

What English Listeners Think

Extracts from the Mailbag of "Radio Times"

THE following are short pithy extracts from the "Radio Times," which in England fulfils the same function as ourselves:—

The grumbler is the "outward and visible sign" of that divine discontent that has been the motive power behind the world's progress throughout the ages. I am sure there are grumblers at Savoy Hill. Even the Chief Engineer, on those all too rare occasions when he "comes on the air," has a grumble that things aren't to his liking, but he intends to keep plodding on. I am also equally sure that the grumbler has been one of the best friends of the officials of the B.B.C.—the pointer that shows the way.—J. A. C., Rotherham.

Go on! Pat yourselves on the back. It is easier, I should say, to go through the eye of a needle than to get a letter criticising the B.B.C. on to your letter-page, or any reasonable proposal suggested by a listener adopted by your organisation.—B. R. D., Oxford.

It will be interesting to read a reasoned justification of wireless by any listener. I can find in it nothing more than an added disturbance to the tranquillity of life. Forgive candour.—P. T., Beaconsfield.

What They Think of Jazz.

WHY not let jazz alone? It is all right in the right place. It is all wrong in the wrong place. To hear nothing but jazz is like eating nothing but jam. The former is as bad for the ears as the latter is for the stomach. Season your meal with a little of everything, and you won't get "colly-wobbles"!—"All-Rounder."

Sir Henry hates jazz and is proud of

it. I hate Bach and am proud of it, too. I expect we're both fools!—S. F. J., Harwich.

I have a canary whose cage hangs in my drawing-room, where the wireless set is, and he also accompanies lustily both the musicians and singers, especially the lady singers. I have noticed, however, that when jazz is played he immediately shuts up and is silent for the duration.—G.W.G.

Having regard to the large number of indifferent dance orchestras and illiterate American vocalists who are all engaged in making this a brighter and better land, it should be easy to run a complete twenty-four hours' service of dance music only, so that enthusiasts need never waste their time on less important matters. Jazz music also has this advantage that you get a different effect by playing it backwards or sideways, without in any way spoiling the tune.—"Tango Twins," Dorchester.

Ideal Programme.

THE ideal way to enjoy broadcasting is to listen only to those items which you know will hold your attention. On purchasing "The Radio Times," try marking in blue pencil those items you are able and wish to hear, and in ordinary pencil those which may appeal to you and in which you should take an intelligent interest. With this method you are never bored and can add considerably to your store of knowledge. Should it appear to be a 'dud week,' don't fuss. It's better to listen to one item with all your attention rather than to a dozen with your mind wandering; besides, the balance at the end of the year will be well in your favour—the law of averages and the selection committee will see to that.—J.L.T., Tufnell Park, N.7.

Claims of Provincial Areas

(Continued from front page.)

mand is almost certain to be made. That will, therefore, be an added expense to that of operating. This little item in copyright fees, considerably more, than is realised on the surface by the outsider, is wholly to the advantage of the relay station as against the independent station.

Multiplicity Not Good.

AS was mentioned in our original article, experience elsewhere is wholly against the provision of a multiplicity of stations. Co-ordination and

will be provided by the Broadcasting Company in conjunction with the local Radio Society. This may be a belabouring of similar schemes for other towns. If the Post and Telegraph Department, following on the recent successful relay from Wanganui, can provide similar trunk lines between other strategic points, a big advance may be possible.

Maximum Good Desirable.

WE appreciate the letter of our correspondent and gladly give

H.B. Correspondent Claims Attention

I WAS interested to see in this week's issue of the "Record" the letter now being circularised among "B" class stations, and your comments on same. Well, I have been storing up a grudge against the B.B.C. for some time, and your remarks have put the finishing touches to it. Here is how stations come in here now. Aussies, inaudible; 4YA, seldom heard; 1YA and 3YA, heard occasionally above static and power noises; 2YA, plenty of volume in between fades, but, to put it mildly, simply awful. The only station worth listening to at present is 2ZM, Gisborne, one of those terrible "B" stations. This great little station is heard here every night it is on the air, with plenty of volume and remarkable tone, and can put 2YA in the shade any time. All of which leads to the question under discussion: Should the "B" class stations derive some of the revenue? If the B.B.C. is providing adequate services in the districts wherein the "B" stations are situated, I say they should not derive revenue. But is the company doing this? Speaking as a Hawke's Bay listener, I most emphatically say they are not! I wonder if the broadcasting directors have ever heard their star station in this district? I think not. Have you, Mr. Editor? I cannot think it possible that you can have done so, for if you had, you would not have the audacity to say that the present stations are giving a satisfactory service. In fact, things are so bad here that the local radio society are considering erecting their own station and providing and paying for their own entertainment. Now, Mr. Editor, do you consider we are getting a fair deal during the summer months, when static drowns out the three smaller YA stations. We pay 80/- a year for a broadcasting service and get mostly mush, fading and distortion, and then over and above this, if we want any enjoyment out of our receivers we have to pay for it ourselves. Don't you think that under the circumstances the local station should be subsidised, seeing that the company does not seem to worry whether we get an efficient service or not? If they had the interests of the listener at heart a relay station would have been provided long ago. If they are not prepared to do this, they should subsidise the "B" station that is prepared to fill the breach. With a good service the listeners in this locality could be easily doubled, but, even if a relay station brought not one more license, the company owe it to the present listeners.—J. L. (Hastings).

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amalgamation for maximum efficiency are the modern principles. New Zealand, with its limited population and scattered area, provides a unique problem in broadcasting. That problem will be faced and conquered best by a single comprehensive scheme rather than the diffusion of strength at a number of independent points. We are fully sympathetic with the disabilities of centres such as Palmerston North, New Plymouth, Hastings, and Napier, and recognise the claims of their population for improvement. Our whole point, however, is that the improvement which they desire—and which is desired by others interested in the expansion of radio on their behalf—will be best attained by co-operation with the existing organisation, than by the provision of independent stations seeking a subsidy from listeners' funds. A beginning to such co-operation is being effected in New Plymouth, where, as publicity to his views and disability. As mentioned earlier, our concern is with the general body of listeners, and is their money that is being administered, and in their own interests it is essential that its expenditure be such as to provide the maximum service for the maximum number of people. It is our view that those results will be attained best by co-operation and co-ordination and expansion as revenue is available, than by diffusion and the scattering of strength. It is necessary for any new organisation to walk before it can run, and that rule has been followed in New Zealand broadcasting. The result to-day is as satisfactory, we believe, as can be expected, having regard to the circumstances. It certainly is not perfect. There is much progress yet to be made, but as emphasised earlier, that progress can be attained better by cohesion than diffusion. If there are any arguments to the contrary, we are quite prepared to place them before listeners.