

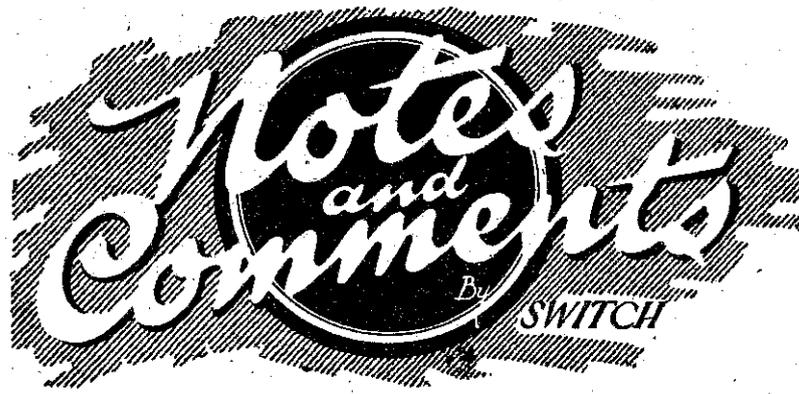
DURING his lecture before the Wellington Radio Society the other night, Mr. Colin W. Smith stated that Mr. H. Gernsback, editor of the New York "Radio News," had said that the present systems of radio-vision were so unsatisfactory that they would have to be scrapped and a fresh start would have to be made to solve the problem of vision by radio. Those listeners who are clamouring for radio-vision should bear this in mind and wait patiently till the thing has been developed sufficiently to become a practicable proposition for the masses.

"SWITCH" has been asked "On what wavelength does broadcast station 6WF, Perth, transmit?" This station employs two wavelengths, 1250 metres and 104.5 metres. Owing to the great distances to be spanned in the western state it was found necessary, according to broadcast experts, to use the rather long wavelength of 1250 metres which was said to be less susceptible to fading. The Commonwealth Government, however, has agreed to an alternative in the wavelength of 6WF, Perth, which, from September 1, will operate on a wavelength of 435 metres. The change will necessitate a slight alteration in the wavelength of 2FC Sydney, which will be announced shortly.

NEW Zealand listeners will be interested in the news that the Australian Commonwealth Government has decided on an extensive scheme for erecting additional broadcast stations. In an interview at Melbourne, recently, Mr. H. P. Brown, of the Commonwealth Radio Department, stated that the final programme of the Government for the next four years includes the establishment of 12 more broadcasting stations in Australia, increasing the present number to 20. The first of the new stations will be in the Newcastle district, and although a tentative scheme has been prepared, fixing the locations, these locations will not be disclosed until each new station is determined upon.

MR. Brown explained that the sites for the new Australian stations have been chosen with a view to giving service to the whole community after a comprehensive study has been made of the population densities and the natural characteristics of the country from the point of view of their effects on the radiation of energy. The scheme decided upon will give a reasonable field intensity of the radio signals to about 90 to 95 per cent. of the population. The construction of stations will necessarily occupy some time, and the cost will be somewhere about £750,000.

FROM all directions "Switch" learns that the Australian stations are now coming through in splendid style, night after night, but Wellington listeners located close to the city have been subjected to a bombardment of morse from the cruiser Dunedin, while lying at the wharf at Wellington. The transmitter on the cruiser has not only a powerful set of harmonics but sends out intermediate waves which appear in many places on broadcast listeners' tuning dials. "Shock excitation," owing to proximity, is probably the cause of a good deal of interference from warships in port.



THE proposal that a laughing competition be conducted at 2YA, Wellington, emanating from the Wellington Radio Society, was tried out with not a little success at a couple of the Australian stations. It would be a wise precaution, however, if such a competition were conducted at 2YA, to put the competitors through preliminary tests before allowing them to go on the air. Listeners would then be protected from having their ears assailed with those asinine guffaws which generally pass for laughs. A suggestion has been made to "Switch" that only the best three competitors be permitted to go on the air.

IN connection with Mr. Colin W. Smith's lecture on the history of radio at the recent meeting of the Wellington Radio Society, as far back as 1838, Professor Joseph Henry, of Princeton University, U.S.A., discovered that when he discharged condensers by allowing a spark to jump from one coating to the other—his condensers were Leyden jars (glass bottles coated inside and out with silver foil)—sparks also appeared at the discharging gaps on other jars several feet away. Undoubtedly Henry realised that he had found a means of producing electrical effects at a distance, but land telegraphy at that time (nearly a hundred years ago) was in its infancy, and he made no attempt to adapt his discovery to the problems of communication.

A DRAMATIC enthusiast has propounded a theory to "Switch" that listeners would relish far more broadcasting of playlets, and he submitted the script of a number of smart little sketches. After perusing these "Switch" was struck with their unsuitability for broadcasting as not a little depended upon the action of the playlets. Radio requires quite a different technique to that of stage productions. It must always be borne in mind that the radio audience can only hear and not see the performers. The playlet involving that episode in a coal mine, broadcast by 2YA a little while ago, was a classical example of a suitable production for radio.

WITH recently-added improvements and refinements, the modern broadcasting station is becoming a more expensive proposition to erect and install. Those who lightly talk of erecting an up-to-date broadcasting station can have no idea what they now cost. Mr. O. H. Caldwell, speaking authoritatively before the Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, lately, stated that a modern 5000-watt broadcast sta-

tion costs £30,000 to install, and the cost of a 50,000-watt station runs into from £50,000 to £75,000. These figures are also published by the New York "Radio News."

THE results of the Christchurch race meeting were loudly received last week in Wellington from 3YA, Christchurch, daylight reception from the southern station being always available with good loudspeaker volume from multi-valve sets. There is no fading during daylight, and 3YA comes through with marked clarity.

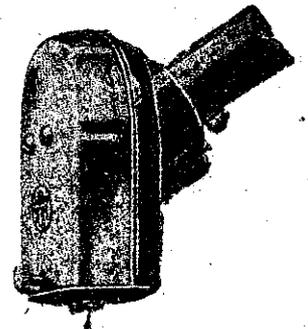
A VALVE with the glass bulb loose in its base was handed to "Switch" last week for "medical" at-

tention. A simple method of treatment was applied. A fair-sized hole was bored under the base in the exact centre between the prongs. Sealing wax was melted in a spoon over a gas flame, and then poured through the prepared hole in the base of the valve. When the sealing wax had cooled the glass bulb was as solid as a rock in the base. This is an old cure and an easy and reliable one.

THE crowds watching these wrestling matches in Sydney can be heard with great volume when 2BL is broadcasting a ringside description. Peculiar how some folk get so worked up. The writer has a friend who sat beside the father of a boxing contestant during an affair at the Wellington Town Hall. The father became so carried away that he was handing out hooks, jabs, jolts, slams and swings so that the writer's friend was black and blue around the ribs when the contest was over. He declines to sit beside the said father in the future.

A LOUDSPEAKER which persisted in rattling was recently brought to "Switch" for a diagnosis of the trouble. The speaker was of a high-class make and an electrical test proved that there was nothing wrong in that respect. An internal inspection disclosed that some minute fragments of strawboard had collected around the armature and was causing the rattle.

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