

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.

A Splendid Concert.

THE delightful concert relayed by 2YA last night from the D.I.C. was a great treat—to me at least. I wish 2YA would give us something as good—if only once a week. There was no piffle; nothing commonplace or approaching vulgarity. The 7 p.m. news and reports session is rather tiresome at times. After we have heard the weather forecast is there any need to inflict on us reports from all the outstations? I think not. It is just padding.—P. (Karori).

[The full weather report is given chiefly for the benefit of shipping and back-country listeners, who are particularly interested in weather details and forecasts. This is a service of much technical value to these special interests, and city listeners are asked to recognise the needs of others and exercise forbearance. It is not padding; it is a technical and practical service of value.—Ed.]

Test of 2YB From Wellington.

I LISTENED to the test at 3YA of the 2YB transmitter on 244 metres. Modulation was perfect, volume fair to good loudspeaker, slight fading. On Thursday evening I "picked up" the transmission from 2YA of the 2YB transmitter on 256 metres and the next evening on 268 metres. Modulation was again good. Volume slightly better than from Christchurch, but there was only about 20 per cent. of the transmission understandable. An item would commence all right and go for from one to two minutes; then mustiness, distortion, and surging fadeout. This occurred right from the news session until the last item. My own opinion is that Wellington is an impossible place to transmit from, at least with small power. Of course, I am speaking only of my experience in Picton. I have received the tests from 2XS and 2OA, and their transmissions were received on a par with that of 2YB. The transmission of the old Wellington station also. The set used was a powerful six-valve super-het.—J.M. (Picton).

A Word of Praise.

AS a swimming enthusiast I would like to say how much I enjoyed the descriptions of the events in connection with the national championships. 2YA's announcer (Mr. Clive Drummond) made a splendid job of it.

Particularly interesting was his description of the various dives. I agree with "Switch," he certainly gave a very graphic account of the harbour swim, leaving out tiresome detail without omitting a single point of interest. This business of describing quick-moving scenes seems to me to be a gift, and this man has full measure. We have not forgotten the very vivid account he gave us of the Japanese programme—jujitsu, sword fighting, etc. Carry on, Mr. Announcer. Best wishes.—Interested.

Testing from 2YB.

I HAVE just been listening to the two Wellington stations. The 50-watt transmitter is coming through at loudspeaker strength—neither is distorted, but both fade very badly; in fact, at times, 2YA can only just be heard on 'phones. No other New Zealand station fades at all here. The set used is a five-valve factory-made—"A.F." (Rakaia).

The DX Club

COULD anyone assist in solving the identity of a station I tuned in on the evening of February 25 on about 270 metres? Static was so bad that I could not get his call, though he was quite loud enough—the best I could make of it was 3WE or 3WS. I had him at 11.30. I have never heard of such a station, nor can I find it in any log book.

Could you also let me know the wavelength of 3AC, Christchurch?—DIOGENES (Cromwell).

[Amateurs are not restricted to one particular wavelength, but operate through bands. These have been published previously.]

KDKA on a Crystal.

ON Sunday afternoon last, 2YA having closed down early, I picked up KDKA on crystal set. Was this rebroadcast by 2YA or was it an oscillating DX fiend in this locality? Some squealing ensued; strength was equal to 2YA and wavelength was somewhere about the same. Trusting you can oblige with information—"CRYSTAL" (Wellington).

[Yes, this was no freak; 2YA was relaying KDKA.—Ed.]

Fluctuations in Power

Power of 2YA

2YA Suffers Damage

27 Horse-Power Used

RECENT fluctuations in the main electric power supply affected the transmissions from 2YA on the evening of Monday, February 25, and again on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 26. The surges were so severe that the relays at the transmitter were damaged, and as a result the station was off the air for some time in each case.

At 9.10 on Monday evening there was a very heavy surge in the power supply, which was noticed all over the city, and this blew two main fuses, all the fuses on the top bank of filters, and put out of action the oscillator plate current meter of 2YB. Repairs were completed by 9.30 p.m., and transmission resumed.

On the Tuesday afternoon another surge occurred at about 2.45 p.m., when the station was starting up, and put the plant out of action. On attempting to restart it was found that damage had been done in the D.C. control panel. The nature of the trouble was evidently located in burnt-out leads to the relay contact, and 2YA was able to start transmission at 4 p.m., but after a few minutes the station again went off.

MR. J. M. Bingham, chief engineer of the Radio Broadcasting Company, writes:—I wish to draw attention to a slight inaccuracy in a paragraph by "Switch" concerning the power required by 2YA. I do not know where that gentleman got the idea that 6½ h.p. is sufficient, but the following table gives the approximate power required in various sections of the equipment:—

	Watts.
Intermediate filaments	1000
Power amplifier filaments	2000
Rectifier filaments	3000
Intermediate plate supply	1000
Power amplifier supply	12000
Bias	500
Water pump	500

20,000

or nearly 27 h.p., which is vastly different from the figure mentioned by "Switch."

PRAGUE and Paris have arranged a mutual interchange of opera programmes, initiated by the successful transmission of "Mignon" from the Paris Grand Opera to Prague.



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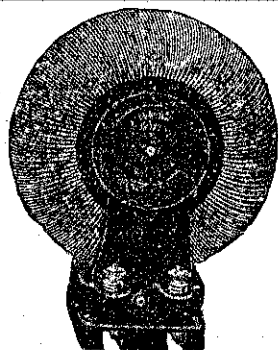
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