

AUCKLAND NOTES.

War News Hurries Professor's Talk

Hostilities Cause Change in Prof. Rutherford's Schedule—Interference Affects Sales — Particularly Good Evening's Entertainment — Mr. Mulgan's Duties — Better B.B.C. Reception.

AN item not scheduled, broadcast from 1YA on Sunday night, was the talk by Professor James Rutherford, professor of history at Auckland University College. In his talk he dealt fully and interestingly with the trouble which has ended in war between Italy and Abyssinia. Originally Professor Rutherford was engaged to do a series of talks on "The Partition of Africa," the first to be given on Thursday night next from 1YA, but when hostilities started last Friday, it was decided that he should speak on Sunday night. Listeners must appreciate such talks from one with the knowledge and experience possessed by the professor, which assist them to more clearly understand the position of affairs between the nations involved.

RADIO listening conditions in Auckland city are so bad that one wonders how radio dealers manage to do any business. I was recently given a demonstration of what resulted when a modern set was tuned in to any station except 1YA. A deafening roar, punctuated with frightful crashes was produced. I was apprehensive lest the receiver should fall to pieces, but the dealer seemed used to it. Questioned regarding the interference regulations, the dealer explained that these concerned only interference with 1YA, and as customers invariably wanted demonstrations of stations other than 1YA, city demonstrations were useless for the purpose, and these had to be arranged well away from trams and direct current motors. Of course, these conditions do not apply to all parts, but they do to a greater portion of the city.

FROM 6 to 11 p.m. on Monday of last week, 1YA presented a programme that was of astonishing merit. Restful dinner music and melodious, practically every item being popular. The humorous items that followed were well up to standard, while Professor R. M. Algie's talk on "The Law as the Citizen Sees It" was very entertaining and also instructive. The professor has an ideal broadcast technique—already favourably commented upon recently.

ON Friday last, Mr. Alan E. Mulgan, the literary editor of the "Auckland Star," who has just joined the staff of the Broadcasting Board as supervisor of talks, was presented by the managing editor, Mr. F. A. Clarke, on behalf of the literary staff, with a solid leather suitcase, in recognition of his service of over 30 years with the well-known Auckland jour-

nal. Mr. Mulgan now has an office in 1YA's studio building, where he has been busy for the past week or so on the board's business. He is to spend some weeks here, after which he will visit all the other centres before finally taking up his duties at the Board's headquarters in Wellington.

ON several nights last week reception of the Empire shortwave station was very good, there being an almost complete absence of fading, the strength of the field being consistently high. Unfortunately it was noticed on more than one night that the whole programme was spoiled by morse interference from station KES, Bolinas, California, calling and working morse station PLK, Malabar Radio, Dutch East Indies.

AT a recent political meeting in the Town Hall, no fewer than eight huge loudspeakers were needed to provide a means of reaching all sections of a large crowd, both in and outside the hall. This is probably the biggest public address system ever installed in New Zealand.

THE background noise to 1YA's transmissions, so noticeable of late, was conspicuous by its absence on several nights last week. Apparently the officials concerned are well on the job and a permanent improvement may soon be looked for. It has been noted

also that the noise which has consisted of a mushy, scratchy sort of background, has now become more in the nature of a rhythmic hum such as one hears from large street transformers. This is not nearly as objectionable as the previous noise.

1YX's programme on Wednesday of last week was most acceptable and also well arranged. The band programme, "A Day in the Army," was composed of popular numbers, which, although frequently heard over the air, do not seem to lose their appeal. The transmissions from 1YX are of high quality and this materially increases the enjoyment of the programmes broadcast.

IT is reliably reported that one of the candidates for Parliamentary honours standing for an Auckland city seat, is making a particular plank in his platform the interests of listeners. This particular candidate has been in the forefront of every movement in the interests of radio listeners.

RECEPTION of 1ZM's programme, usually of good quality, well balanced and of popular appeal, has recently been marred by an annoying whistle, mentioned in these columns in the past. From observations made by a competent technician, it is considered that the trouble is due to interaction between the transmissions of 1ZM and 1ZB. Station 1ZM pays the Post Office a large sum each year in toll fees—at least, is responsible for the large amounts that are paid—and for this reason alone it might reasonably be expected that the Department would enforce the radio regulations and thus eliminate a source of great annoyance to listeners in the Auckland area.

A MOST interesting and altogether delightful 20-minute talk on "The Theatre as it is To-day," was given by Mr. Cyril Ritchard, the principal and producer of "Roberta," from 1ZB last week. Listeners were no doubt surprised to hear that if one wished to book a seat for any of the big shows in New York or London, it would have to be done three months ahead. Mr. Ritchard's survey of the world tour made on behalf of J. C. Williamson Ltd., last year was quite informative. For instance, there were, he said, 32 theatres in New York and 24 in London. These were in addition to the picture theatres. The well-known musical comedy star was followed by his wife, Miss Madge Elliott, who addressed a few words to listeners



"If you will insist on getting those foreign stations I shall leave you."