

(Continued from Front Page.)

**MASTER** Jack Buckley, twelve years of age, who will play a cornet solo to band accompaniment, is a son of Captain George Buckley, conductor of the Queen Alexandra's Own Band, himself at one time the champion cornetist of New Zealand and Australia.

**IN** Mr. Gordon Bergerson the band has a champion cornetist. His contribution to the evening's entertainment will be the "Arbuckienian Polka," to which the band will play the accompaniment.

**UNIQUE** items on the programme will be supplied by the Wanganui Harmonica Bands, of 60 performers. They will play "Drink to me Only" and "Old Black Joe."

#### Items from Champion Band.

**SUPREME** interest will be taken in the numbers by the Queen Alexandra's Own Band. Two contest selections are to be played and these have an added interest in view of the contest in Wanganui next year. These selections are Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade" and Wagner's "Tristan and Isolde." Other numbers will be the overture "Zampa," the descriptive "In a Monastery Garden," the sketch "The Mill in the Dale" and "The Dawn of Freedom," a fine march that will conclude the evening's entertainment.

**READING** somewhat like a romance has been the history of the Queen Alexandra's Own Regimental Band. Its present title gives little indication of its humble origin. Last century—or at any rate very near the beginning of this one—a few enthusiasts in a church organisation, the Trinity Young Men's Institute, formed a drum and fife band. Taking the initials, it became known as the "T.Y.M.I. Band" and as such it had varying fortunes, almost disappearing at times until it was resurrected as the "City Band." For many years this, too, had a precarious existence. It passed through the fires of scorn and ridicule, but one day the city learned with amazement that Mr. George Buckley, lieutenant and champion cornetist of the Wanganui Garrison Band, had become conductor of the City Band. In the years that followed, the genius of the conductor built up, moulded and trained the City Band, or, as it became known when it attained military status, the Queen Alexandra's Own Regimental Band, until it became the finest brass band combination in New Zealand, probably in the whole of Australasia. As the band competed at the various contests

in the Second Grade and finally in the First Grade, it carried off various prizes. Some people to whom the Queen Alexandra's was still the "City Band," and the "T.Y.M.I. Band," considered these successes were "flukes," due to the whim of the judges. But it was strange that each contest saw the band gaining more laurels until for the last two years it has carried off the premier honours for New Zealand.

## Hawke's Bay Notes

**"PRESSURE** of business," mostly concerning the elections, has prevented the writer from keeping readers up to the mark with news from sunny Hawke's Bay of late, but now that things have quietened down, for a time at least, a few more notes will perhaps not be out of the way.

Of course the outstanding feature of late in the radio world was the YA broadcast of the election results, and on behalf of all local listeners the writer says "Thank you," and don't forget the capital "T." It was a great effort on the part of the company, and it was honestly appreciated, not only by licensees, but by a large section of the non-radio public, for one of the Hastings dealers had a set, an exponential horn and amplifier working in town in conjunction with the local results. Fortunately that night static was on good behaviour, and the public heard radio on one of its best nights. That broadcast must have made a lot of friends for radio.

**ON** more than one occasion on election night distortion took the place of static, and this question of distortion is one which is causing a lot of concern locally. Never since the big Wellington station was opened has this distortion been so bad, or at least so consistent. Night after night it has been impossible to hold 2YA steady for more than a couple of minutes at a time, and lots of fans came to the conclusion that their sets were out of gear, until they conferred with neighbours or tuned into Auckland or Christchurch. These stations get distorted at times, but only a fraction as compared with Wellington. The strange part of it, though, is that on almost any afternoon reception from 2YA is almost perfect, but as soon as darkness sets in along comes the distortion. Perhaps the "Radio Record's" technical experts can give some explanation, more especially as the writer can vouch from experience reception

at Napier is perfect when it is badly distorted in Hastings, and Hastings is only a dozen miles from Napier. Another strange feature in connection with this distortion was provided last Tuesday night, when 2YA put on its competition programme. Up till about 10 p.m. reception was almost perfect—no static, no distortion—and yet over the last half-hour distortion was there every two or three minutes. The problem should take some working out.

**TOUCHING** on that competition programme, the writer for one wishes to offer congratulations on the excellence of the selection of items, and it is a safe bet that if all programmes were on a par there would be no cause for complaint. The programme also proved that "canned music" properly delivered is the goods. The music was glorious and the singing as good. Practically every item deserved full marks, and a similar gramophone recital, say once a week, would be very welcome to listeners, up this way at any rate.

**BY** the time these notes appear, the Hawke's Bay Radio Society, which,

by the way, has its headquarters at Hastings, will have decided on the set which is to be installed in the Hastings Hospital. On Monday, the 26th, there is a meeting of the society when the selection will be made, and it is expected that the equipment will be in full working order before Christmas. It should be a nice Christmas present for the inmates. As this hospital is only a "baby" at present, the installation does not need to be exceptionally large. The cost will be about £160, this sum having been raised by the Radio Society.

**RECEPTION** of late has been nothing to rave over. Apart from the distortion of 2YA, static has had a good innings, and although the New Zealand stations have been fairly reliable for strength, the Aussies have been well below standard. In fact, they have not been worth while at all.

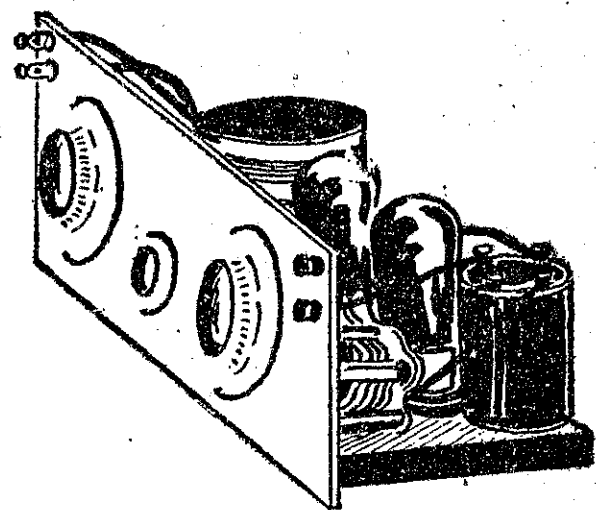
**THE** level of the liquid in an accumulator must be kept above the plates, but do not use tap water for this—use distilled water.

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