

## What is Wrong With Broadcasting?

### Some Original Views

A JOURNEY in a railway carriage, where the conversation is tuned in to the subject of "What is wrong with Broadcasting?" is usually productive of original views from all quarters. Travelling to the office the other morning, we discovered: (1) That the announcer's is an ideal life, because you don't have to work. (2) That grandmother would have had a fit if she had lived to hear all this broadcasting. (3) That a "radio fan" is an apparatus for keeping the studio cool these warm summer evenings. (4) That if you lose a dog, a parrot, or an umbrella, the R.B.C. will send out an SOS for you—and they don't charge you ANYthing, my dear! (5) That I am the only man about the house that really understands our wireless set. (6) That if they'd only get a man like Sam Jones, of Woop Woop, to arrange the programmes, well, then we should hear something worth while. (7) That this jazz is teaching our young people to behave like primitive negroes. (8) That according to our kitchen clock, the time signal from 2YA was late last night. (9) That before the appearance of the Electric Section of the "Radio Record" I had at least one book I could call my own. Now it is the wife's cookery guide.

## Origin of Static

### Expert Committee's Researches

THAT bugbear of all wireless listeners, static, will be one of the problems to be considered by a committee of technical experts recently appointed to carry out wireless research work under the auspices of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The committee comprises Messrs. A. Gibbs (Chief Engineer of the Post and Telegraph Department), Professor Jack (Dunedin), Professor Burbidge (Auckland), Mr. J. M. Bingham (Chief Engineer, New Zealand Radio Broadcasting Company), and Dr. Barnett (Physicist of the Department of Scientific Research).

The members of the committee conferred in Wellington this week, when various lines of research were formulated, including one of direct interest to all radio listeners, that relating to static. It is intended to conduct experiments into the origin of static disturbances and their possible association with cyclonic disturbances in the Tasman Sea. Signal strength measurements from Australia are being conducted to ascertain the conditions causing absorption and whether meteorological factors enter into the matter.

The New Zealand committee will co-operate in a world-wide research into the properties of short waves by observing transmissions from Arlington, Schenectady, Eindhoven, and a Japanese station.

## Mutual Help

### A Listener's Thanks

FROM time to time we receive evidence that our efforts to aid listeners are of some definite value, and it has been indicated, too, that enthusiasts are only too willing to help one another. On a recent occasion a correspondent, "Grid Leak," wrote concerning his Hammerlund Roberts set, which he thought was not a good one. We disillusioned him on this point, and recommended him to communicate with the N.Z. manufacturers, Johns, Ltd. However, this step was unnecessary, for three other users of this circuit wrote in offering advice. Two of these we posted on, the third appears below:

I NOTE in your Questions and Answers that "Gridleak," Blenheim, is having trouble with his Hammarlund Roberts 4-valve kitset. He, it appears has not heard of any others of that make being in use. I have had one in constant use nearly three years, possibly he may be interested to know my results. I cannot tell about the American stations I get, because I have not knowingly logged one. I like good reproduction, and can get all we require from the New Zealand and Australian stations. The principal ones I often get using three valves only. All through the summer we have been able to pick up the Sydney concerts, commencing at 8 p.m., Sydney time, and the Sunday evening church services by using head phones, unless static interferes. Using four valves and head phones I often hear 2FC and 2BL during the daytime,

## Australian Licences

AN INTERESTING compilation was recently made by the Australian Broadcasting Company ascertaining the ratio of licenses to dwellings in the capital cities and various States of the Commonwealth. The ratio of licenses to dwellings in the cities is as follows:—

Sydney, 1 to 5; Melbourne, 1 to 2; Adelaide, 1 to 5; Brisbane, 1 to 3; Perth, 1 to 22; Hobart, 1 to 10.

The ratio for the various States differs slightly from that of the cities, and is as follows:—

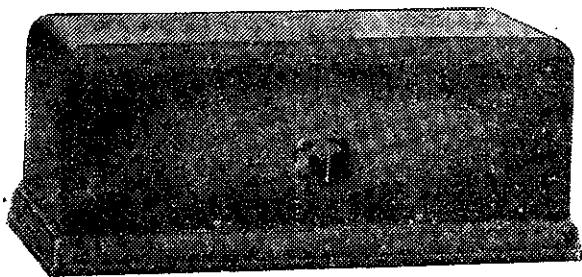
New South Wales, 1 to 6; Victoria, 1 to 3; South Australia, 1 to 8; Queensland, 1 to 6; West Australia, 1 to 23; Tasmania, 1 to 13.

and have often heard Sydney clock at mid-day striking twelve. No doubt locality helps the radio set considerably. My aerial is just above high water mark of the Tasman Sea. I am sure that if "Gridleak" will persevere, he will find his set prove a good one. As you suggest to correspond with Johns, Ltd., this would be wise, for they are an excellent firm in many ways, and always make their explanations full.—George Nicholls (Collingwood).

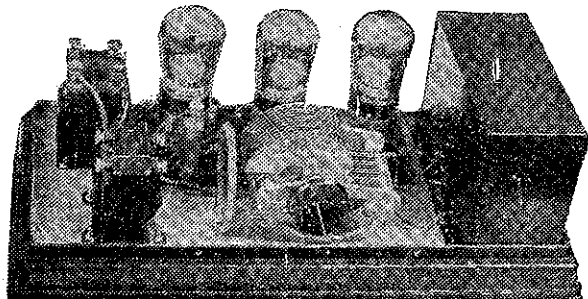
"GRIDLEAK" writing to acknowledge the two letters, remarks:—

"One of the letters put me right; the set only needed a slight change in the valves. I can now receive all Australian and New Zealand stations on the loudspeaker, while to-night I heard a Yank at faint speaking strength. It was KMOX, Hollywood, Californian, I think."

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