of the crowd and enjoyed to the full the bustle and excitement (in imagination) of an election gathering in a city. There was only one thing marred it, and that was the crowd's reception of the Prime Minister. I think they should have shown him common courtesy (no matter what their feelings were), which is the kind of charm that attracts the respect of all, and too much of it is better than too little. However, that is beside the point at present. I would like to say here and now that I always enjoy the programmes put on by 2YA. Surely your correspondent who considers the gramophone sessions "rotten" was satisfied with the items the other night, and indeed all this week. I would suggest to him that he come and live on a farm, 25 miles from a town, where he could hear any records at all, and which he would be justified often in terming "rotten"—and work 16 hours a day—far too busy to listen of afternoons to find fault; and when evening comes he would be, oh so glad! to sit down by the fireside and tune-in to 2YA, and for this respite he would feel thankful (as we do), to enjoy a few records in peace without having to jump up and "change the needle" every time. Yes, we folk in the country enjoy the radio programmes—all the YA's—but 2YA comes in the best, so we cling to it pretty consistently, and I think on an average their programmes are A1—a good assortment for all tastes. Perhaps it's because I'm a "country bumpkin and never heard any better," so don't know much about it; but not 20 years have passed since I made my bow in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall, Wellington, and I was then intimately associated with the best of music, so perhaps I do know after all! Or I may have forgotten, of course. But all arguments aside, I do think 2YA does well, handling all "big events" most capably, and catering for all the diverse tastes of its vast unseen audience. And when we are prone to criticise from our individual standpoint, let us remember it's not so easy to please everybody, and when faults do intrude let's have a sense of humour, which is life's saving grace, and see if we can't be as liberal with our praise as we are with our criticism! In closing, let me thank you and once again say, "Well done, 2YA!"—"Nikau Palm" (Miko).

Election Night.

JUST a line of congratulation on the wonderful broadcast of the election. It was a pleasure to sit and listen; the announcer was wonderfully clear. 2YA certainly fills the bill at all times. I consider last night's broadcast was worth the whole of the license fee itself. The service from the London Cenotaph was fine—most interesting to men who, like myself, have stood round about the original

spot on the first Armistice Day itself. The broadcast came very clearly on my five-valve set. I don't know what license-holders have to growl about with 2YA. I think it is absolutely the very best in giving one everything that is interesting. 2YA spares no pains in giving every service it can, and if the fee was twice 30s. I would not call it expensive. There's only one thing I've got to "growl" at, and that is not quite enough humorous items and not nearly enough of Mr. Tichener; also, how about one evening giving us some more Zonophone records.—2YA Fan.

Two New Stations Logged.

SINCE my last letter I have logged two "new" stations in 4ZO and WLAC. 4ZO, Dunedin, operates on a wavelength of approximately 275 metres and was received at good speaker strength, reception of speech and music being clear and steady. WLAC, owned by the Life and Casualty Insurance Company, Nashville, Tennessee, and operating on a wavelength of 1490 kilocycles (201.2 metres), was logged by me on the 18th inst., when their "Midnight Jamboree" was being broadcast. This station was received at quite good speaker strength—speech could be distinguished some feet from the speaker—the volume far exceeding that of any American station heard by me for some time with the exception of the 50,000-watt stations that have been on the air recently. During the twenty minutes that I listened reception was very clear and there was an entire absence of "fading," but it was partially spoilt by a peculiar "surging," which also affected other American stations logged the same evening—perhaps the

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B.1

THE MAN WHO HAD SPENT £14 ON PARTS

He had taken his set back to the dealer, who advised in succession, new valves, new transformers, new batteries, new speaker, till the total reached £14, but his reception was still faulty when he came to us. Ten minutes on the testing board disclosed a faulty wiring at the factory.

Our charge was 7/6, and the set that was to be sold as "dud" is right now, giving perfect performance.

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