

advises Wellington listeners to tune in 2BL in the early evening to hear what is put out as advertising matter.

THE mouth-organ band idea has not invaded New Zealand yet, but it has made big strides in and around Melbourne. Recently 3AR and 3LO, Melbourne, broadcast a mouth-organ band competition for the 3LO and 3AR "Mouth-organ Medal." The competitors, who acquitted themselves splendidly, were required to play the test piece, "Jeannine," and other selection of their own choice. Owing to the all-round excellence of the bands—the adjudicator, Mr. W. G. James, the well-known Australian pianist and composer—had some difficulty in selecting the winning team but his awards "Geelong Mouth-organ Band" 1, Melbourne Crackerjack Mouth-organ Band 2, and Sunshine Boomerang Mouth-organ Band 3, proved most popular, and were received with acclamation from the enthusiastic audience at the competition hall.

NEW ZEALAND listeners will be greatly interested in the news that in July much more powerful stations will be operating in Australia. The Commonwealth Postmaster-General has already called tenders for one, two or four broadcast stations, having a power of 3000 watts in the aerial, or with a power of 5000 watts in the aerial. The Commonwealth Government is taking over the broadcast throughout Aus-

tralia in July, and the new stations are to be ready by then. The sites of the new stations have not been disclosed, and there is great curiosity on that point. As the station will have to be ready for operating in July, only five months are available for the work of erecting them. The feature which will appeal to New Zealand listeners is that the new stations will have at least double the power of the existing stations, and possibly more than three times the power.

IT was a compliment to the Broadcasting Company's relay of the concert from Wangangi a few months ago when at last week's meeting of the Wellington Radio Society the meeting asked, like Oliver Twist, for "some more." Certainly the relay was a brilliant achievement, and no one who listened to it could deny the general merit of the whole affair. Actually there are not many up-country concerts that can hold a candle to that Wangangi concert, and when the Broadcasting Company is asked to give plenty more of these country relays one wonders where the concerts are to come from.

SEVERAL nights ago those who were listening to 3LO, Melbourne, had an opportunity of first-rate reception of a speech by La Barba, the famous little American boxer. His words came through with exceptional volume and clarity. He was manifestly reading his speech, which expressed appreciation of the cordial reception he had been given in Melbourne, and he read off a list of names of the great fighters whom Australia had turned out. His list included the world-famed Billy Murphy (still alive in Auckland), and the former world's champion, Bob Fitzsimmons, who died a few years ago. Billy Murphy is a New Zealander, and "Ruby Bob," although born in Cornwall (England), was brought up in New Zealand, where he first struck out as a pugilist. La Barba's list requires revising.

DISTANCE lends enchantment to the air! The average listener the world over always considers that the more distant station is more interesting than that of his nearest or home city. And so it is that there is so much demand by New Zealanders to reach out for the Australian stations. This fact is brought home to New Zealand dealers when they are selling a multi-valve set. Unless reception of the Australian stations is guaranteed, in nine cases out of ten, the sale is lost. Reception of the Australian stations, however, cannot be guaranteed the whole year round, what with periods of intense static and spells of weakness through some mysterious atmospheric cause.

BATTERYLESS, multi-valve receiving sets are making a steady invasion on Wellington. In America during last year there was a marked decrease in the sale of all types of batteries, reflecting the trend towards the general adoption of the batteryless receiving set. It is estimated that there are now 35,000,000 private owners of receiving sets in the United States.

A CURIOUS circumstance in connection with the "B" class stations in Australia is that complaints of the character of their programmes find their way into the radio press. This

goes to show that although the public are not paying to listen to these "B" class stations, they feel that they have a right to criticise what these stations put on the air. A writer in the Sydney "Wireless Weekly" says of one "B" class station: "2UE used to put on decent programmes on Sundays, but I am sorry to say that their programme is now also badly adulterated by 'snivelling stuff.'"

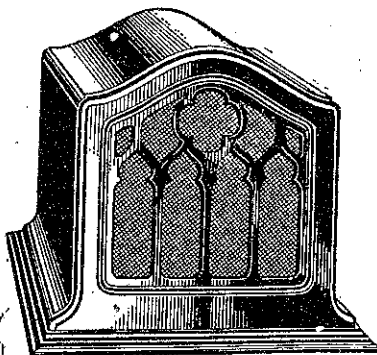
"PA" COCHRANE, the popular announcer at 2FC, Sydney, had something to say the other night regarding the subject of an anonymous letter received by 2FC. The unknown writer gave 2FC a "dig" for omitting the words "Mr.," "Mrs.," and "Miss" when announcing the names of performers. Mr. Cochrane sought to justify these omissions by stating that it was the custom in musical circles. He said no one would think of announcing "Mr. Caruso" or "Mr. Paderewski." Just so, Mr. Cochrane, but until a performer attains the world fame of the artists mentioned, he or she is entitled to the prefix "Mr.," "Mrs.," or "Miss," and the omission sounds like an unwarranted familiarity.

PEOPLE in quest of notoriety who are agreeable to do anything the law will permit are numerous in every large city. The New South Wales Broadcasting Co. have called for volunteers for a description of Sydney at the end of a rope dangling from a crane on one of Sydney's tallest buildings. It is thought that someone with a power of

description could give listeners a thrill if he described his own sensations and incidentally the wonders of Sydney, as he was hauled up yard by yard to the top of the crane. All applications will be considered in the order they are received. Should more than 1000 people apply, the name of the winner will be drawn from a hat!

IN view of the use by the Melbourne metropolitan fire brigades of portable wireless transmitters for establishing communication between the chief station at Eastern Hill and suburban stations, when ordinary means of communication fail, a development of the use of wireless services in fire-fighting work in Great Britain is of interest. A small portable transmitter, which can be fitted to fire-fighting vehicles, and driven from the petrol motor which supplies the motive power, has been designed and tested successfully. By means of this transmitter, it is possible to establish communication with any suitably equipped fire station as soon as an engine reaches a fire. Calls for further equipment are thus facilitated. It is claimed that the installation is likely to be of value in cases where fires break out almost simultaneously. Many cases have occurred in which all available equipment has been dispatched to one fire shortly before a more serious one has been reported. If fire engines are able to keep in constant touch with their stations by wireless transmitters, it is claimed that equipment can be diverted from one fire to another as desired.

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