

## Our Mailbag

### Praise for Orchestra.

KINDLY permit me to express my appreciation of the programmes sent out from 2YA. The orchestra's rendering of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, in C Minor, on Monday night last was one of the finest things I have heard over the air. Items such as that certainly make listening-in worth while. I should also like to say a word in praise of "Mr. Announcer": to tune in at 7 p.m. and to hear his pleasant "Good evening, everybody," is in itself a panacea for all the cares and worries of the day just gone. Thank you and him—"Listener" (Gisborne).

### News of the Fliers.

THIS evening I tuned in at 7 p.m. for news session with the express purpose of obtaining the latest information in connection with the accident to the Southern Cross. Surely no news of greater importance could have been put over the air, yet not a single reference was made by the announcer. Surely this was a great oversight upon those in charge of compiling the news of the day for broadcast. There must be many thousands of "listeners in" anxiously waiting for news of these most unfortunate airmen. There is another point I would draw your attention to, and that is the omission on the part of the announcer from 2YA when describing race results to give the relative positions of the winners to the favourite. This is not done in most cases outside Trentham.—Herbert Ziele, D.D.L. (Napier).

[2YA believes that it has given fullest possible service in connection with the missing aviators, and is thereby desirous of affording listeners all information concerning the missing airmen. The additional information concerning race results sought is not always available.—Ed.]

which is first heard softly on flutes and clarinets, accompanied by a lovely pizzicato by the strings. Afterwards appears a contrasting subject in the major, which works up, and then, starting from pianissimo, comes the exciting crescendo above-mentioned. Berlioz was so enamoured of this work that in defiance of Goethe, he drags Faust to the plains of Hungary to see the passing of a regiment of soldiers, solely that he might introduce it into his score.

## Auckland Notes

(By Listener.)

A NEW radio year has begun, and, from such particulars as can be gathered at this early stage it has begun very well indeed locally. Just before Easter the special staff at the Wellesley Street Post Office was almost snowed under by the avalanche of listeners. Matters were easier, but still brisk on Tuesday morning, and there was ample evidence that country listeners are licensing in large numbers. A small proportion of cancellations has been notified, but such is only natural, and there is no doubt that within a few weeks our district totals will be all that was anticipated of them, and will grow steadily as the winter advances. The radio trade is quite brisk and there are numerous inquiries, particularly for electric sets, which promise to be the general fashion with the majority of new listeners.

IN re-broadcasting, 1YA put up what must be a New Zealand record on Saturday last. Twice, in the intervals between race descriptions, the Auckland station "turned on" 2XAD, but both static and surging were so bad that the only thing a listener could say was that he had "heard America." Quite different were the results in the evening. KDKA was transmitting private messages of friends of the members of the Byrd expedition, and 1YA re-broadcast these in a manner that must have astounded many listeners. Every word was distinctly audible, and enthusiasts here shared the greetings to those now wintering in the far south. The whole effort was a most commendable one, but for interest it was quite eclipsed by what followed. Australian stations have been coming in with fine strength and clarity of late, and 2BL put over a fine account of the feather-weight contest between Grime and Leckie. 1YA quickly hopped in, found conditions excellent, and re-broadcast a story that thrilled and delighted tens of thousands. So well did the account come across that one listener rushed to his telephone at the end of a round and summoned nearby and unfortunately "setless" neighbours to come and hear the "scrap." They came, and were almost as excited as the ringside spectators. It was a splendid advertisement of the utility of New Zealand broadcasting, and a tribute to the enterprise of 1YA. A few years ago the remark, "Did you hear the fight?" would have sounded ridiculous, but it

was a remark that was on the lips of hundreds in trams and trains on Monday morning.

A PROPOS of "good things" broadcast from our own station, the writer engaged a number of listeners whom he met re-licensing, in conversation, and, among other matters, the question cropped up as to what was the best local programme sent out by 1YA. Many memorable nights of entertainment were mentioned, even going back to the special concert put on when Mr. Prentice was in charge, but the unanimous opinion was that nothing could come up to a recent evening—the occasion of the broadcast of "Outward Bound." On the air this drama gave wonderful thrills, and would even bear repetition.

ANYONE who was not satisfied with all the New Zealand programmes given him on Monday evening last would be—well, words fail me. Tuned in three "YA's" and enjoyed variety galore. Music, humour, speech, news, distress calls, and sporting descriptions—all were there for the hear-

ing. Aucklanders followed with special interest the account of the Wellington motor-cycle events. The account of them was splendidly given, the announcer's voice ringing clear and crisp in every syllable. It sounded very like Mr. Clive Drummond at the microphone.

SO keen is the concern of local radio fans over what has befallen the "Southern Cross" airmen that several local sets have been kept tuned almost continuously to Sydney during the past three evenings, their owners dead anxious to hear that the gallant flyers have again got into touch with the world. At the time of writing Sydney advises no news, and 'planes setting out on search expeditions.

JANUARY 1, 1929, was the date selected for the introduction of the new Q sign abbreviations for wireless.

THE earth connection is quite as important as the aerial, if not more so.



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