

Radio Programmes Discussed



THE 1YA Musical and Dramatic Committee had an animated and interesting discussion at its last meeting concerning the alleged dearth in radio programmes of new songs and recitations and the repetition of the same numbers.

It was a very useful discussion, for it showed the difficulties which confront a station manager and his programme organiser in preparing programmes for broadcasting. The station management explained that there was a black list of items at the station and that they endeavoured at all times to prevent the broadcasting of the same items too often. The trouble was that 300 concerts (comprising about 3000 vocal solos) had to be arranged every year, that the number of artists in Auckland was very limited and that these artists had very limited repertoires. It was difficult to get artists to learn new items and they would sing only the things they knew.

The *modus operandi* at the stations is for artists to submit lists of the songs they know and from these lists the station selects the items to be

1YA Musical and Dramatic Committee offers Suggestions

given. The Station Director quoted an incident which happened the day before the meeting at which the discussion took place. Two ladies brought in the same song. On the list submitted by another, out of eight songs only three were suitable. The trouble was that teachers taught the same songs.

It was pointed out during the discussion that singing occasionally before a limited audience in a theatre was different from singing regularly for radio's vast audience. In the former case a small repertoire would not be noticed, for the same audience would not be hearing the same song when sung over and over again.

The broadcasting stations have in the main a roll of regular performers. These are the pick of the local talent and they form the basis of the programmes. About half of the lists of items received from artists comprise the same songs.

During this discussion on the limited repertoires of many singers, Mr. Frank Sutherland was quoted as an object-lesson to all radio performers. It was stated that when Mr. Sutherland first came to 1YA he could sing five songs, but he now has a repertoire of 100 or so. Every night he sings he brings along at least one new song. From the very outset he made it a practice to do this. That is one of the reasons he is so popular—he always has something fresh. The committeeman who mentioned this said that if it was possible for an amateur to do this it was surely possible for a professional, but professionals seemed to be the ones who were most frequently guilty of singing the same songs repeatedly.

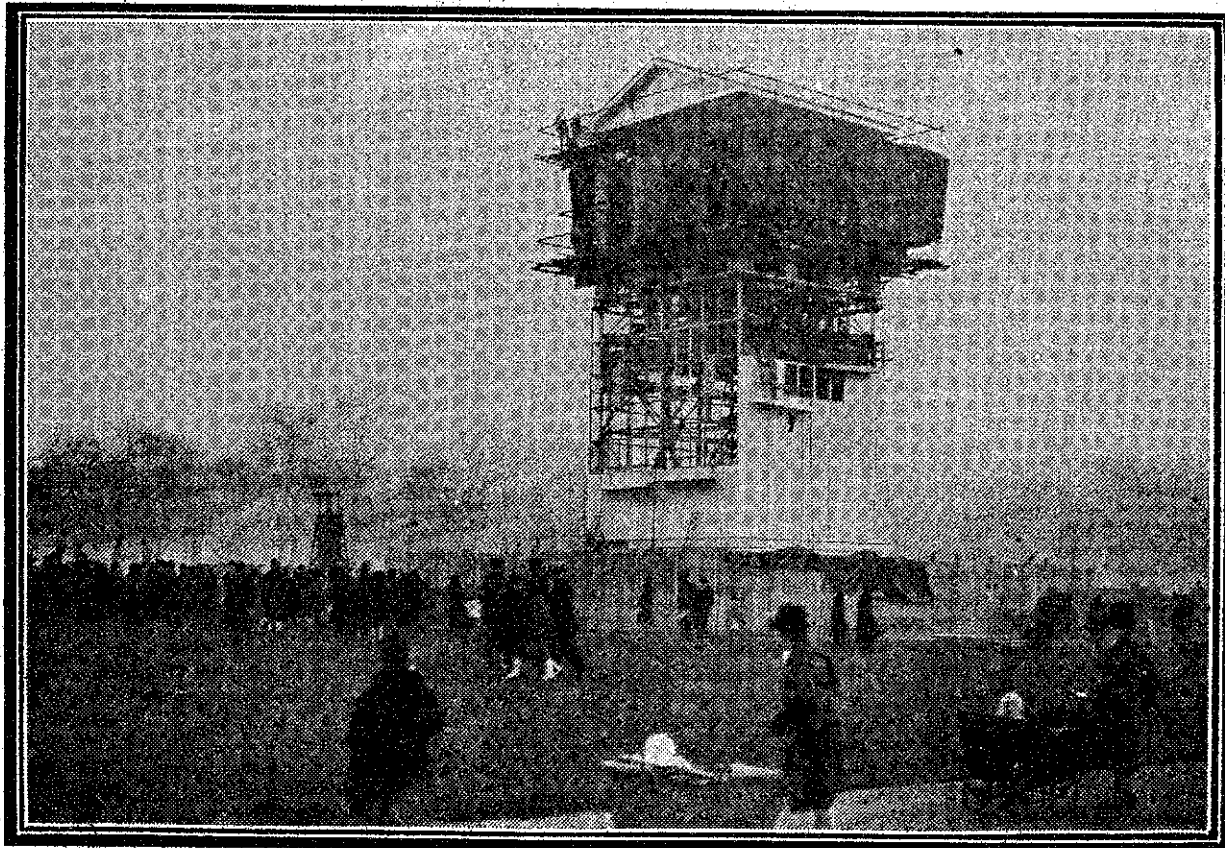
The chairman (Mr. Karl Atkinson) remarked, "Can you wonder that music is in the doldrums when you can't get the people whose living it is to make a little effort." In connection

with this discussion, the following resolutions relating to songs and recitations were carried: "That a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Atkinson, Taft, and Montague go through the full catalogue of items contained in Head Office library, with a view to bringing down a report at next meeting which will assist artists and the Company to vary the items which are being put on."

"That it be a suggestion to the Company in respect to elocutionary items at Station 1YA that they be submitted once or twice each week to the official announcer, Mr. Bell, to be confirmed or rejected."

"That the Company be asked to consider the advisability of tabulating in alphabetical order items performed on the air during the last six months at 1YA, and that this list be kept up to date."

It may be mentioned in respect to the music teachers of Auckland that a number of the leading ones are closely co-operating with 1YA and have undertaken to organise whole-night programmes for broadcasting. In this way new artists and new items will be brought to the microphone.



The Wellington War Memorial Carillon Tower at Hyde Park, London. It has been urged that these should be rebroadcast by short-wave for the benefit of N.Z. listeners.