

AUCKLAND NOTES.

Big Reasons For Small Figures

Distressing Electrical Interference and D.C. Keep Down Numbers —
Generous Hospital Provisions — Public Address Systems —
Browsing Round the B Stations.

RETURNS of radio licenses for the four centres, which appeared in last week's "Record," disclose that Wellington has several thousand more listeners than Auckland, in spite of the latter's large population. The increase of 1YA's power to double that of 2YA, with the attendant increased coverage has not affected Wellington's lead in licenses. The reasons for this are well known to Auckland listeners, and are (a) listening anywhere within an eighth of a mile of Auckland's tram rails is practically impossible because the frightful interference of tram cars, although inexpensive and effective remedies have been demonstrated by post office experts, continues to ruin reception for thousands of listeners, and is preventing the sales of hundreds of new sets; (b) large areas in Auckland are supplied with d.c. power, and the consequent wide use of d.c. appliances creates a noise level which also has an adverse effect on Auckland license figures. It is high time that the Interference Regulations gazetted last October were enforced and this unwarranted and unreasonable interference with the amusement and entertainment of the listening public, not to mention the livelihood of thousands of people engaged in the radio trade, was suppressed. Wellington is not troubled with d.c. areas, and the tram cars there do not seriously affect reception.

THE Auckland Hospital Board is to be congratulated on its decision to modernise and extend its radio installation in order to make available high fidelity radio reception to bed-weary patients. This is just another sign of the board's desires to do all it possibly can to ease the lot of the sufferers in the largest hospital in New Zealand. The contract for the work has been let to Johns Limited, of Auckland, and it calls for the supply of 80 new listening points, complete with jacks, volume controls, impedance matching devices and headphones. The existing service of 72 head receivers is to be modernised. The radio and audio amplifier is to be replaced by a new one of the high fidelity type and with very much greater power monitoring. Precautions are being taken to prevent interference from the large number of electro-medical devices in use in the hospital. The special aerial system recently developed by the firm will also be installed, this being in accordance with the conditions of the contract.

THAT the Auckland public is becoming more and more radio minded is proved by the number of occasions during the past six months on which public address systems, with microphones and amplifiers, have been used at important public functions. The Duke of Gloucester, at the big children's rally in the Domain, Lord Bledisloe's farewell address in the Town Hall, the primary and secondary schools' sports,

and the welcome to Viscount Galway, and many other big functions, have all been broadcast to listeners by means of this modern adjunct of wireless. The open-air performance by the Grenadier Guards Band early in the year in Carlaw Park was made available to the thousands who attended by this means. So good was the reproduction and so skilfully were the microphones and loudspeakers concealed that only those "in the know" were aware that they were not listening to the band direct, but to a large number of amplifiers.

NOW that the selection of the All Blacks to tour England is imminent, Rugby enthusiasts generally should be interested in the series of football talks every Thursday evening from station 1ZB. "Griffo," the radio sporting reporter, is completely covering the ground of public interest by taking as his subject on sequential evenings "Selecting a Rugby Touring Team," "Old and New Methods of Play as Peculiar to New Zealand," and "Players—Their Chances of Selection," and "The Opposition, Strength in England." This week the first talk was given and caused much interest.

THE new Broadcasting Board is now on the job and Auckland B station proprietors have already been asked to supply full details of programmes and programme arrangements. The board is certainly not letting the grass grow under its feet. Listeners will probably soon know whether the Postmaster-General had his tongue in his cheek when he said the board would not interfere with B station programmes. The fact that all B station licenses were promptly renewed on presentation by the P. and T. Department points to his remarks being made in all sincerity.

AS a result of a paragraph appearing in a recent issue of the "Radio Record" suggesting the possibility of such a broadcast, there has been considerable inquiry from 1ZB as to when it is proposed to relay a performance of the Clem Dawe Revue Company from His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland. Definite arrangements are practically concluded for this broadcast to take place on Wednesday evening, May 8. With their usual ready courtesy, the members of this popular company have consented to provide this broadcast for those afflicted individuals who have not been able, through bodily ailment or otherwise, to personally be present at one of the shows.

STATION 1ZJ, Auckland, with an output of 68 watts, and broadcasting on a frequency of 1310 kilocycles, is evidently a most efficient B station, judging by the numerous reports received from various parts of the Dominion congratulating the proprietors on the quality of the reception. This station broadcasts nothing but records loaned by its supporters. An endeavour is made to present items of a popular

nature, although a proportion of classical recordings is included for the many who enjoy this type of entertainment. Using an aerial of the cage-counterpoise type, 1ZJ broadcasts on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 (noon) to 2 p.m., and on Wednesdays between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. It is proposed during the winter months, as often as possible, to give a dance session between 7.30 and 9.30 p.m. on Wednesdays in order to cater for the undoubted demands for this class of entertainment.

IT is just twelve months since "Uncle Scrim" paid his short visit to Sydney in connection with the possibility of developing the Friendly Road in Australia. Those who were interested in the matter at the time will be aware that owing to the delicate nature of the task the interested parties decided that they would not be able to do anything until "Uncle Scrim" was able to devote a certain amount of time to the development and oversight of a completely established Australian service. Requests are continually being received for a further visit by "Uncle Scrim," with a view to early progression of the matter, and it is quite possible that the near future may see some definite move in this regard.

LOCALLY, the big King's Jubilee event will be the combined studio programme at 1YA on Thursday, May 9, by the Auckland Choral Society, Auckland Male Voice Choir and the Bohemian Orchestra. There will be more than 200 performers in the main studio. Opening with Elgar's arrangement of "God Save the King," the items will include "Land of Hope and Glory" and Sullivan's "Te Deum."

EVANGELINE BOOTH, the new General of the Salvation Army, has caused quite a sensation in Australia, where she has been received everywhere with enthusiasm. Due in New Zealand next week, she is to be accorded a big reception in the Auckland Town Hall on Friday, May 3. Listeners, especially those in the country, who will not have an opportunity of personally hearing this outstanding lady, will be glad to know that the addresses of welcome and also of Evangeline Booth, will be broadcast by 1YA.

A CIVIC complimentary evening will be tendered to his Grace Archbishop Averil, Primate of New Zealand, in the Town Hall next Tuesday, at 8 p.m., in order to mark the silver jubilee of his elevation to the Episcopate. The proceedings will be broadcast on relay by 1YA.

FOR Randolph is brave and Randolph has youth,
And is boldly determined to tell you the truth.
Pitt was Premier at twenty-three,
Why not he?

—Lady Houston, D.B.E.