

Notes of Topical Interest

(By "Switch.")

THERE has been much criticism in Australia of the broadcast service of the new Australian Broadcasting Co., but the proof of merit may be gauged by the listeners' barometer, the license statistics. A loss of 311 licenses compared with the previous month's total—the first decline since the introduction of broadcasting—is shown by the Commonwealth's total of 310,002 registered wireless listeners for December. In previous returns, different State totals have fluctuated, but there has always been a steady improvement. Now, this is a definite sign which may be interpreted in various ways, but "Switch" reads in it a sure indication that broadcast listening in Australia is not increasing in popularity as it should do, for in every country where there is anything like a satisfactory service there is always a marked increase in the number of listeners from month to month. No one, either, could seriously contend that Australia has reached "saturation point."

A WELLINGTON trader informed "Switch" recently that he had lately sold a couple of multi-valve all-electric receiving sets for operation without an outdoor aerial. The buyers had listened-in at various homes, and they stated that they were quite satisfied to receive only 2YA, Wellington. Static and extraneous noises, they argued, only spoil the truly musical effect of "outside" stations. Besides this, the musical programmes, children's sessions, lecturettes, news service from 2YA was all that was desirable.

ON a recent night when 2FC, Sydney, was broadcasting part of Maurice Chevalier's talkie, "The Love Parade," from the Prince Edward Theatre, Sydney, Amalgamated Wireless also transmitted the programme through the short wave high-powered station 2ME. Before the programme had been on the air many minutes a radio message was received through Amalgamated Wireless that Commander Byrd and his companions in the Antarctic were listening. After the interval, Mr. Albert Cazabon informed the audience that Commander Byrd and party were among the audience. He called for cheers for the explorers, which were warmly given, and the audience sang: "For they are jolly good fellows." All this was duly broadcast back to Antarctica. Later in the evening Commander Byrd radioed to Amalgamated Wireless that the programme had been greatly enjoyed. "The Love Parade," he stated, was the first sound picture to reach the Antarctic.

ONE should be thankful that we New Zealanders do not have to submit to propaganda, especially political, from our broadcast stations. The Russian Soviet is installing a 75,000-watt broadcast station in the immediate neighbourhood of Moscow for the main purpose of broadcasting Soviet propaganda! One can imagine the tumult of protests if such a station were located near one of the New Zealand centres. Very many licenses would be allowed to lapse as a result of such an outrage.

THREE of the "B" class New Zealand stations have been heard by Wellington listeners lately. They are 2ZM, Gisborne, 4ZI, Dunedin, and the Invercargill station. Although these stations were at times fairly loud they suffered from fading, which caused a break in the continuity of reception. Fading will always be an obstacle to low-pressure transmission until some revolutionary invention is made. In New Zealand fading is most pronounced in vast areas, due to topographical and other influences more obscure.

"BLIND spots" in broadcast reception are not by any means rare in New Zealand, as in other countries, and they are one of the difficulties confronting the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand. "Switch" knows of definite though restricted areas in the Dominion in which even good old faithful 2YA, Wellington, is practically unreceivable. There are other areas in which distortion is almost continuous. The remarkable feature of the phenomenon is that in distances more remote than these unfavourable areas broadcast reception of the same station is well-nigh perfect. Tests by experts have established these facts, and there is evidence of similar conditions in other countries.

THE wedding of "Aunt Gwen" will remain long in the memory of thousands of listeners, both young and old. At the pro-Cathedral fully a thousand juveniles assembled to see "Aunt Gwen" in her becoming bridal array. The actual ceremony came over the air with astounding clarity, and the words solemnly spoken by Archdeacon Innes-Jones, and the replies by the bride and bridegroom were distinctly heard through many a loud-speaker and pair of headphones. It was all so wonderful, and listeners felt it a privilege to hear the first broadcast in New Zealand, of an actual marriage ceremony. Then there were the speeches at the reception given afterwards at the home of the bride's parents, and not the least effective of these was that of Mr. J. Davies, the genial director of 2YA, Wellington.

AN Australian exchange says:—"South Australian listeners are already enjoying the advantage of having their station 5CL, Adelaide, linked up with the National Broadcasting services. The system of relays has been extended, and every effort is being made to provide attractive programmes. The A.B.C. has now announced its policy regarding the Queensland station 4QG, Brisbane, which it takes over from the State Government at the end of January. The hours of transmission are to be extended considerably. There will be new features which should be appreciated by listeners. Descriptions of horse races, whilst running, will be resumed under the new management, and generally Queensland will have a service at least equal to those provided in the southern States. The fact that there has been a steady decrease in the number of licenses in the north is the best evidence that a change of control was desirable." In New Zealand the remarkable continuous increase in the number of listeners from month to month is undeniable proof of the merit of the Dominion broadcasting service.

In Lighter Vein

Wasting His Time.

Maid: "The master do write a lot, mum."

Mistress: "Yes, Susan, he's writing a book."

Maid: "Lor, mum, fancy 'im going to all that trouble when 'e could buy one for sixpence."

Not Quite a Cellar Full.

The banker asked a man who was trying to borrow money: "How much have you in the way of immediate liquid assets?"

To which his American cousin cautiously replied, "About a case and a half."

A Curious Song.

A dear old lady had just returned from her first visit to France.

"And what impressed you most?" she was asked.

"Well," she replied, after a moment or two's thought, "I think it was the French pheasants singing the mayonnaise."

Repentance.

"The best way to cut a person," says a writer, "is to give the impression that you are unaware of his existence." Many husbands are wishing they could cut the lawn like that.

Profitable Advertising.

Iron and brass bedsteads; 5/- down, rust weekly.—Advt. in a Daily Paper. There are other methods of selling iron bedsteads.

Exactly.

Housewife: "Now, did you notice that pile of wood in the yard?"

Swagger: "Yes'm, I seen it."

Housewife: "You should mind your grammar. You mean you saw it."

Swagger: "No'm. You saw me see it, but you ain't seen me saw it."

Quite Certain.

The solicitor was trying to be funny at the expense of an old countryman.

"But wise men doubt things; only fools are sure of their case," said the man of law.

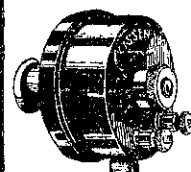
"Are you sure of that?" queried the witness.

"Yes, absolutely," was the reply.

A Dark Story.

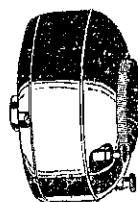
It was pitch dark in the room. He struck a watch to see what time it was.—Short Story.

It is very doubtful if the watch would tell him after such rough treatment.



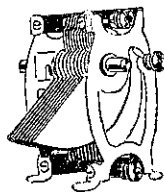
LISSEN LOUD SPEAKER UNIT. For building any style of loud speaker.

Price 17/6 each



LISSEN SUPER LOUD SPEAKER UNIT. Fitted with control for fine adjustment.

Price £1/5/-



LISSEN VARIABLE CONDENSER. .0001, .0002, .0003.

Price 3/- each.

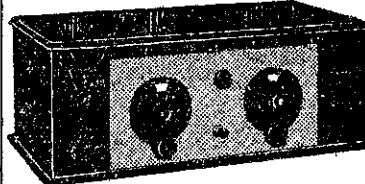
.00035 Price 3/6 each.

.0005 Price 9/- each.

... They Lead the World ...

Lissen radio parts have a name, famous in radio circles all over the world—a name that stands for better value, better parts, and better radio.

So when you're wanting radio parts just ask for Lissen.



Lissen Screen Grid Three

A kit set for long and short-wave reception, with a splendid range and volume. Very compact and easily constructed. Price £6

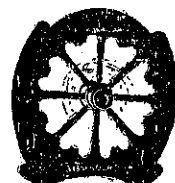
Short-Wave Coils and Accessories Extra.



Your radio dealer can supply Lissen Parts . . or send direct to

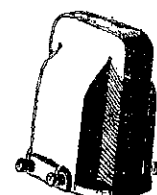
ABEL SMEETON Ltd.

Customs Street East, AUCKLAND.



LISSEN REVOLUTIONISING CONE SPEAKER. Fills in the missing notes.

Price 23/6/-



LISSEN SUPER TRANSFORMER

Price £1/5/-

LISSEN L.F. TRANSFORMERS

Price 14/6



LISSEN RADIO TRANSFORMER. External and Internal Wiring.

Price 24/6