

OTAGO NOTES.

Listener's Poser for New Member

Misguided Idea of the Functions of Broadcasting Board—More About the New Station — Opening in November?—First-class Reception on Shortwave From Daventry

WHILE it is a compliment to the members, the implicit faith that some listeners have in the powers of the gentlemen who control broadcasting is at times amazing. From a lady listener, one of the members of the New Zealand Broadcasting Board has received a strange request, with which it is quite impossible for him or anyone else to comply. This correspondent wrote to the effect that she thoroughly enjoyed the Japanese houseboy interludes that were heard from time to time, but she thought the actual dialogue in each instalment was rather short, while the introductory and final music to each was perhaps on the long side. Others might agree with her up to this point, but surely very few would be so unacquainted with the affairs of broadcasting to support her in the request that followed this introductory note. Could not the member, she asked, use his influence to have the unwanted music deleted from the broadcasts, so that all the humorous episodes could be presented as one long story on one night? Just how the board member is going to answer that request it is hard to say, but that is a matter that concerns himself, and so the story so far as readers are concerned ends here.

A MOST interesting and important announcement to listeners appeared in the Dunedin papers a short time ago. Of course, this was a very definite statement concerning the new station to be erected on the Otago Peninsula, and listeners were no end bucked to learn that after weeks of waiting something was about to start. As everyone knows now, the buildings that will be required to house the new plant, along with the accommodation necessary for the resident staff of engineers and operators, are to be erected by a local firm of contractors. At the time of writing there is not very much evident sign that the contractors are on the job, to use a colloquialism, but nevertheless they have begun. In order to facilitate the carriage of heavy loads from the main road to the site, it has been necessary to alter the grade of the by-road, and here was a difficulty that had to be overcome before the actual building operations could start. It was also necessary to have a pump handy to draw water from a near-by stream for mixing purposes, and this also had to be accomplished before the buildings could begin to take shape.

THE contract time for erecting the buildings has been stated as fourteen weeks, which means that it will not be before the latter end of July that the A.W.A. engineers will be on the spot ready to assemble the transmitting apparatus as the components come to hand. Going by the time it took to build the Auckland plant, the

Dunedin station will probably be ready for testing about the middle of September, when the daily transmissions will come to listeners via the new equipment, the present plant being kept in the meantime in case of emergency. The normal period for testing and adjusting is only a few weeks, so that listeners might watch for the official opening of the new station about the beginning of November.

SO far as 4YA was concerned, Miss Jean Batten's speech from the Empire shortwave station at Daventry the other evening was most successful. Reception of the English station was very nearly perfect at the Dunedin receiving base, so that the transmission that was passed along the line to the local station was not marred by any of the usual imperfections associated with long-distance work. Every word uttered by the aviatrix was clearly reproduced, and static and surging were practically nil. Dunedin is fortunate in having such a fine receiving area so close to the town, and the officials of the station are to be congratulated on making

use of it. The man behind the "works" at Halfway Bush is also to be thanked for his efforts on behalf of the majority of local listeners.

WRESTLING in Dunedin is to commence any time now. The season has already started in Auckland, and the first bout description for broadcasting was listened to in the south. It is expected that the usual arrangements will be made locally for broadcasting the "grunt and grapple" conflicts that are staged in Dunedin, as it has been the practice in the past to entertain listeners on a Saturday night with descriptions of the main bouts. No doubt, the local association realises that broadcasting has been the means of giving a big boost to wrestling, and it is believed that as a result of these broadcasts many listeners have been so inspired to see the matmen in action that they have joined the crowds in the Town Hall at subsequent contests. Others there are who stay at home for their wrestling, but these are the persons who, through force of circumstances cannot get to the Town Hall, and it is for their entertainment that the broadcasts are principally designed.

Choral Treat For Wellington

Wanganui Performers In Demonstration Concert

NEXT Saturday a demonstration concert under the auspices of the National Eisteddfod, in Wellington, the Wanganui Combined Choir and the Wanganui Male Voice Choir, will be well to the front in performance. Several names well known in New Zealand singing are listed with these performers in this outstanding group of vocalists. 2YA will relay the concert.

Mr. F. Wentworth Slater, A.R.C.O. of Wanganui, who is to be the vocal adjudicator at this Eisteddfod, was formerly famous in Wales as a conductor of choirs entering for the Grand National Eisteddfod of Wales. He is to conduct the Wanganui singers in concerted items, and the performance should be effectively stamped with the mark of Mr. Slater's genius in this direction.

Mr. Arthur Jordan, the English tenor, when in the Dominion some years ago, after hearing this choir, said that it was easily the finest choir he had heard in Australasia, and quite equal to any he had heard in England, so Wellington's audience and listeners may expect something well out of the ordinary.

The assisting artists are: Mrs. Stella Wills, one of the finest contraltos in

the Dominion, and Mr. C. Franklin-Browne, the tenor competitor who distinguished himself at the Wellington Competitions Society Festival last year. Both are pupils of Mr. Slater.

The choir will number approximately 150, and are expected to arrive in Wellington at approximately 6.20 p.m. on Saturday.

A feature which has always distinguished the choir is that all its work is done from memory and the tonal purity of the lyric soprano section is remarkable.

The following items are to be performed by the choir and soloists:—

Mixed Choir Items.—"How Sleep the Brave," Dr. Cooke; "The Night is Calm and Cloudless" ("Golden Legend"), Sullivan; "Revel of the Leaves," Venzie; "Moonlight," Fanning; "Hallelujah Chorus" ("Messiah"), Handel; Hymn Tune, "Aberystwith" to "Jesu, Lover"—specially arranged and harmonised for this concert by the conductor; "The Lee Shore," Coleridge-Taylor; "Lullaby," composed and harmonised by the conductor.

Male Choir Items.—"God Defend New Zealand," Woods (harmonised and arranged by the conductor); "Hymn Before Action," Walford Davies; "Lull Me to Sleep," Kidner; "Deep River," Burleigh; "Border Ballad," Maumder; "Shadow March," Botheroe; "Comrades in Arms," Adolphe Adam.

Soloist's Items.—Mrs. Stella Wills, "To the Forest," Tchaikovsky; Mr. C. Franklin-Browne, "Sands o' Dee," Clay; Male Quartet, "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia," harmonised and arranged by the conductor.