

## Topical Events.

A DANISH short-wave experimental station installed at Lyngby on several occasions has rebroadcast the Copenhagen programmes on wavelengths in the immediate neighbourhood of 30 metres. It is stated that, in future, these relays will be carried out on 19 metres, at irregular intervals for the present, and that the power of the transmission will be raised to some 10 kilowatts.

## "Tristan" Tunes In.

AS reported some time ago, the loneliest island in the world, that of Tristan da Cunha, will now be able to listen in to 5SW, for, early last January, the inhabitants of the island were presented with a short-wave set.

The receiver was taken out by the Rev. A. G. Partridge, when he sailed to assume the chaplaincy of the parish of the island. On the way out the Rev. Partridge was given detailed instructions on the operation of the set. There was some trouble at first, but this was found to be due to a fault. The set eventually operated excellently, and between Monte Video and Tristan reception of 5SW at 6000 miles was constant every night, often at good loudspeaker strength.

## Vienna Concerts.

SHORT-WAVE experimenters will be interested to know that Vienna short-wave transmitter tests every Tuesday and Thursday on a wavelength of 49.4 metres. This will probably be extended to include Wednesdays and Saturdays. (New Zealand listeners should tune in for this station during the early morning of Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.) A correspondent has reported a stranger on about 50 metres during the early morning; possibly this is the station.

The following extract from a recent issue of "The Listener In" (Australia) under the head of "Wireless Institute of Australia" should be of interest to all short-wave listeners in New Zealand:—

"Since the Federal president inaugurated his weekly schedule of 'phone transmissions on the 42.6 metres and 21.3 metres band, he has been nearly inundated with reports from both metropolitan, country, and inter-State listeners, which goes to show how much interest is being taken in short-wave re-



ceivers at the present moment. It is also safe to assume that the majority of them are not able to read a word of code, but being interested in short-waves, are also interested in the problems the institute is attempting to solve. The transmissions of VK3BM will therefore be continued from about 1.30 p.m. on every Sunday afternoon; (3 p.m. New Zealand time) beside the transmission of gramophone items, it is the intention of H.K.L. (H. K. Love, Valency Road, East Malvern) to put over some educational talks on the subject of short-wave radio, and the work of the institute. After closing down he will change over to the receiver, and listen for inter-State transmitters, and will then work two-way conversations for the benefit of listeners, so that they may tune in both stations and know how it is done."

## Vagaries of Short-wave Reception.

THE following, by W.L.S. in "Modern Wireless" (England) is of interest:—

"Will anyone ever be able to advance a satisfactory theory for some of the amazing variations and freaks noticed exclusively on short-waves? I could go on repeating instances of them until I had both tired myself and my reader. I could spend years trying to tabulate them and bring some semblance of order into the happenings, but we should be no nearer an understanding.

"Why, for instance, are some of the most powerful American amateur stations only just audible on a night when W2XD is roaring through, while on another night they are rattling the 'phones over here when W2XD is a still, small voice?

"Why, on a morning when only the United States '6's and 7's (down the Pacific Coast) are coming through, does a solitary '4' in Florida suddenly arrive at enormous strength, although there are hundreds of others in his district all working at the same time? I wonder whether a grand series of organised tests by all enthusiastic short-wave receiving stations in the country (such as RSGB, TRS's) would help to straighten matters out at all? The most puzzling feature of all is the extraordinary way in which receiving conditions vary in a quarter of a mile or even less.

"I have come upon a most extreme case of that this month, in which one receiving station heard shoals of Australians and New Zealanders one morning, while the other did not log one, but heard United States and South America, neither of which could be heard at the first station. The distance apart is about 150 yards. That

is enough to make one sceptical about whether there is any rhyme or reason in the whole business."

The writer has noticed the same applies here when comparing notes with friends and correspondents.

## The Week.

I HAVE not been able to listen much during the past week.

During the afternoon of Saturday, August 3, PCJ by the way of a change, during their special New Zealand-Australian programme departed from the usual gramophone items, and transmitted a few items by the "Philips Happiness Boys." Reception, which was good before, went off about this time—4.30 p.m.

## The Graf Zeppelin.

THROUGH the kindness of Mr. Morrison, who rang me up saying that 2XG was talking to the "Zepp." I was able to hear what was said. On Sunday, August 4, from before 8 p.m. onwards W2XG, on about 44.5 metres, was calling "Hullo Denne" (the call letters of the Graf Zeppelin). "Please advise us if you get us. Let us have your position and probable course. Please communicate with us on 'phone on 63 metres."

The message was repeated many times, with slight variations. DENNE could not be heard on 63 metres here, nor apparently by the American station, as they were still trying when I gave it up.

"GBX, Rugby, England speaking," has been heard several times recently, testing with VK2ME, Sydney. The test consists of readings with the call at intervals.

GBX comes in at good strength, with at most times a noisy background.

## An Unidentified Foreigner

S. CONNER (Wellington) writes inquiring whether any other short-wave listeners have heard a foreign station working on about 51 metres. The writer hears this station every night, but cannot get the call. He continues: "The announcer speaks in broken English, and plays much of the latest jazz music. Mr. Conner has also heard RPN, Siberia, on his old wavelength, 72 metres, on August 1, and he is, there to-night.

Our correspondent concludes in complimenting 2YA on the fine programmes which it now puts over the air. He was also pleased with the recent relay from Wanganui, which he declares was the best programme he has heard in his three years of listening.

## The Week's Shortwave

## Correspondent's Log

READING of Mr. Sellens's misfortune, H.E., Christchurch, sends his log for the week.

## Saturday, August 3.

AT 11.30 a.m. PCJ was R7; clear and fairly steady. W2XAD from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. were excellent at R9. During the last hour dance music was relayed from Reilly's Lake House, Lake Lonely, Saratoga Springs, New York.

At 4 p.m., PCJ was R8-9. Clear and steady. 3ZC, the local short-wave station was excellent at R9. A very fine programme was given till 5 p.m. W8XK at 3.30 p.m. was R8, neither clear nor steady. At 2.30 p.m. a stranger (foreign) was heard. A duplex telephony at R8 on 20.5 metres. The other station could not be located. The stranger was, I think, VPD, Suva, talking in his native tongue. At 6.15 p.m., VK2ME was excellent at R9, reading for GBH, Rugby, England. ZL4BC, Dunedin, was R9 at 6.15 p.m., but speech was rough. At 6.40 p.m., ZL3CR, of this city, was working ZL3BC, Scargill, North Canterbury. ZL3CR was excellent at R9. This 'ham has a transmitter to be proud of. He uses roughly 7 watts. ZL3BC responded at R9 on key. At 6.50 p.m., ZL2BE, Hastings, was excellent at R9, working ZL2AB, Otaki (R9 on key). At 10.30 p.m., ZL3CR was working ZL2AX. Both excellent at R9. At 11.40 p.m., RFM was heard, once again after a few weeks' absence. Excellent at R9. All talk. At midnight ZL2BE was very good at R9.

## Sunday, August 4.

AT 11 a.m., ZL3BB, Christchurch, was playing records at R9. W2XAD from 1.15 p.m.-3.30 p.m. was very good at R9, relaying dance music for the last hour from the Hotel Ten Eyck in Albany, N.Y. W2XAF, relaying the same programme, was also R9; but the former was much the clearer. (Concluded on page 31.)

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