

Retrospection

A Tribute to Present Standards

NO doubt there are hundreds of others throughout New Zealand, like myself, who often wonder what must be in the minds of many listeners who write in condemning programmes, announcers, and methods of the Broadcasting Company. Exactly what is it these dissatisfied ones expect?

Take the first-mentioned growl, "Programmes." The writer has been connected with radio since it became popular here. In the early days there was practically no broadcasting worth mentioning. Radio sets were of poor design, and required great patience in operating, and it was considered a great feat to receive a full programme through from any station in one evening. The first machine I possessed was a two-valve De Forest, for which I paid the modest sum of £60. I can remember the time when with this machine old 2YK, Wellington, was just audible, and we would sit round hardly daring to breathe for fear someone might upset the tuning and lose the item we were listening to.

The programmes then were practically all gramophone records, and poorly reproduced. As time went on programmes improved and became more numerous till they have developed into the remarkable stage reached to-day.

Take all the complaints that have been received, and I venture to say that not one of these growlers ever listened to a programme in the days above referred to. Again, I think I can safely say that every seasoned listener who can trace his first connection with radio back to, say, 1923 or 1924, is more than satisfied with present-day standards. It is only those who have been associated with radio for four years or more who can really appreciate the wonderful strides that have been made in the programmes.

I have been connected with the retail side of radio for years, and have

installed machines totalling well over three figures. This has brought me into contact with every class of the community, and has done more than any other way towards making me realise the many tastes to which the Broadcasting Company have to cater.

I have gone in one evening direct from one home where jazz items were not tolerated to another where, as soon as a really good orchestral item came through, the dials were turned again for more jazz. Both these tastes have to be catered for. The R.B.C. cannot transmit jazz only and ignore the other class, who desire better music. Nor can they indulge in high-class musical programmes and offend the ears of those who cannot appreciate the better music.

For a listener and his wife to spend an evening at the talks the cost may be anything up to 10s. for the evening's entertainment. Yet for the huge sum of 1d. per night many can find hardly an item to satisfy them on an evening's broadcast programme.

The R.B.C. is working wonders in the way of providing better and better programmes, and if the views of the 40,000-odd listeners in this country were made available, probably 35,000 would have hardly a growl. Why, it is hardly worth the R.B.C. considering the other 5000.

Some few months back I had the pleasure of a two hours' personal chat with Mr. Harris, of the R.B.C. That conversation opened my eyes to the difficulties that beset any concern catering to the tastes of the community, and I came away satisfied that the R.B.C. was doing all in its power to provide pleasure and information for all.

Concerning the announcers, I have never, in my experience of radio, heard better. During the last two years I have heard the announcers of many countries, and have yet to hear a finer announcer than Mr. Drummond, of 2YA. If Mr. Drummond were removed to make way for someone else, I daresay 75 per cent. of the radio listeners would protest.

If any listener is still in doubt, all I can say is invest in a short-wave set and listen to overseas programmes,

and it will then take very little convincing as to the high-class of announcer employed in New Zealand.

Constructive criticism is always welcomed. Destructive criticism makes it harder for the R.B.C. to carry out its work. Let those who criticise, before they post their letters, just think for one moment if they could really improve on the programmes themselves, if they would make better announcers themselves, also, what better and more varied entertainment of up to 70 items could be heard anywhere in one evening for 1d. or even 50 times that amount, if they would just give a little more thought to these points, perhaps most of these growls would never find their way into print.

Radio is one of the wonders of the age, and instead of continually pulling the R.B.C. to pieces, we should be thankful that for the insignificant sum we now pay we are privileged to enjoy the wonders of this modern marvel.—"Well Satisfied" (Gisborne).

Increased Efficiency

An Earthing Improvement

A NOVEL earth, and one that gives excellent results, may be made from 6 feet or so of copper gas tubing, about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. With a fine bradawl, pierce small holes in the whole length of tubing, then form it into a spiral coil about 6 inches in diameter, and bury it with one end just protruding. To this end the earth lead is soldered. The edges of the tube are then hammered out into a small funnel, into which water may be poured from time to time.

Grooving Coil Formers

GROOVING ribbed or skeleton coil formers makes it easier to place on spaced windings without risk of the turns slipping. If the grooves are cut with a saw, it is difficult to space them evenly. A good tool with which to perform this operation can be made easily with a small-toothed wheel taken from a clock or similar mechanism. The wheel is mounted in a holder, and is warmed before running it along the ebonite. If a fairly strong pressure is applied, the teeth will make evenly-spaced indentations, thus enabling the constructor to wind his coils with a minimum of difficulty.

Adjusting Grid Bias

GRID bias batteries should never be adjusted with the set switched full on, as damage to the power valve is likely to result. As soon as the grid bias plug is removed there is no check on the anode current, and emission may be lost, thus injuring the valve. When emission is spoilt, hardly any electrons are emitted from the filament, and consequently anode current and therefore signals, will be weak.

Valve Base Coils

For Short Wave Work

A NEAT and effective way of constructing short-wave coils which are very convenient in use, is as follows. Take an old burnt-out valve, preferably one with an "anti-capacity" base, and, by working the bulb and base about, detach the two. The necessary turns for the different wavelength bands are now wound on the base. For the 20-metre band (15,000 k.c.) the grid winding, whose ends are fastened to the grid and anode pins, consists of six turns of No. 24 d.c.c., and the reaction windings, connected to the other two pins, of six turns of No. 36. For the 30-metre band (10,000 k.c.) a fifteen-turn grid coil and a six-turn reaction coil, both of the gauge mentioned previously, will be suitable.

It is not absolutely necessary to space the turns of the grid windings. In fact, if two coils are made up, one spaced and the other not, it is remarkable what little difference is found between their performances.

The valve-holders used as coil mounts should be of the anti-capacity type, and should also be of the very best quality. Tappings for aerial connections are quite easily incorporated by twisting small loops at the required turns, and arranging these so that they are staggered. A crocodile clip attached to the grid terminal can now be connected to any one of these with the greatest of ease. A complete set of these coils to cover the different frequency bands is very easily constructed, and the greatly increased convenience obtained by their use more than compensates for the short time spent on their construction.

WANTED AND FOR SALE.

For column of casual advertisements see page 32.

8.20 (approx.): Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, "Symphony No. 6 in F Major—First Movement, Allegro ma non Troppo" (Beethoven) (H.M.V. D1473).

8.30: Rebroadcast of 2YA, Wellington (relay from Palmerston North of concert organised by Mr. J. A. Nash, M.P., and Mr. F. Jackson in aid of funds for the relief of unemployment).

Close down.

4YA, DUNEDIN (650 KILOCYCLES).—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20.

3.0 : Town Hall chimes.

3.1 : Selected gramophone items.

4.30: Close down.

5.30: Children's song service conducted by Big Brother Bill.

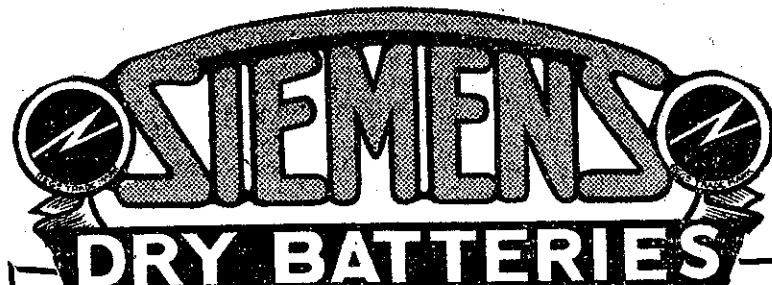
6.30: Relay of service from Moray Place Congregational Church (Preacher, Rev. Albert Mead; Organist, Mr. McMillan; Choirmaster, Mr. Towns).

8.0 : Relay from Empire Theatre of service conducted by the Combined Churches. Preacher: Rev. Lionel B. Fletcher.

Close down.

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