

hinner music starts with the crash of the Wellington clock as a background, and why the announcer butts into the music with the station call instead of in between items? I might say in closing, your sports service is great.—**HOPEFUL (N.D.P.)**.

Continuance of Football.

I HAVE just been talking to several of the local listeners here, and they are all strongly in favour of a continuance of the relay of matches. Situated as we are in the backblocks, we all look forward to the Saturday afternoons and their most excellent descriptions of all the important matches in the big centres, which is much more interesting than just listening to the results at night. I would also like to take this opportunity of expressing our keen interest in Mr. McKenzie's lectures on the laws of Rugby. Trusting that your station will still continue to broadcast football and other sports.—**L. C. ARTHUR (Motu)**.

May Fair Relays.

IN your issue of May 31 I noticed a letter from one "Diogenes" (Cromwell) re "Southland Radio." I hasten to congratulate him on a really fine attempt at humour. By fine I infer the idea of subtlety. At a first reading one is inclined to think that he means what he says. The obvious ridiculousness of his assertion that bad reception in Southland is due to poor aerials leads one to believe that he is indulging in a piece of sarcasm. In other words, he is merely echoing

"there is nothing wrong with our service, your receiver must be at fault."

There is also a letter from "Disgusted" (Invercargill) re May Fair relay. At the time in question I was in Timaru and can state that 4YA is received there just as indifferently as in the south, which shows that it is not the location but the station that is at fault. Strong comments were made by many of the leading radio men I had an opportunity of conversing with on the paucity of preparation evidenced by 3YA's attempt at relaying the May Fair. Why the station did not do its experimenting during the day or even in the 20 minutes available between the finish of the news session and 8 o'clock of that evening is past all understanding. No reference was made in the "Radio Record" to the failure of the relay. It stated that the Mair Fair "was successfully relayed by 4YA and sometimes by 3YA," thus giving the impression that it was a success from both stations. In fairness to 4YA I must state that the relay itself was handled excellently, but the modulation and volume of the station defied any pretence on the listeners' part at good reception. 4YA has decreased in volume since it has shifted to its new location. The old trouble of blasting has arisen again. The trouble does not appear to be due to over-modulation but to the inability of the amplifier tubes to carry the load. The sooner the new station arrives the better.

Radio Broadcasting Company officials have been taxing their brains as to why Australia has such a large proportion of listeners. The difference

may be indexed one of service. New Zealand stations at the end of the news session close down until 8 o'clock. The Australians go right until the clock chimes. As an example, on Thursday, May 30, 2FC finished their news session at about 7.50 and immediately commenced a short musical programme. At one minute to eight an item finished, but the announcer said, "While waiting for the clock we will commence a pianoforte solo by Grainger." That is what I call service.

The programmes from the New Zealand stations are generally more enjoyable, however. There is no doubt that the New Zealand stations are technically superior to the Australian, who do not bring the bass notes through sufficiently to give that roundness of tone essential to realistic reproduction. The only exceptions are 4QG and 3DB.

I do not agree with "Disgusted" regarding gramophone items. They are more acceptable than some of the would-be artists. The type of music in the dinner session appears to be meeting with approval, but why "Tacet"? I hope a quartet will never be inflicted upon us as suggested by a correspondent. Listening to a quartet would soon become monotonous, as such a combination is totally unable to give that variation in rendition required by the very nature of a majority of compositions.—"SHIELDED GRID" (Invercargill).

[Much of what difficulty occurred over the May Fair relay was due to lack of organisation in connection with the fair, which was not attributable to

either 3YA or 4YA. Our correspondent can ascertain the facts perhaps from the fair officials in Invercargill.—**Ed.]**

Take a Choice.

I NOTICE several letters in the "Mail Bag" referring to the volume of 2YA. I find the power the same. Ever since the gale blew down the aerial at 2YA we have noticed loss of power. We appreciate the programmes, and relays, but it seems some people are never satisfied. Some wanted dinner music, and got it; now some do not want it. Well, let them tune in to the other stations from 6 to 7. If they do not like the dinner music, perhaps the children's session will help. I send my thanks to the management and good wishes to Mr. Announcer, 2YA, also to the "Radio Record."—**RGB-PUR1**

Go and Help the Curate.

I HAVE noticed recently several complaints concerning the monopoly given football on Saturday afternoons, and I wish on the other hand to congratulate the Broadcasting Company for seizing these opportunities of broadcasting sporting events. Compared with Australia, I consider there is a dearth of sporting events suitable for broadcasting in New Zealand, and no opportunity should be missed of broadcasting the high-class Rugby football that is played in the cities on Saturday afternoons. The splendid word-pictures painted by the capable announcers at these football matches cannot fail to enthral everyone except those ignorant of New Zealand's national pastime, who, perhaps, when all is said and done, are those loudest in condemnation. "Edenite" may be quite right in that only 10 per cent. listen to football in his district on Saturday afternoons, the other 90 per cent., I am game to wager, are actually at the match, either playing or looking on, according to their respective ability. So, growlers, hands off the Broadcasting Company's organisation. Turn off the set for an hour or two, and go and help the curate decorate the church, or something. Remember we can all find something in broadcasting that we could willingly dispense with.—**H.M. (Okauia)**.

Pure Selfishness.

IN several of the later issues of the "Record," there have been protests against the broadcasting of football matches on Saturdays. Now, to my way of thinking, these protests only denote pure selfishness. Music lovers surely get their money's worth throughout the week. There are seven days in the week, and on every day except one there is music on the air, so surely one afternoon can be spared to its football enthusiasts. Football is the national game of New Zealand, and I feel sure if a vote were taken on the subject that football would win. As to the rest of the programmes there are often items and whole programmes that I do not care for, but unlike the people who don't want football I am not complaining. I think the R.B.C. split up their offerings in a very creditable manner, and anyone who is not satisfied must be pretty hard to please. Just a word or two for Mr. Announcer at 2YA. We are all agreed here that he is absolutely the best ever, and on the rare occasions when he is absent from the "mike" we feel as though something were wrong.—**"NO COMPLAINTS" (Waverley)**.

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