

# Notes of the Week

(By "Switch.")

"SWITCH" listened with interest to the recent experiments in connection with the re-broadcasting of 2YA, Wellington, by the short-wave station 2ME, Sydney, for rebroadcasting by W2XAF, Schenectady, New York. Without a doubt 2ME, Sydney, spans the 1250 miles to Wellington in fine style. Despite fierce static every word spoken by Mr. Farmer, at 2ME, was loudly audible in Wellington, and was evidently well received by W2XAF, Schenectady. The direct distance between Wellington and Schenectady is 8000 miles, and the distance between Sydney and Schenectady is also about 8000 miles. By the way, some folk appear to think that Schenectady is a suburb of New York City; as a matter of fact, it is 142 miles distant. Schenectady, however, is in the State of New York.

**LIEUTENANT F. H. SCHNELL**, who visited Wellington a few years ago with the American fleet as a wireless operator, and who is the designer of the famous "Schnell" short-wave receiving circuit, is now an instructor and chief of the Radio and Television Institute, Chicago. The Institute trains men at their homes for technical ability in radio, television and talking picture work. Schnell has had twenty years of radio experience, and was the first to establish two-way amateur communication between America and Europe. He was also formerly traffic manager of the American Radio Relay League. While in Wellington Schnell made many friends.

THE average listener will agree that an announcer who possesses a baritone voice has a natural advantage over one who has a tenor voice. The baritone voice carries better than others. There are, of course, other valuable attributes which an announcer should possess, and a good tenor announcer is incomparably better than a baritone who has faulty diction, or mumbles his words. The National Broadcasting Company of America employs 22 male announcers of whom nine are baritone vocalists.

IN a certain New Zealand hospital in which broadcast receiving equipment is installed a certain male patient had his own independent aerial and a multi-wave receiving set with which he was able to tune in broadcasting from distant lands. He had a switch which enabled him to pass on the music to the headphones throughout the hospital installation. In the still hours of the night many a patient enjoyed music from the Australian stations and from foreign short-wave stations. When the said radio patient recovered sufficiently to leave the hospital he was sorely missed by several of the others.

MANY favourable comments have been heard by "Switch" regarding the lecture from 2YA, Wellington, by Mr. Walter F. Dudson, on "Stomach Disorders." Mr. Dudson handled his subject with ability and made clear to listeners many facts which are invaluable when known to the layman. His reference to the cause of appendicitis and precautionary measures which should be adopted proved a revelation to many.

"Switch" compliments Mr. Dudson on his masterly lecture.

THE late re-broadcast of the opening of the Naval Conference in London, which was so creditably accomplished by 2YA, Wellington, was not paralleled in Australia. On the other hand, the attempt in Australia is described by the Press as a fiasco. The Melbourne "Listener-In" says:—"To provide the necessary signal strength above the noise level at great distance, a short-wave station must be operated with plenty of power, and the comparatively low power used by G5SW—the station of the B.B.C.—coupled with the wavelength of 25.53 metres on that particular night, was totally inefficient. It is surely the duty of the British Broadcasting Corporation to provide an efficient service for such important events, just as much as it is the duty of all national broadcasting services to relay the ceremony."

**WALTER WHYTE**, who toured New Zealand a number of times in the good old days of the stage as leading tenor in operatic productions, and who subsequently appeared in vaudeville, is frequently heard from 3LO, Melbourne, as a studio vocalist. Mr. Whyte is also a pianist of outstanding ability.

ON Thursday night, February 13, "Wizard" Smith, the record-breaking motorist, was interviewed before the microphone in the studio of 2FC, Sydney, concerning his record-breaking performances on the Ninety-mile beach north of Auckland. "Switch" received the interview without missing a word. The "Wizard" described the sensation of motoring at a speed of over 240 miles an hour. He mentioned the danger of hitting the numerous seagulls which were on the beach. On his second attempt on the mile record a shower fell, and the raindrops struck him with the force of small stones. He is having a 2000 horse-power car built with which he expects to travel at 300 miles an hour, and will again go to the Ninety-mile beach for the attempt.

THE latest innovation by 2YA, Wellington, the broadcasting of time signals at 4 p.m., 4.1 p.m., 4.2 p.m., 7 p.m., 7.1 p.m., and 7.2 p.m. is an up-to-date move which should be appreciated by thousands of listeners who desire exact accuracy of time. The system of sending out time signals has been in operation for some time at some of the Australian broadcast stations, including 3LO, Melbourne, and 4QG, Brisbane. The latter station sends out the time signals every evening with a chirping note.

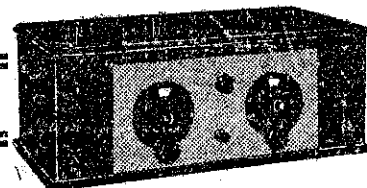
AN American station is planning to instal a short-wave broadcasting transmitter in a trailer behind a motor lorry which will tour New York to pick up events of interest occurring during the day or night. These will be broadcast by short waves to the main station for rebroadcasting.

was out of work. The programme comprised selections from grand opera, intermezzos, and overtures. The performance by the orchestra was simply superb, and a large audience greeted each item with a storm of applause. The takings were for the benefit of the workless musicians.

RECENTLY Mr. Wilfred Blacket, K.C., gave a short address on "Verses and Parodies" from 2BL, Sydney. He included the New Zealand masterpiece, "Not Understood," with some verses from a parody on it which were of a nature calculated to make Thomas Bracken's ghost haunt the miscreant who wrote them.

CERTAIN areas of Wellington continue to be subject to serious electrical leakages which interfere with broadcast reception of "outside" stations. News from America states that listeners in the Ninth and Tenth Streets of the city of Antioch complained to the Great Western Power Company that the latter's high-power lines were interfering with broadcast reception. In a letter to the City Council the company stated that immediate steps would be taken to clear up the interference. Prompt action along similar lines is badly needed in Wellington.

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