

OTAGO NOTES.

“Much Ado—” in Dunedin Radio

Broadcasting Faults Simply Explained—Tribute to Mr. A. E. Clarke, of 4ZW, Whose Death Has Occurred—Invasion of Talent—Lionello Cecil and Paul Vinogradoff.

IN the words of Shakespeare, there has been “much ado about nothing” in Dunedin radio. The first trouble started when an indignant listener wrote in connection with the reproduction in the Town Hall of the broadcast of the special service in St. Paul's Cathedral in connection with the King's Silver Jubilee. A large congregation which could not gain seating accommodation in the Cathedral was catered for by a local man who provided the reproducing plant in the Town Hall. This apparatus was used to pick up the broadcast of the service, but it seems that something went wrong with the receiving equipment, or rather, two stations were received at the one time, with the result that a background of music was furnished. The service was broadcast by 4YO, and apparently the background accompaniment came from some other source.

The station authorities were in no way responsible for the reception in the Town Hall, and could not prevent music from another station becoming mixed with the service. It was an unfortunate happening, but in the circumstances no blame is attachable to either of the Y stations.

ANOTHER matter that caused some concern amongst listeners was the fact that 4YA did not rebroadcast the topical talk by Mr. Philip Thornton from the Empire station as advertised. It was argued that the other three YA stations put the talk through, and if 4YA could not receive the shortwave station direct, why did it not rebroadcast one of the other New Zealand stations? Here again the explanation is simple. The topical talk took place before the hour supplied to 4YA, and as the receiving base is some distance from town and the staff on duty, it has to be operated in accordance with a pre-arranged timetable. It is obvious then, that a speech which has been unfortunately missed from an overseas station cannot be rebroadcast from any other New Zealand station. The three northern stations were enabled to receive the talk in question as their receivers are situated close to the transmitting gear, and when word was received that the talk was about to start it was only a matter of seconds before the change-over was made. It is, therefore, quite plain that as the 4YA operators are well removed from the receiving base, an item given ahead of schedule cannot be dealt with. Provision will be made to meet this difficulty when the new station is erected.

IT was with regret that the listening public received the news of the sudden death of Mr. A. E. Clarke, owner of station 4ZW. Mr. Clarke was well known as the chief announcer at this station, which had been giving regular programmes to listeners for close on four years, the first official broadcast by 4ZW taking place on June 13, 1931. Mr. Clarke visualised a great future for radio, and was eager at all

times to assist in the advancement of broadcasting. His station was one of the first in Dunedin to begin regular breakfast sessions, and latterly the station was heard broadcasting a programme of music every night. Even when the Government stopped the B stations from receiving payment for programmes, Mr. Clarke did not lose faith, but struggled on at great personal expense, confident that in the near future financial assistance would relieve the situation. The station provided many enjoyable programmes for listeners, and its sudden termination of activities has caused some concern in the district.

QUITE an army of distinguished performers is about to invade the 4YA studios. On May 16 Mr. Walter

Kingsley, the English baritone, is to make his local microphone bow. Mr. Kingsley has already been heard in the north, and his items have been much enjoyed by southern listeners, so that an appearance at the local station will be an event of more than ordinary interest. On the same night the Russian pianist, Mr. Paul Vinogradoff, who is well and favourably known in the Otago district, will again be at the keyboard, while on the following night the champion cornetist, Mr. John Robertson, is to play his way into the good books of listeners. Mr. Lionello Cecil will also be back in town about this time, as he is to appear with the other three mentioned at the big concert next Saturday in the Town Hall.

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