

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 1082, Wellington.

A Country View.

MAY I congratulate 2YA on their broadcasting these days. We always appreciate them up here, as we are about 18 miles from a town, and never hear much news, etc. Mr. Drummond's "Goodnight" is always looked for at 10 p.m. I picked up a station last Sunday, and the announcer was changing microphones and playing records. His call was 2AZ, and was coming through very loud, which made me think it was a New Zealand short-wave station. Wishing you the best of luck.—H. PEARCE (Pukerua).

DX Results.

IN reply to Mr. Holmes' query in this week's "Radio Record," I heard the station just below KGO on November 28, and took the call to be KCM, California. The announcer stated it to be a test programme from KCM Special Service Station, — Park, California. On this night fading was very bad, and I listened to him until 11.25 p.m., and he was still going when I went to bed at 11.50. The suggestion of Mr. Ellis is very good, so here's my latest:

KFKB, Kansas, heard on November 29 at 8.40 p.m. on his morning session.

KGJK, Beverley Hills, Calif., on November 4 at 9.45 p.m., and on November 29 a station on about 270 metres which sounded like KMX, Hollywood.

concluding number was "Sally of My Dreams."

Looking forward to seeing some of the other latest DX.—A. B. IRELAND (Taradale).

Another Supporter.

I NOTICED Guy C. Holmes' letter in the "Radio Record" saying that the Yank just above 2BL is KWKH. I think that he is wrong. At about the date of the query I received a degree or two above 2BL, Station WGNR, Chicago. I cannot find his call in any book, so he must be a new station. Mr. Holmes says he gets a station on about 380 metres. This is WBBM, Chicago, 389 metres, according to call-books, but about 380 according to my dials. He is very close to 4QG. I agree with Philip Williamson as to the Yank hetrodyning with 1YA, but have not yet sorted him out. Mr. Ellis' idea of a DX club I would heartily recommend, and most sincerely hope you will give the idea your consideration. Re "valve set." I have not heard the C. A. Larsen for the last two months, but he is very loud when he does go. Although about two degrees below 2YA I can hear a carrier wave usually in the afternoon, but never yet have I heard any sign of speech or music or even Morse on it. In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the company on their excellent Wanganui

relay. I would also like to know the whereabouts of Stations BOA and 100Z, which both figure prominently in Mr. Mason's log.—PAT-RICK ARCUITT (Hastings).

The Magic Boy

(Continued from page 15.)

The magician turned, pale, for he knew he could not do such a wonderful trick as this, and all the ladies and gentlemen of the court looked in wonderment at Jack, and hoped that he would not fail in his task, for nobody liked the magician.

All through the remainder of the day and all through the night armed men remained on guard to see that no one touched the card, and the next morning many people gathered there to see the card fall when the clock struck twelve. A warm wind was blowing through the windows, so the magician immediately closed them and shut all the doors as well, so that the card would not be blown down by the wind, for he knew that if he could make the card remain on the ceiling after the clock had struck, Jack's trick would be laughed at.

At last the clock began to strike. Thousands of eyes looked up at the card.

"Ten—eleven—twelve," sounded the clock, and almost before the last note had sounded the card fell to the floor right at Jack's feet. A tremendous shout rose into the air. The Princess immediately became her own beautiful self, and with a smile thanked Jack for having released her from the magician's power. As for the magician—he fled. The people chased him through the town and thrashed and beat him until his clothes were in rags, and he thought every bone in his body was broken. They chased him back into his own kingdom and slammed the gate on him.

Back at the Palace, everyone was making a great fuss of Jack and telling him what a wonderful lad he was. With a smile he showed them how he did the trick. On the back of the ace of hearts was a thin slice of soap about the size of a sixpence.

"You see," said Jack, "I put the soap on the back of the top card, and when it struck the ceiling the weight of the cards fastened it there. I knew that the soap would dry in about twenty-four hours, and that the vibration caused by the striking of the clock would make the card fall. It really wasn't a very clever trick."

"Yes, it was," replied the King. "And you are an honest lad for not wishing to deceive us. We are very grateful to you for restoring our daughter to us. I will make you the richest man in the land."

And all the people shouted "Hurrah! Three cheers for Jack."

The Wave-lengths of Amateurs

FURTHER advice has come to hand regarding the wavelength of amateurs as published a short time back.

All amateurs who have been given permission to operate on the waveband of 30-32 metres are now permitted to use the new band, of 7000-7300 kilocycles (41-42.8 metres).

A Wonderful Museum

Unique Collection of Musical Instruments

THERE is in the heart of Western London a little-known but delightful collection, hidden away in a gilded and ornate dungeon beneath the Royal College of Music. It consists of rare and ancient musical instruments, and is the result of the life-long hobby of the late Sir George Donaldson, a once famous art dealer of Bond Street, who died in 1925 and left these treasures to the Royal College.

Many of them are historically interesting, such as the guitar of David Rizzio. Perhaps he played it to Mary Queen o' Scots on the day he was dragged from her presence and stabbed to death. The "virginal" may have been that on which Queen Elizabeth showed her undoubted skill. Instruments such as these, no doubt well known in their day, have long been forgotten: the "pandurina" (Spanish, dated 1700); the "pochetto," a tiny two-stringed fiddle with a ram's head carved in ebony; the "rebec," a three-stringed fiddle; the "espinette," with five strings; the "orphone," a portable lute-shaped pianette with shoulder-straps; the "colascione," a two-stringed lute; the "theorbo," eleven-stringed lute; the "baryton," a kind of cello; the "melophone," played by moving little rings with the fingers; the "dulciana," the "cor Anglais," and many more.

Of Kit violins (sordini) there are several curious examples, some of them two-stringed. A "clavicytherium" (earliest known piano) dates from the fifteenth century.

There are many really beautiful works of art amongst them. The "theorbo" has a dancing party engraved on the ivory, which is quaint beyond description. One case is filled with hurdy-gurdies "vieilles," drawing-room instruments a hundred years ago. But the lutes are gems; one of them is 6ft. 6in. high and broad in proportion; it is difficult to imagine how it could have been played.

THE collection takes one back centuries, and one can picture the Romeo of the period accompanying his love-ditty beneath the window of his innamorata with the "orphone" hanging round his neck. Many a melodious midnight ramble has the 200-year-old Neapolitan magazine shared, and prime ballerine may have learnt their first "steps" from the tiny, delicate sordini. A musical missal known as a "gradual," with its illuminations and heavy gold lettering, must be worth a small fortune; it dates from the fourteenth century.

TELEVISION, though still in the experimental stage, is moving rapidly. The apparatus, both transmitting and receiving, is being improved, so much so, that almost every American radio journal contains some new improvement, however slight. Already many of these journals are devoting large sections to this fascinating subject, while some of the latest issues give the full constructional details of a receiver.



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