

The New Zealand Radio Record

P.O. BOX, 1032, WELLINGTON.

Published Weekly. Subscription Post Free in advance, 10s. per annum; booked 12s. 6d.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1928.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

KEEN interest attaches to the effort to relay on December 7 by land line from Wanganui the special concert being presented for broadcasting purposes. The talent available in that city is quite outstanding, and, if technical skill can assure it, listeners will be given a special treat on that evening. Tests of the line so far conducted indicate that with favourable conditions the outcome will be satisfactory.

THE result of the popularity programme contest will be awaited with interest. We understand that entries have been heavy, but heavy though they may be we doubt if they will be a true index of the real interest taken in the event. Many people have been most interested in the evenings as given by the different stations, and have formed their own opinions of the merit of the various items, but have not felt inclined to undertake the task of computing the popularity of the items in the eyes of the public. That task, when fairly faced, has been one from which they have shrunk—and in the shrinking they will have come a little against the problem facing programme organisers in their daily task. From this point of view the success of the competition will not be assessable merely by the number of entries received from the public. The real success of the competitions will lie in the challenge to thought which they have presented to the general body of listeners. So soon as thought is given to the problem, by any person, whether belonging to the class of satisfied or unsatisfied listeners, realisation is forced of the point of view of "the other fellow." This is now becoming more and more recognised. In the early days of radio, enthusiasts were common who undertook to tell the world what "the public" want and in the telling wonder at the incalculable stupidity of those who refused to see and recognise their own particular angle of vision. That stage is passing. It is being replaced by a general recognition of the fact that what is one man's intellectual meat is another's poison, and that both classes must at times be catered for and at times must forgo for the benefit of the other. This tolerance is the outcome only of understanding and widening knowledge. A more considered use, too, is now being made of radio. Selection is replacing repletion. It is recognised that just as the gramophone owner does not run his machine afternoon and evenings for six days a week, so the radio listener need not necessarily give his set a full-time job to feel that he is receiving his "penn'orth per day." Selection of items is growing. This has been fostered, too, we think by a steady, all-round improvement in the programmes. In some degree this has been contributed by the use of well-selected gramophone records, which make available the world's best in various fields. With this aid and the addition of such variety as is available, listeners have appreciated a steady improvement in programme quality. The outcome of the competition now under discussion will be very illuminating, but as indicated, the benefit will be much wider than may be shown by the actual number of entrants.

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Race Broadcasts

IN last week's issue we stated that a running description of the trotting meet at Hutt Park on Saturday, November 24, would be broadcast by 2YA, commencing at 3 p.m. In this instance our information was erroneously based, for it was not the intention of the company to broadcast running descriptions. Had it been intended to do so, 2YA would have been on the air from the commencement of the meeting and not from 3 o'clock.

While the company could, if it chose, broadcast running descriptions of races, it has so far refrained from doing so, in deference to the wishes of the clubs concerned.

The company's practice has been to broadcast all information as soon as it is available, and in that respect it is supplying a very efficient service.

Swimming Cook Strait

Broadcast Description Intended

IT was cabled out recently that Miss Gleitze, who swam the English Channel, was sailing for New Zealand, and that she intended to attempt to swim Cook Strait.

When the attempt is made the Broadcasting Company intends to describe it. A portable transmitter will be in one of the launches or steamers, and the progress of the swimmer will be described throughout the whole course of her prolonged effort.

Licenses Now Exceed 42,000

The Secretary of the Post Office, Mr. G. McNamara, advises:—The undermentioned summary represents the number of radio licenses issued as at October 31, 1928:—

	Receiving.	Trans- mitting.	Dealers.	Private broad- casting.	Experi- mental.	Special.	Free (blind)
Auckland ..	13,645	55	410	2	1	2	69
Canterbury ..	7,882	31	277	1	—	—	47
Otago	2,777	18	159	3	—	—	25
Wellington ..	16,036	52	581	3	—	2	27
	40,340	156	1427	9	1	4	168

Total: 42,106.

Schubert Centenary

1YA Artists in Recital

THE debt that the cause of good music owes to broadcasting was further evidenced in the crowded audience that attended the Auckland Gramophone Society's Schubert Centenary Recital in the Lewis Eady Hall on the famous musical anniversary, Monday, November 19.

The salient features of the master melodist's career were sketched by the President, Mr. Karl Atkinson, at the outset, and informative notes were given by him on all the items of the programme. The outstanding event of the evening was a memorable performance of Schubert's Trio in B Flat, Op. 99, by the Auckland Trio from Station 1YA (Miss Ina Bosworth violin, Miss Molly Wright, cello, and Mr. Cyril Towsey, piano). The ovation at the conclusion of the work, which was played in its entirety, was a well deserved tribute to the trio's painstaking preparation and its musicianly grasp of every subtlety and beauty of Schubert's stream of melodies. The zest of the players was infectious and carried the audience along from start to finish. Madame Mary Towsey sang with superb effect and dramatic intensity the famous narrative ballad "The Erl King," and Mr. John Bree's rendering of the equally popular song, "The Wanderer," evoked much appreciative applause. Needless to add, both accompaniments were adequate, and especially in "The Erl King," which was taken at a brisk pace, did Mr. Cyril Towsey give his hearers a dazzling reproduction of an accompaniment that is at once the

dread and despair of the average pianist. Since all six participants in the recital are continually associated with 1YA, the evening was a feather in the station's cap. A very fine programme of gramophone records was played, and no one present could doubt the many-sided genius of the composer, whose centenary is receiving so much attention just now, and whose wider fame in the Dominion owes much to broadcasting.

"Messiah" at 3YA

Fine Christmas Broadcast

3YA is preparing its programmes for the Christmas season. One big attraction that has been announced is a studio presentation of the principal excerpts from Handel's "Messiah." This will be produced in 3YA studio on Thursday, December 20, under the direction of Madame Gower Burns. As this performance will be complete with choir effect it will be one of the most elaborate studio productions yet attempted by 3YA.

The choir of the West Belt Wesley Church has been engaged. Three full choruses will be sung. There will be various solos and a duet. The Broadcasting Trio will play the "Pastoral Symphony," from "Messiah."

In addition to the "Messiah" numbers, the choir will sing a number of Christmas carols.

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