

A Notable Address Of National Import Thursday's Unique Life of Valves Appreciated by Listeners Concert Good Figures at 2YA

THE broadcasting of the presidential address by Dr. J. S. Elliott, at the British Medical Association's Conference, was the noteworthy event of last week's 2YA service. Appreciation has been expressed by a very wide circle of listeners. The address was of a very high standard indeed, and unquestionably a particularly wide circle of responsible people was pleased to have this opportunity of listening direct to an address of such outstanding character.

It is usually the experience of the station on the occasion of the broadcasting of outside speeches or functions that a certain number of listeners, who are devoted to the interests of jazz and light music, ring the studio entering complaint and wanting to know when they will be getting their particular fare. It is noteworthy, however, that on the evening that Dr. Elliott was being broadcast, only some four rings of this character came through. This is taken as an indication of the very general popularity of the doctor's address.

On the same evening listeners were given the additional novelty of listening to the concerted voices of the party of English boys now in the Dominion. These were induced to attend at the studio, and from 10 to 10.30 there was a very pleasant impromptu concert. Their choral work was extremely fresh and invigorating.

"Galapagos"

Radio Drama Proves Very Successful

ON Thursday, February 14, the Auckland Dramatic Players, under the direction of Mr. J. F. Montague, presented "Galapagos" at 1YA. The radio production was remarkably successful.

The Broadcasting Company's official listener at Silverdale, Captain Bayley, in the course of a report to the company, states: Incidentally the dramatic narration—with effects—of "Galapagos" was a truly magnificent triumph—nothing less—for the performers, and represented to me the keenest pleasure I have yet received over the air from anywhere!

"Galapagos" is the true story of the fate which overtook the Norwegian barque Alexander and the tragic experiences of the crew on the barren island of Galapagos. The radio production was complete with full effects such as sea chants, ship's bells, the roar of the surf and other incidental noises.

In connection with this programme, it is interesting to be able to state that it was specially inquired for by the Broadcasting Company and obtained in America by the company's consultant over there, Mr. Edgar Felix.

So successful was the broadcast from 1YA that the play will no doubt be produced at one or other of the company's stations at a future date.

IN the early days of the newspaper Press the general public took a special delight in passing on items of more or less personal and general interest for publication. In the "bush" stage of development the Press found it desirable to use matter that in later stages of development was discarded. Some people seem to imagine that broadcasting is still in the "bush" stage of development, and take a delight in ringing up the station with items which, while doubtless of intense interest to themselves, yet fail in being of sufficient national importance to warrant broadcasting. An item of this calibre was telephoned to 2YA station the other night. Apparently a party was in progress at a suburban home, and one of the guests it was found had inadvertently placed his socks on inside out. This soul-stirring information was promptly telephoned to 2YA, with a request that it be announced over the air "that Mr. —, at the party of So-and-So, had been found to have his socks on inside out!"

It Was Quiet, All Right

THE programme organiser of 3YA recently, by invitation, formed one of a concert party which visited Paparua gaol. The prisoners were entertained and cheered up by a great variety of items, which they heartily applauded. But they were brought back to earth and listened with stoical silence when a member of the party sang May Brahe's "It's Quiet Down Here." Performers and audience felt embarrassed. Only the radio man seems to be appreciative of the contretemps, and his view-point was detached and different from that of anyone else there. He looks back on it now as a joke, but he says it taught him a lesson as to the fitness of things, and emphasised to him the variety of receptions which the best studio items can receive in a myriad homes, where the extent of appreciation, conditions, and environment differ so much.

Weather Forecast

3YA's Special Service Extended

THE fortnight's experimental midday session, which has been conducted by 3YA at the suggestion of Dr. Kidson, of the Meteorological Department, has been extended to a month. This session was arranged in order to broadcast a special weather report and forecast for the benefit of the harvesting agriculturists of Canterbury. Although the weather was practically "Set Fair" all the time, the two weeks' test was on, both 3YA and the Meteorological Office received sufficient response from farmers to show that the service was appreciated to the extent that an extension was warranted.

A LETTER has lately appeared in the "Edinburg Evening News" from a motorist, who found he could hear broadcasting by merely placing his car in contact with a telegraph post in Aberdeen.

All in Readiness for the Opening of the New and Greater D.I.C.

A COMPLAINT was made recently that the programmes put out by 2YA were "consistently samey," and so endeavour has been made to depart from the usual. Thursday's concert will indeed be a departure in this respect, and everything is in readiness for the special programme to be presented by the management of the D.I.C. to commemorate the opening of their new buildings.

Full details of this concert have already been given, and the arrangements, reflecting great credit on its organisers, promise to eventuate in something altogether unusual.

The new and greater D.I.C., situated in one of Wellington's most busy thoroughfares, is indeed a very fine and imposing building, and will be in the near future one of Wellington's finest buildings. The whole management of the D.I.C. has been rearranged with a view to greater efficiency and greater variety. Many new aspects of the trade are being introduced, and it was found that the old building was totally inadequate. No more fitting opening ceremony could be arranged. Those responsible are to be commended because of the fact that the whole concert given by Wellington's finest talent is to be broadcast.

For some considerable time arrangements for this have been under way, and the concert should be one that will be heard and remembered by all.

Prize Poem Contest

INTENDING competitors are reminded that entries for the prize poem contests promoted by the 2YA Musical and Dramatic Committee, close on March 1.

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INFORMATION was recently published in our columns concerning the remarkably long life of a Marconi valve at the Daventry Broadcasting Station.

Following on various details, it became advisable in another connection for the chief engineer of the Radio Broadcasting Company to compute the life of the valves in operation at 2YA. It was found that some of the valves had given remarkable service. These water-cooled tubes are handling 10,000 volts and passing at least a half ampere of plate current. Two particular tubes headed the list of service with 3426 hours, and are still in operation in perfect condition. Two others attained 2670 hours of service, and were then removed O.K., as it was considered their life was about complete and replacement would perhaps save a stoppage. Other tubes have various periods of service. Considering the hours the station has been in operation, it is remarkable and creditable that there have been no burn-outs whatsoever in connection with the water-cooled tubes. Following on publication of the English record, it is the intention of the engineer to carefully watch the tubes now heading the list for length of service, and see how near they can come to the British figure.

Amalgamated Wireless advise that they have now received particulars of long-lived Marconi valves at the Deutsche-Altenburg transmitting station of Radio-Austria, Limited. At the end of October there were in use two MR6 valves, each of which had worked for 24,356 hours; one MR6 valve which had worked for 24,126 hours.

One MT6 valve burnt out in October after a life of 13,648 hours.

At the end of October MT6 valves were in operation which had worked for 15,146 hours, 19,081 hours, and 19,576 hours.

FOR SALE.

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