

## The Unmusical Tremolo.

MAY I ask for insertion in the "Radio Record" of the attached cutting from the "Observer" (London) of October 14, 1928? It gives expression to sentiments I have strongly held for a long time past, and although I know I shall be considered hopelessly out of date and antiquated as to my musical taste, I still feel that I am in good company. I have very pleasant recollections of singers to whom I have listened in times past, both here in New Zealand and also in London, who gave utterance to song in a natural manner, without that abominable vibrato to which we are nowadays compelled to listen. It gets on my nerves and reminds me of an old friend, himself an able musician, who, when once speaking about it, used an expression forefitted with an adjective that would not look well in print! This style of singing is, I presume, an outcome of what is euphemistically called "voice production."—T. PROCTOR (Island Bay).

Sir,—I was very interested to read your "Special Correspondent's" strictures on "wobbling" in the broadcasting programmes. I have not been able to discover a single individual who approves of it, and countless protests have appeared in the Press against it. It is as bad as ever, if not worse, and, with your correspondent, I ask why? Why is it not plainly given out to all applicants: "We do not engage singers

## 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.

who use the tremolo"? The persistence in engaging offenders is provocative of much strong language from those who know what good singing is, and ruining the taste of the rising generation.—Yours faithfully,

M. A. WHEATLEIGH.

London, S.W.4, October 14, 1928.

## The Control was Master Oscillator Tube.

ON Tuesday night (January 1) was 2YA on valve or crystal control? I would like to know, because Tuesday night's programme was almost perfect; in fact, the least fading since I got my set last February.

## The Use of Growlers.

I SEE a lot of growling about the different New Zealand stations. I often wonder why some of the growlers do not try some other station. There are four YA stations in New Zealand, and if one does not suit I find one of the other three stations does. But there is one good thing about the growlers, they have their own use, and I do not see that they do much harm. They will certainly help to keep the Broadcasting Company up to the mark if nothing else, but I expect that they would still growl if they had their radio service and their "Radio Records" for nothing. For myself, I have yet to get the Australian station that can beat our four YA stations. So carry on the good work, and at the same time nothing but the best is good enough for New Zealand. We have the best country in the world, and let us have also the best radio service by constant improvements.—W. A. SUNDERLAND (Port Chalmers).

## 4YA Wanters on Sunday.

ON opening "Radio Record" each week I always look for 4YA's Sunday programme, and never see an afternoon programme or session there. I consider that in fairness to Southland listeners, you should transmit from 4YA on Sunday afternoons. We can hear 3YA some Sundays, 2YA others, and occasionally 1YA, but cannot rely on any of them for entertainment. Here 4YA is the only reliable daylight station and, of course, it is not on the air on the only day most of the listeners have an opportunity to listen to radio.

4YA's Wednesday evening's request gramophone session is a treat here, and I would like to have more of it. After dark 4YA falls off and isn't worth tuning in generally, so why not give us a little extra daylight transmission—just 90 minutes—every Sunday.

Night reception from 2YA has been very good for all the period. It has easily been the best station all the time. 3YA seems to have fallen off from last summer's reception. In regard to the programmes, they have been excellent, all classes of listeners being well catered for.

In "Radio Record" of December 28, I see where Mr. F. C. Collins suggests a reduction in the power of 2YA. I say, "Not on your life!" We are not

troubled with distortion here, and the volume helps to overcome static and like interferences.—A. PARCELL (Invercargill).

## Wobble of 4YA Carrier.

ONE of my New Year resolutions is to nag the R.B.C. about poor old 4YA. During Christmas and New Year 4YA was on the air fairly often, and not once while I was listening did the carrier-wave stop wobbling, just up and down all the time. It reminds one of the average S.W. station. The volume is there, but good modulation is impossible with a carrier like that. The fault must be in my receiver (yes, blame the receiver as usual), but why don't 4ZL, 4ZM, 1, 2 and 3YA wobble like that. You can't expect to get more radio licenses down here with a station like that. Put a decent 500-watt output transmitter at 4YA, and the Scotchmen here will say, they are getting something for their money, and the licenses will come in, in great style. Make New Plymouth or Hastings a present of old 4YA. We were promised a new station at Stuart Street Dunedin, to be completed and officially opened during 1928. The company is taking a long time. Anyway, we are living in hopes down here, we may get a new station before 1930.—J. LEADBETTER (Gore).

## Auckland Notes

(By "Listener.")

NO listener can accuse 1YA of any lack of desire to experiment. Nearly all of the novelty features that have brightened New Zealand radio programmes have originated in the northern city, and on Wednesday evening last, we were privileged to enjoy another of them. For an interesting and instructive hour four Auckland University debaters dwelt upon the topic of modern education, and it must be admitted that those who followed the arguments of the speakers were more likely to be convinced by the pair who undertook to prove that modern education was not suited to the requirements of modern life. Each of the four graduates who spoke had a good command of language, a fluency in argument, and a vein of humour that made the discussion thoroughly attractive, and the hour which was given to it seem like a quarter of that time. There is a big future for the radio debate in New Zealand, both as a means of entertainment and as a channel of instruction. The first studio experiment from 1YA amply demonstrated this, and, with localised topics treated in light vein, it is safe to say that regular discussions will achieve a great measure of popularity.

STEADILY and surely the so-called "electric set" is forcing its way into popularity locally. It has so much to commend it to the man who wishes to enjoy broadcasting with a minimum of worry and fuss, and with an assurance of steady current supply, that

the growing demand for "electrics" is not to be marvelled at. Local dealers are realising the possibilities of the newest models, and they will be well-prepared for the rush which is bound to set in as the radio year draws to a close two months hence. During the few ensuing weeks of the closing year, it would be good policy for all those who have the development of broadcast listening at heart to inaugurate an "electric drive"—some system of publicity and development which will bring under notice of the thousands who are yet rather afraid to invest in receiving sets how simple, how inexpensive, and how foolproof the latest receivers are.

AN Aucklander who indulged in a holiday ramble along the lonely west coast near Raglan relates an interesting experience. Darkness had just fallen, and the holiday-maker went for a quiet stroll along a forest-fringed beach to enjoy the peaceful solitude of evening. A dim light shone from a solitary settler's shack on the adjacent hillside; a mopeke gave its distinctive call of the night; then, above the murmur of the surf came the clear call of civilisation, "1YA, Auckland!" The seeker after solitude regarded the mechanically, or rather electrically, reproduced voice as a sacrilege. It was a gross intrusion upon his peace of mind. He wandered up to the house whence came the sound of the loudspeaker, and then changed his opinion. Here was a family to whom radio service meant the annihilation of isolation. The set was their chief connecting link with the outside world. No mail service, no supply of newspapers, according to the owner, could give him all that broadcasting supplied. The holiday-maker returned from that house in a different mood. "I did not realise till then," he said, "one fraction of what radio means to the lonely settler."

THERE is general satisfaction locally that band music is once more to come on the air from 1YA. Nothing has been so much missed from our programmes as the items with which our famous municipal instrumentalists delighted. Their reappearance is not yet scheduled, but in their place will be welcomed the very fine Salvation Army Band.

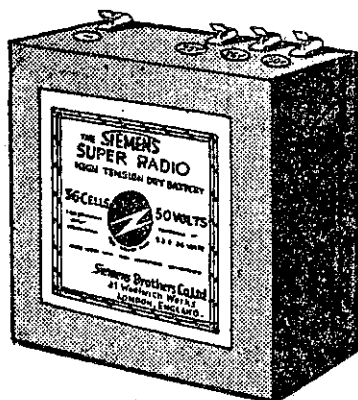
IT is whispered that, as a result of the recent visit of Mr. J. Ball, of the headquarters staff of the R.B.C., further attractive features and still another new body of performers will make their appearance before the 1YA microphone. The company seems to be sparing no effort to make the local programmes all that they possibly can be within the limitations imposed by a small community.

ONE of the outstanding features in the repeat performance of "Campbell of Kilmohr," given at this station on January 4 by the Auckland Comedy Players, was the appearance of Mrs. Culford Bell as "Mary Stewart." Her characterisation of the loyal and high-spirited old Scottish woman was striking and remarkable in every respect, and the character was made to live again. It is to be hoped that Mr. Montague will induce this talented lady to make some further appearances before the microphone. The Comedy Players are booked shortly to present Harold Chapin's "A Scotch Philosopher," and I understand there is every possibility of Mrs. Bell appearing in this diverting comedy.

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