

"SWITCH" has been asked to express his opinion on the quality of the programmes now being broadcast by the four A class stations in Sydney and Melbourne, under the new Australian Broadcasting Company's regime. The writer has no hesitation in stating that there is a marked all-round improvement. There is now far more variety in the class of entertainment, and the personnel of the performers. Whether in "popular" contributions or classical numbers, the performers are of a generally higher standard. Famous artists not previously heard are now being broadcast, and such events as last Saturday evening's broadcast of the wonderful concert by the New South Wales State Conservatorium of 75 musicians, with solos by famous artists, bears evidence of the enterprise of the new regime.

THERE appear to be certain zones, such as around Eketahuna, where 2YA, Wellington, is received with distortion, although the "big voice" is rally heard superbly far and wide. 2YA is picked up at Christchurch with such clarity and rebroadcast by 3YA that it is difficult sometimes to realise that one is listening to a rebroadcast instead of reception direct from 2YA. In Eketahuna through some obscure reason 2YA, Wellington, is undoubtedly distorted. The United States Government Bureau of Standards has proved that this distortion may be due to interfering ground waves. When 2YA was on reduced power some time ago reception of that station was distortionless in Eketahuna. This may indicate that the ground waves were then of insufficient strength to occasion the interference causing distortion.

MANY listeners will have observed that their sets are more sensitive on a certain set of their tuning dials. For instance, some listeners consistently receive the shorter wave stations better than the longer wave stations. Others find that those stations on a medium wave-length come in best. This "peak" finds its origin in the radio frequency amplifying stage or stages of a set. In some cases the makers have overcome this by a device sometimes called an "inductor," which is adjustable and acts like a vernier tuner. The writer's set is equipped with such a device.

A WELLINGTON radio technician sounded a warning note to those listeners who contemplate importing their own A.C. sets from America. The standard electrical supply in the United States is 110 volts, while that of New Zealand is 230 volts. If a pur-chaser orders his set to be adapted to the higher voltage he should be sure that the chokes and condensers are also suited to the increased voltage. The local radio technician had examined a disabled set which had broken down through the makers not altering the chokes and condensers to suit the New Zealand 230-volts standard electric supply. Only the input transformer was suited to the increased voltage.

A most polite gentleman, not previously heard by "Switch," was describing a wrestling bout in Sydney, per medium of 2BL, the other night. When one of the contestants was kicking the other on the chin to escape from an awkward hold, the announcer said: "—is jolting his foot, if I may be permitted to say so, against —'s chin." Really, one must be careful

not to offend these modern gladiators for they have been known even to "jolt" the referee with their fists.

A CERTAIN Wellington hostess recently conceived the excellent idea of giving a radio evening. None of her two dozen guests was familiar with broadcast listening and most enjoyable entertainment was provided with a de luxe receiving set and electro dynamic loudspeaker. 2YA, Wellington, 3YA, Christchurch, and 1YA, Auckland, provided the items of the evening. With the aid of the programmes published in the "Radio Record" the guests were offered a wide selection to choose from. The hostess informs "Switch" that the evening proved an incomparable success and her guests went away delighted with the entertainment which, to them, was quite unique.

IT is not generally known that New Zealand ranks third to the United States and Canada among all countries in the world for the number of telephones per 100 of the population. In New Zealand there is an average of nearly ten telephones per hundred persons. The time may not be far distant when the same enviable distinction will be attained in the number of broadcast listening licensees in this country.

"GRAMO" (Wellington) sends along a plea for the occasional inclusion in broadcast programmes of what he describes as "that delightful item 'Good Night,' written around the bugle call 'Lights Out.'" "Switch" recalls this record being heard from various Australian stations. It came through from 2UE, Sydney, one night last week, as the concluding item. Joe Aarons's jazz band used to play and sing this item as the final number when they were under engagement to 3LO, Melbourne. This reminds "Switch" of the tuneful foxtrot "Meadow Lark" which ran the full limit of popularity on the air from the Australian stations, but has seldom been heard from the YA stations.

A BEGINNER who has a decided aversion to radio masts because "they spoil the appearance of one's property," sought "Switch's" advice recently on the advisability of running an aerial inside his roof when he purchases his nine-valve A.C. set. It was explained to the beginner that an outside aerial is about three times more powerful than an indoor makeshift, and that there was no reason why a couple of well-stayed, neat, aerial

masts should constitute a disfigurement to any property no more than would a flagpole set up on the lawn of a house. The inquirer was converted from his strange aversion.

IN last week's issue of the "Radio Record" one "Kauspanka" (Hastings) gives some interesting particulars of the wavelengths and power of the various Japanese stations, according to a card he had received recently. Let us compare the wavelengths he gives with those published in the "N.Z. Radio Listeners' Guide" of 1929-30:—

Station.	Kauspanka's List.	N.Z.R. Guide.
JOAK	345 metres	375
JOBK	400 metres	385
JOCK	370 metres	360
JOFK	353 metres	353
JOGK	380 metres	380
JOHK	390 metres	396
JOIK	361 metres	361

The wavelengths given in "The N.Z. Radio Listeners' Guide" are endorsed by Australian and American lists. If Kauspanka's list is the latest, changes of wavelength have probably been made in the case of four of the Jap stations—quite a feasible suggestion.

REGARDING the Jap stations, what puzzles "Switch" is his regular reception, nightly, of a Jap station on about 770 kilocycles, which comes in loudly. The announcer's call letters more frequently sound like "JOAK" than "JOHK." The latter may be what the Jap announcer is endeavouring to pronounce, but several times lately his pronunciation came through as "JOAK." To the surprise of "Switch" he has several times heard the same items being broadcast simultaneously by that station and another Jap station just shorter in wavelength than 2BL, Sydney. According to Kauspanka the latter station is JOAK (which is seemingly correct),

and JOHK has been rebroadcasting JOAK. This would account for the call letters "JOAK" being heard from JOHK.

A WELLINGTON listener whose aerial swung as loose as the average clothes line was surprised when he found long-distance stations fluctuating in quick jerky cycles during the recent southerly gale. He blamed his batteries, but they stood up to an expert test. Then he had a new grid leak fitted, but the fluctuations persisted. He asked "Switch" to glance over his outfit, and when he was persuaded to tighten up the aerial reception became normal.

OCCASIONALLY the Wellington Radio Society distinguishes itself by passing some more or less stupid resolution, but this sort of thing generally gets past when there is not a sufficient number of members of the executive present to block it. The motion suggesting that the Broadcasting Company should limit each artist to one item per programme is a case in point. There is not a broadcast station in Australia, let alone in New Zealand, which would adopt the suggestion, and, furthermore, the subject is one which too intimately concerns the business aspect of the Broadcasting Company to warrant its serious consideration by the company.

THE relay and rebroadcasting of the Hastings Radio Society's concert from Hastings was another triumph for the Broadcasting Company. Not only was reception from 2YA, Wellington, exceptionally clear, but the other YA stations heard by "Switch" reproduced the concert with superb effect.

AT the recent Wellington Radio Exhibition a novice expressed surprise at the sensitivity of the latest a.c. sets, having "read somewhere that the new batteryless sets were not as sensitive as the older battery-type sets." Since then he has purchased an a.c. set, and has a verified list of 29 broadcast stations in his log. A lot of "moonshine" was circulated about the a.c. sets at first, but the better class of this type are running rings around battery-type sets.

THOSE who keep a careful check on the frequencies of the various stations must have noticed that station 4QG, Brisbane, has raised its frequency again (dropped in wavelength). This station is now rather close to JOHK, the Jap, which "Switch" finds comes in best of all the Japanese stations. 4QG is not as loud as it used to be, although it is coming in with good volume.

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