

Auckland Notes

(By "LISTENER.")

LISTENERS are quite as eager for sensations as are the most inveterate newspaper devourers. Hence the attention that has been given to Australian stations during the early part of the week, when a series of exciting aerial events closed with stark tragedy. All of the details of the search for the Southern Cross have been followed with the keenest of local interest, but there was a general feeling of sincerest grief among listeners here when they learned, first through 4QG, of the sad fate which had overtaken the gallant Keith Anderson and his mechanic. He was known to New Zealanders only through newspaper and broadcasting, and more personally through the latter had he become the hero that the history of aviation will make him.

DISTANT reception during the past week has been execrable, there having been the most persistent and consistent period of static that comes within recent memory. Its effect was noticeable at times even on the local station.

WHILE these notes are being written the broadcast of the Anzac Day service has just concluded. The

morning has been one of rain squalls, and there is no doubt that many who would have been persuaded by fine weather to proceed to the Town Hall, stayed at home and tuned in to the excellent relay of the service, and the touching tribute which Mr. Culford Bell paid to the memory of those who fought on Gallipoli.

1YA is making radio history with its repeated re-broadcasts of Australian boxing contests in which New Zealanders are participating. On Saturday evening Aucklanders were delighted to hear the final rounds of Leckie's second big victory "on the other side." 3LO is a station not usually received very strongly here, yet on Saturday its fight announcer's description was splendidly audible to thousands who rejoiced at the verdict, and were grateful for the local station's effort to convey it to them on the instant. Purdy's victory was also re-broadcast with the best of audibility.

Of late the crystal set user has been receiving much more than he bargained for in taking out his license, and if such achievements as last week's re-broadcasts continue, there should be another boom among crystal users in the next few weeks. There are numbers of "fight fans" who would willingly go to the small expense of a crystal installation were they assured of such descriptions as have lately been supplied through overseas broadcasts.

THE Sunday night concerts in Wellington are a great attraction here. Most of those who have the sets to do so, abandon 1YA after the church service, and tune in 2YA, with its resumed treats provided by the Municipal Tramways Band and assisting artists. On Sunday last, when Christchurch re-broadcast Wellington's transmission, several listeners tuned in 3YA, and noted a phenomenon not unusual here. 3YA came in more clearly than its bigger brother.

Such intense interest is being taken in the elections for Mayor and City Council that few sets will not be operated on Wednesday evening next. 1YA has made full arrangements for the quick announcement of results, so that thousands of city and suburban residents will not have to journey to the city, or await the early morning paper. In a purely local contest such as a mayoral election, it seems a pity that each of the candidates could not have been given half an hour at the microphone. By such means the aspirants for civic honour could have reached far greater numbers of electors than by the holding of district meetings.

THE deadlock over broadcasting the Municipal Band still exists, but there are great hopes of a more sensible consideration of the situation when the new City Council is elected. Meanwhile, the Salvation Army Band fills the breach, and fills it well. The addition of contributions by the ever popular Lyric Four made last Wednesday's programme a specially attractive one.

The Shakespearean evening, on Tuesday, through the wide range of the excerpts broadcast, gave many a listener a better appreciation of the works of the bard than would be received from the attendance at a stage presentation of one of his plays. Of course there were some complaints at a whole evening of Shakespeare, but where yet has there been put out a really good programme that satisfied every taste.

For the General Reader

THE general reader in glancing through the outlines of the "Guide" may remark that it is a constructor's book—but not so. Radio has been dealt with from all angles—its achievements, its possibilities, and its charm. "Technical Features of the Radio Year" will interest all who watch radio unfold and who speculate upon its possibilities. "The World at Our Doors" is a concise account of radio as it is in New Zealand.

For the questioning mind, "Wireless from the Technical Aspect" has been written. Here wireless is explained so that the most non-technical mind can follow and be interested. Natural phenomena—static, fading, dead spots, etc., are explained as far as they are known. No one who has a set should be without this valuable reference work.

Miss Mary McCormick

To Sing at 1YA, May 10

MISS MARY MACCORMICK, late of the Sydney Conservatorium, has been engaged to sing at 1YA on Friday, May 10. Miss MacCormick was one of nine young ladies who were chosen by Dame Nellie Melba from the final fifteen candidates for positions in the Melba-Williamson opera chorus. In this connection it is interesting to note that another of the successful vocalists, now known as Signora Marotta, is also at present in New Zealand and is appearing at 2YA on May 6.

When Dame Nellie Melba had heard the voices of the young aspirants for operatic honours she declared that she had never heard so many lovely voices anywhere else in the world.

Miss MacCormick is a mezzo-soprano, and her voice has been praised very highly by Australian Press critics. Her voice is rich, finished, and well modulated. She sings with ease and artistic perception. She should be particularly successful in broadcasting. For Friday evening she has chosen a variety of songs with a wide tone range.

Miss Harrihy at 3YA

Second Recital on
Wednesday.

MISS EDITH HARRHY, the visiting Welsh singer-composer-pianiste, who gave her first 3YA vocal and pianoforte recital on Wednesday, May 1, will appear again at the Christchurch station on Wednesday, May 8. Her first recital was greatly enjoyed, the instrumental as well as the vocal numbers, and particularly her own compositions.

The vocal numbers will be "Mother's Song," "Roses for the King," "Golden Wattle" (all composed by Miss Harrihy), and "Slumber Song," a composition by Mr. R. A. Horne, of Christchurch. The instrumental pieces will be three numbers by Chopin and one by Moussorgsky.

Following on her performances at Christchurch, Miss Harrihy will appear at 4YA on Friday, May 17, and Tuesday, May 21.

Napier Radio Society

THE Napier Radio Society has come back to life, and has held an enthusiastic annual meeting. The new president, Dr. Ziele, is a very keen "fan," and if anyone can keep them together he can. It is up to listeners to give him their support. The "Dr." was primarily responsible for the move to raise funds to equip the Napier Hospital with radio. The movement is progressing slowly but surely.

RADIO LISTENERS' GUIDE.

1929-30 Edition will be on sale this week. The Chapters are "Radio in New Zealand," "Wireless from the Technical Aspect," "Multi-valve Receivers," "Aerials, Earths and Accessories," "Short-Wave Reception," "Trouble Tracking," "Reference Section," and a completely revised Glossary.

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