

Laboratory Jottings

The "660" Products

A SHORT time ago our full report of the "660" products, comprising valves, and a speaker, was published in our columns. At the time, the New Zealand agency had not been allotted, and the products were then unobtainable.

Listeners will now be interested to learn that the agency has been secured by Abel, Smeeton, Ltd., Auckland, from whom stocks of these excellent valves and speakers, as well as paper for making cone speakers, will from now be obtainable.

The "Airzone" Portable

J. A. SMYTH & CO. have submitted to us the Airzone Portable. It has been given an extensive test, and the results are very pleasing. The receiver is made up in a neat carrying case approximately 2ft. by 18in. by 6in., and weighs 27lb. The circuit is the well-known Browning-Drake four-valve (RF, detector and two audio). The filaments are heated from dry "A" cells carried within the case, and the "B" battery 90 volts is similarly concealed. The speaker is a magnetic cone of the best type. It has a substantial magnet that is altogether greater than the usual for this type. It is thus capable of reproducing a very wide range of musical frequencies.

A loop antenna is concealed in the lid. To this there are three terminals, two of which connect to the set directly, and a centre tap to which to connect an aerial when it is desired to work with this. Under these circumstances, an earth is connected to the lower terminal. This antenna has marked directional properties, and is particularly sensitive. From 2YA working on the loop, it was found that volume unless controlled was excessive. It lacked nothing in quality, and compared very favourably with the straight-out Browning-Drake. With the loop, the set is highly selective. It was possible, while 2YA was operating, to tune in 1YA and 3YA without background, and at good strength. 2BL and 2FC were likewise brought in while the local station was operating, though the latter was somewhat weak and had a background.

The set was tested during one of the worst weeks as far as static interference is concerned that has been experienced for some considerable time, so that almost all testing had to be done on the loop alone. The tests were carried out during the search for the Southern Cross, and it was found that this receiver was to be preferred to one using an aerial and an earth under these conditions. Every evening 2BL was tuned in and could be heard right through his session at perfect speaker strength. It was a treat to be able to obliterate the static, and hear the latest authentic news of the airman. 3LO was heard from the loop, but its strength depended very much on atmospheric conditions.

On one evening only was the set able to be tested from an aerial, and this fortunately was Wednesday. 1YA, 3YA and 4YA were tuned in at perfect

speaker strength during the latter afternoon and early evening. In addition, the following stations were brought in at excellent strength: 2UE, 2GB, 3LO, 3UZ, 4QG, 5CL, 2FC, 3AR, 7ZL, JOAK and JOGK. The portable thus equalled the ordinary four-valve Browning-Drake.

D.X. Notes

In Difficulties.

CAN any listener help me to find out which station I heard last night, Monday, on about 230 metres? The items came through excellently clear, but was fading badly; the announcements were very weak. Some of the items were:—"In a Persian Market," "Drink to me Only With Thine Eyes," The only letter I could catch was a Z; would this be 2ZQ?—A. E. Ireland (Taradale).

CAN any member of the fraternity give me any information about a station on 295 metres, whose call sounds like KGLA, Los Angeles? I logged him at 10.30 p.m., Tuesday, playing records and selling motor-cars for 1290 dollars. Last Friday I heard KNX operating until 11 p.m. our time. Listen for Australian amateurs mid-night, Sundays, I have logged VK3BY on 249 metres; VK3EE, on 240 metres; VK3TM, on 215 metres; and VK3ML, on 227 metres.—H. Jakeman (Huntly).

[Latest lists do not indicate a station KGLA. Would it be KGFH on 300 metres?]

A Good Log.

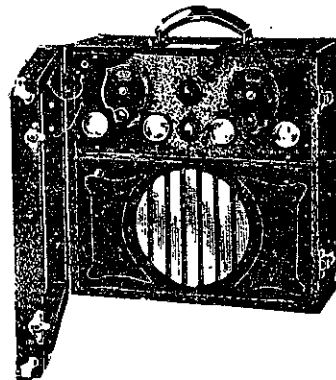
CAN any reader beat my list of stations, all received on a four-valve (s.w.) made by myself and own circuit? P.C.J (R6), RSR, DOR (R5), ZL2AW, ZL3AF, 3LO, 2LO, K8, RFM, POLL, 7LO, R4, JOAK, JOCK, ZMBY, JOBK, JOHK, JOAK (375), 4QG, 2BL, 2FC, 1YA, 2YA, 3YA, 4YA, 2ZM, 7ZL, 5CL, 3AR, 2UE, 2UW, IZC, KNRC, KKLX, KMA, KOIN, WAPI, KEX, 2XAF, 2XAD, W2XG, 2BG, VK2ME, (R7-8), KOKA, PCK, 3AF, 2AX, PHI, KFKX, KFON, KGO, WBBM, KEL, KHJ, EOS, 2ZY, 5IT, 2BD, 6BM, 5SC, 5WA, 5ND, LP, SFR, PCGG, FL, 2ZQ, 4ZM, 2YB, JOGK, WART, WHER, WMAQ, KCJJ, PLE, RFM, RF (R2), JHBB, WFAT, WFBT, ANE (R7), GMT, 2ME, EST, 5SW, W2XAD, RK2ME, WGY, KTM, WFLA, NZMT, KFOA, KEJK, KVOO, KMOX, KHT, KOMO, 2OA, 2AX, 4ZO, 2ZF, 5NO. I have heard many other stations, but could not get their calls.—A Fifteen-Year-Old (Gisborne).

[If all are authentic this is a good list for a fifteen-year-old enthusiast. However, we cannot undertake to publish competitive lists.—Ed.]

REPORTS of reception from many unusual and romantic places have been received by radio stations all over the country, but KNX, Hollywood, claims the prize for the month for a letter that came from Loma Loma, a tiny island in the South Seas. The letter expressed appreciation of the "dedication programme" released over the powerful Hollywood station when it moved to its "cleared channel" last November. For over four months the letter was carried by a trading schooner before finally reaching a posting point.

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