

Auckland Notes Flaws in Television

(By "Listener.")

A Recent Report

THE local radio trade at the moment is much exercised upon the desirability of holding a radio exhibition, and thus falling into line with Dunedin and Wellington, who have set us so excellent an example. The one stumbling block to an Auckland exhibition seems to be the idea that the season of the year is inopportune. Many dealers and others hold that a display would produce more beneficial results, if it were held at the beginning of the season. The idea has wrongly developed, that radio is quite a seasonal pastime, that its period, like that of football, is the winter-time, that with the coming of summer listening in falls away to an astonishing extent. If all set owners were consulted, it would be found that there is almost as much recourse to the dials in summer as in winter, though the periods of tuning in may be shorter and at later hours.

It seems a pity that such a number of people commercially interested in the radio business regard the summer-time as one in which trade must inevitably fall off. A progressive policy of bringing radio before the public at all times of the year, and more particularly at such a season as provides in addition many other diversions, will soon kill definitely the seasonal idea of broadcasting. The same good standard of programmes is maintained in summer as in winter. If Auckland trade and radio societies were to combine in the running of a wireless exhibition during September or October they would stimulate listening during the summer months, and they would keep radio at its present encouraging level. The impression conveyed by a comprehensive exhibition would show effects on sales lasting well over the coming Christmas season. It is to be hoped that, when finality in decision is reached, a radio exhibition will be on the programme of Auckland events of importance for the near future. There are other interests eager to co-operate with radio in the running of such an exhibition.

ON Tuesday, the Tudor Orchestra, a body of professional musicians who had given up their own time to afford delight to the children, paid a visit to I.Y.A. They afforded it to a large number of very old children as well, for their delightful selections appealed to both young and old. It says a great deal for the enthusiasm of professional musicians that at a time such as this, when things are looking very black for them, they can come along and give their services to entertaining Cinderella's big family.

IT is difficult, without making repetitions of praise for those who have already merited and received it, to discuss programme items that maintain a uniformly good level, especially when the comments appear in print fully a week after the items have been rendered. By that time so much other entertainment has come along and been assimilated that a radio memory, to be a long one, has to be especially good. However, the point to be made is this. Growls still occur at the programmes, or more often at individual items, which do not suit a particular taste, but the body of listeners grows daily larger, while the voice of complaint dwindles daily.

IN a recent paper written for the I.R.E., C. Francis Jenkins declares that popular opinion grossly exaggerates the stage at which television has arrived. In his own words:

"All television, radiovision and radio movie systems employ the method of scanning the picture at the receiver by observing a single light point moving in successive adjacent lines.

"The generally practised method consists in sighting and fluctuating light source through miniature holes spirally located in whirling disc. In such a mechanism the light source must be as large as the picture is, preferably somewhat larger. The resultant current requirement is therefore some 2500 times greater than would be required if the light could be limited to the visible spot alone.

"In the new scanner, a drum turned four times per picture. The size of the mechanism is therefore reduced proportionately, that is, a seven-inch drum gives as large a picture as a 36 inch disc.

"This type of scanner permits the employment of but a relatively small light cathode with a correspondingly small current required to light it, in a ratio of perhaps 1 to 20 of that required for a disc scanner.

"Another advantageous feature incorporated in the drum scanner is the employment of quartz rods to overcome the inverse square light loss law. That it is very effective is conclusively shown by removing the rods, in which event not enough light reaches the drum surface to make a picture.

"Again, as persistence of vision is dependent on the assembly of the elementary areas which make up the picture, the light strength on the eye is but one twenty-five-hundredth of the spot of intensity, so that the bright scanning aperture appears very dim in motion.

"While the drum type scanner is a great advance over the disc scanner, both are believed to be inherently wrong in principle. In current-to-eye efficiency the disc is very faulty, being less than one fifty-thousandth of 1 per cent. The substitution of persistence of elementary area for persistence of vision is believed to promise far greater possibilities in development.

"A projector built on this principle for theatre screens is in work in the laboratory at this time, and with gratifyingly promising results."

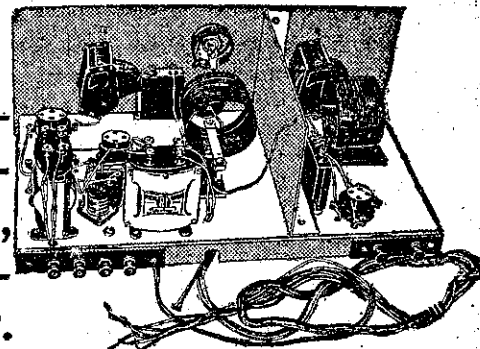
Broadcasting Education

IN "Teacher's World" there appears an article which says: "Every series of broadcast lessons will tend to limit the freedom and discretion of teacher. Every time-table would have to be drawn up with due regard to the arrangements made in London." This is a totally different statement to that made in a recent American paper which foresaw the substitution of the loudspeaker for the teacher.

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