

Notes and Comments

By
"SWITCH"

QUITE probably Mr. J. H. Owen, ex-president of the Amateur Radio Society of Wellington, who has just returned from a prolonged visit to England, will be requested to give an address before the society on his experiences with radio broadcasting while he was abroad. On his previous visit to England Mr. Owen collected a wealth of interesting material and provided a meeting of the society with a most entertaining account of radio at home. On this occasion Mr. Owen could relate his experiences also of broadcasting in Canada.

2YA, Wellington, made a veritable "hit" with the rebroadcast of 2BL, Sydney, on the occasion of the fight between McAlister and Tommy Griffiths at the Sydney Stadium. 2BL fluctuated considerably, but 2YA gave us abundant volume. Static was by no means quiescent, yet 2YA maintained a clear hold of the ringside description. The announcer at the ringside was by no means as successful as the men at Auckland and Christchurch have been. Even the last ringside description from the Wellington Town Hall was better than that from the Sydney Stadium.

RADIO in Wellington has experienced a severe loss in the departure of Mr. D. G. Wyles, radio engineer, for Melbourne, where he is about to take up an appointment as sales direction manager and radio engineer for the Phillips Co. Mr. Wyles was formerly

with Amalgamated Wireless prior to settling in Wellington, and was sent to Europe and America by the big Australian company to study broadcasting technique. He inspected all the great broadcasting stations in several countries.

THE executive of the Amateur Radio Society of Wellington has forwarded Mr. D. G. Wyles a letter expressing appreciation of his kind assistance to the society in having given highly instructive and interesting lectures to the members. The letter also embodied good wishes for his success in his new sphere.

THE officials of the Amateur Radio Society of Wellington are greatly exercised over the dwindling membership and apathy of listeners. It appears that the society is facing a crisis, and the executive view the outlook with anxiety. Various plans will be brought forward to revive the society, which has been languishing for some time past. The matter will be gone into at an early date.

A SUGGESTION came before the executive of the Amateur Radio Society of Wellington recently that the children's sessions be a little curtailed. This was most unfavourably received; in fact the executive thought there should be no curtailment in the youngsters' sessions under any circumstances. The "birthday greetings," however,

they considered should not take up such a large proportion of the children's sessions. They held that the greetings should be more pithy and abbreviated.

TELEPHONE conversations have at rare intervals been picked up by wireless sets in New Zealand, owing to some freak causes. A New South Wales listener writes to the Sydney press: "One day I was changing coils, and left the set switched on, and as soon as the coil (tuning and re-act) was removed a voice spoke very loudly in the speaker. The telephone wires are within 20 feet of the set, and my aerial runs at right angles to them. A loud squeal accompanied the reception, but can be stopped by turning down the detector rheostat. Imagine the volume if the aerial had happened to be parallel."

LATELY Wellington listeners have observed a blurring which creeps into the transmission by 2FC, Sydney. It is not constant, but it is frequent. This peculiarity has been noticed by up-country listeners, also. Mr. Claude P. Grey, of Shannon, states that 2FC is quite "mushy" as heard in Shannon. "Switch" remembers 2FC suffering from the same disability some time back. A letter was sent from Wellington to 2FC reporting the matter, and later it was eliminated, after a courteous reply had been sent to Wellington.

A REMARKABLE ignorance of the radio regulations on the part of some post-office officials when receiving applications for renewals of listeners' licenses has been reported to "Switch." The writer himself, when applying for the renewal of his license surprised the clerk in a suburban post office by informing him that one license covered his six receiving sets. The clerk hesitated for some time before accepting "Switch's" assurance. If listeners meet with any difficulty in this respect they should write to the District Radio Inspector, c/o. Post and Telegraph Department.

DURING April both 2BL and 2FC will carry out a series of evening relays of 3AR and 3LO, Melbourne. These relays in Australia are conducted by trunk telephone lines. On Thursday, April 4, 2BL will relay 3AR between 10.30 p.m. and 11.30 p.m., New Zealand time. On the following Thursday, April 11, 3LO will be relayed by 2FC between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m., New Zealand time. This is 3LO's dance night. An hour's dance music will be taken by 2BL from 3LO on the following Thursday, April 18, and the final relay for the month will be from 3AR through 2FC between 10.30 p.m. and 11.30 p.m., New Zealand time on the evening of Friday, April 26.

THE New South Wales Broadcasting Company has made arrangements for the appearance in Sydney this week of Donald McBeath, the famous Australian violinist, who was chosen by John MacCormack to tour the world with him. Prior to joining up

with Evelyn Scotney, who is touring Australia this year, Mr. McBeath found time to go to Sydney from Melbourne to give these two broadcast engagements. Miss Evelyn Scotney's wonderful voice is familiar to Wellington listeners, her records having been put on the air by 2YA, Wellington.

BBROADCAST listening has established a firm hold in Australia, and every month brings a substantial increase in the number of licences. At the end of February there were no fewer than 291,000 licences.

A YANKEE lighthouse keeper, who is a devoted listener, complained that he was unable to follow the announcer's advice when KGO, Oakland, California, was about to broadcast a nautical playlet. The announcer advised listeners that to derive the utmost pleasure from the play, they should extinguish all lights. One can sympathise with the light-keeper. By the way, a number of New Zealand lighthouse keepers have wireless receiving sets. "Switch" is acquainted with an ex-lighthouse keeper who went almost deaf through listening-in with headphones during a season of intense static. His hearing is permanently impaired.

HERE is a "tip" for some clergymen in this part of the world. A light signal, installed in the pulpit when KGO, Oakland, California, broadcasts church services, warns preachers when it gets dangerously near time for the General Electric station to make a switch to some other feature. Increased attendances when church services are broadcast is responsible in a great degree to the punctuality with which services end when this little light signal starts blinking.

IT is an advantage to every individual listener to increase the number of listeners. A statement published along these lines points out that every increase of revenue leads to an improvement in the services rendered by the "A" class stations, and this in turn makes the possession of a wireless receiving set still more attractive. The exacting claims that are being made upon those controlling broadcasting are an ever-increasing quantity, and the payments made in copyrights, royalties, and fees, of which the public have little or no knowledge, are eating into the revenue previously available for programmes to such a degree that to maintain the standard which has apparently proved so satisfactory during the past three years calls for a still greater percentage of new licences.

THE New Zealand Government deserves the thanks of listeners for having refused permission for the "B" class stations to inflict advertising announcements upon us. These announcements debase and spoil radio as a source of entertainment and interest. A correspondent writing to the Sydney "Wireless Weekly" says—"Now what about that 'Advertising Talk and Nonsense' given at 2BL each night. It's a disgrace to any station." "Switch"



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