

## AUCKLAND NOTES.

## D.C. 'Whistle' In Auckland Suburbs

Trouble Will Be Investigated By Inspector — Big Demand Expected For All-wave Sets — Aunt Daisy's Tour — Dangerous Aerials.

FOR some time past Auckland radio dealers have complained of the difficulty in selling direct current radio sets in several of the suburbs because of a high-pitched whistle emitted as soon as the sets are turned on. It is found that loud passages of music drown the noise, but during minimum modulation the unpleasant whistle is plainly heard. It is claimed that all makes of sets of this type give the same result, and that the trouble is interference from the power station. Parnell, Remuera, a small part of Epsom, Newmarket and Ponsonby are the suburbs most affected. On referring the matter to the radio inspector I was informed that trouble of such a nature would be investigated on receipt of written complaint from the radio dealer or prospective purchaser. Questioned regarding the likely cause of the whistling, the inspector stated that it could arise from a number of causes such as generator ripples, insufficient filtering in sets, direct induction and improper earthing.

WIDE awake and progressive radio dealers, anticipating a big demand for all-wave sets this winter, have already booked heavy orders. When hundreds more of these sets are put on the market there is bound to be an in-

crease in complaints made to the P. and T. Department concerning interference by ignition systems on buses and cars. The remedy, according to one expert, is to install resistances in the spark plug leads, a remedy which is inexpensive to fit to these vehicles.

AN eminent English pianiste, Mrs. Hester Stansfeld Prior, is to be featured in a recital from 1YA on Friday next at 8.30 p.m. Mrs. Prior is a daughter of Robert Sloman, Doctor of Music at Oxford, and she is spending some time in New Zealand after a visit to Melbourne for the centenary celebrations.

THE general manager of the Broadcasting Board, Mr. E. C. Hands, made a hurried business trip to Auckland last week. Arriving on the Limited express on Wednesday morning, he went straight to 1YA studio building, where he transacted much business in connection with the new station, and caught the Limited express on his return to Wellington the same evening. He also found time to personally conduct several local M.P.'s, members of the Auckland City Council and of the Auckland Chamber of Commerce over the new building.

AUNT DAISY (Mrs. Daisy Basham), of 12B fame, was given a big farewell by many of her admirers last week, when she sailed from Auckland by the Aorangi on a tour of the United States and Canada where she intends to improve her radio technique by visiting all the important broadcasting stations. She is paying her own expenses. She is bound to return full of new ideas and listeners should reap the benefit.

TOGETHER with the usual reminder giving notice of the expiry of their radio licenses, listeners are receiving from the district radio inspector or engineer an intimation warning them of the danger of erecting wireless aerials in dangerous positions. This action, no doubt, has been prompted by the numerous fatalities which have occurred in the Dominion through want of care when erecting aerials.

A NEW band of amateur players, the Gloucester Players, has been formed in Auckland, and go on the air at 1YA for the first time on Thursday next, at 8.12, when "A Rose in Bloom" is to be presented from the studio. This was written by the well-known novelist, Isabel Peacocke (Mrs. Isabel Cluett), who is now residing in Auckland, and will also produce the play.

ALL the portable trucks owned by the Auckland Transport Board have now been fitted with filters, and listeners should be afforded considerable relief. The question of filtering all tramcars owned by the board is to be fully discussed by the board at its next meeting, when the results of the six months experiments carried out with three tramcars will be made public.

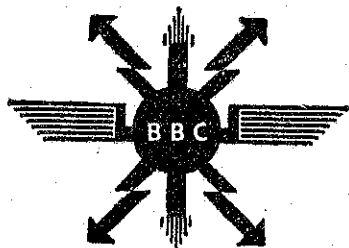
KIT sets are rapidly falling away from favour in Auckland. No doubt the cheap and efficient modern sets housed in attractive cabinets which compare with the price of kit sets is responsible. There is no longer any monetary advantage to be gained by a person making up his own set. However, there are always a number of experimenters who would rather assemble their own.

VERY few complaints are now received by the officials at 1YA regarding spreading by the new transmitter, which is now working really well and giving good performance. It is now generally recognised that in many cases the trouble is inside listeners' sets, as was pointed out in this page last week.

MR. AL. HYNES, of Clarendville, New Foundland, claims that his aerial of 2000 feet long is the longest in the world; the open end is tied to the top of a mountain; he is said to receive very well on it.

## "Great Britain's £200,000 Radio Disappointment."

### *Dissatisfaction with Droitwich*



DESCRIBED by Collie Knox in the "Daily Mail" as "Great Britain's £200,000 radio disappointment," the new high-powered transmitter at Droitwich seems to be putting furrows in the brows of B.B.C. officials. The hope was expressed by the chief engineer of the B.B.C. that when Droitwich came on the air "British

listeners would get radio reception of a purity and general quality ahead of anything they have known before." But this does not seem to have been borne out in practice. There are parts of the West-country where Droitwich can be heard only with difficulty and in both North Wales and Cornwall the station is fading badly day and night. Long-wave reception from Droitwich, in addition to fading, is also subject to electrical interference about four times as strong as on the medium waves.