

A BRIGHT WEEK

Many Parties for Visit of Italians to Wellington.

WELLINGTON'S social life last week whirled beneath the fluttering of the Italian flag on the occasion of the visit of the Armando Diaz, the Italian light cruiser, which arrived in Wellington on Saturday morning, a little after eight o'clock.

Her arrival was spectacular and colourful. Near the entrance to the harbour, she was welcomed by Italian fishing launches from Island Bay. Every launch was flying an Italian flag along with the New Zealand ensign, and other gay bunting which made patches of vivid colour on the sparkling blue sea, while aeroplanes from Rongotai circled overhead.

Saturday was very hot and sunny, a typical Italian day, in honour of the long-awaited visitors.

In the evening, one of the most brilliant receptions ever held in Wellington was given in honour of the captain and officers of the warship. This was held at the Hotel St. George, and the host and hostess were the Consul for Italy, Cav. Dott. G. Formichella and Signora Formichella. From the street kerbing ran a strip of scarlet carpet and crowds

of eager spectators watched, arriving in their limousines and taxis, the guests arrayed in all their glory, the men wearing uniforms and orders, and the women exquisite gowns. The floral decorations in the lounges were a constant source of admiration, arum lilies having been dyed bright scarlet and emerald green, arranged in huge bowls among the pure white arums to give the atmosphere of the national emblem of the guests of honour. An element of hospitality pervaded the gathering, and many languages were spoken among the guests during the evening.

Supper was served upstairs in the dining-room at ten o'clock, where an excellent orchestra played. The buffet supper was an outstanding example of the art of the cuisine and the floral decorations in the Italian national colours were reflected in the emerald and ruby glasses.

On Monday evening the combined Italian societies of Wellington, under the patronage of the Consul for Italy, gave a ball in honour of Captain Jachino and the officers of the Armando Diaz. This was held in the Town Hall, and was another brilliant affair with gorgeous frocking of the women and the uniforms of the men. Poi dances and Maori songs by a troupe of Native girls were featured during the evening. The floor was crowded with dancers who were served with supper and light refreshments at the rear of the main hall.

During the week cocktail parties and receptions were given on both shore and cruiser and Wellington experienced one of the brightest weeks, socially, it has had for some time.

The Curse of Radio

(Continued from page 13.)

The broadcasting stations have to please all tastes, but there is nothing to stop listeners turning-off if the music is unsuited to their needs. In many cases it is pure laziness if the listener has to put up with an item he or she does not want to hear.

The art of good listening is the art of knowing what not to listen to. A radio set should be used like a gramophone. Nobody would dream of playing a gramophone all day, record after record, just picking them out at random. The ideal listener will study the programmes and tune in only to those musical numbers or talks in which he or she is interested.

This requires a certain amount of regular concentration and trouble, but it is well worth while, and it is the only way to get real value out of a wireless set.

If a census could be taken it would probably be found that 75 per cent. of listeners never study programmes regularly, and that they just tune in to one or two stations and hope for the best.

There is another variety of listening, however, which comes in a different class. It might be called "background listening," because the music is used to serve as a background to conversation, reading or work, and the people do not set out to listen.

In such cases the set should always be tuned down low. There is nothing more irritating than trying to talk against a radio set, and, of course, a broadcast talk or a radio play is hardly a suitable background to conversation. The question of how high in volume a set should be tuned must cause tears, and ill-feeling, in many households.

As a general rule the set should always be tuned below the volume of the human voice. Recently a man in Paris shot dead his next-door neighbour because he had been driven nearly mad by the blaring of his wireless. The public nuisance of the too-loudly-tuned wireless is one of the worst features of the abuse of this invention, and it is high time some serious steps were taken to make it an offence.

While criticising listeners it would be foolish to pretend that the broadcasting end of radio was without fault. Broadcasting is still very much in its infancy, but it is improving every year in various ways.

But even at its worst, and with all the rough edges which accompany a new venture, wireless is something for which everyone who can afford a set should be grateful. Its many advantages, if they are properly sought after and cultivated, easily outweigh its disadvantages and irritations.

PLACE large slices of bologna sausage or minced ham (1-3 inch thick and skin unbroken) in a skillet with a little butter. Let them cook slowly and they will form cups. Turn them over and brown on the bottom side. Filled with scrambled eggs, spaghetti or any filling desired, they make an attractive luncheon dish. Serve on a platter garnished with buttered toast and individual mounds of vegetable.



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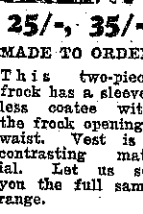
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