

# Notes of the Week

(By "Switch.")

A CITY listener recently asked "Switch" whether it were possible to use an outdoor aerial without boring a hole in his office window, and without having the window open. The system advised by "Switch" was to glue a sheet of tinfoil about 18 inches square on the top outside corner of his window, and to glue a similar sheet of tinfoil on the inside of the window exactly facing the other sheet of tinfoil. The lead-in should first be fastened to the outside sheet of tinfoil with resin-cored solder. To take the wind strain on the lead-in it should be secured to an insulated fixing outside the window. A piece of flex wire should be fastened to the inside sheet of tinfoil with a terminal, and then connected to the aerial post of the set. There should be a margin of about an inch between the edges of both sheets of tinfoil and the window frame.

"SWITCH" has been asked the following question by "Quantum" (Kilbirnie): "What is the actual electrical supply cost of running an eight-valve A.C. set per month? This is to include the rectifying valve in the set." Judging from the writer's own rough tally it costs him about 2/6 per month for electricity to operate his own eight-valve A.C. set, working about six hours daily as an average. When the A.C. sets first came out the hobby of cost for electricity was raised, but the users of these sets were soon convinced from actual experience that they are cheaper to run than battery type sets, taking into account the cost of battery charging alone and not the cost of battery replacements.

NOW that the season of strong winds is upon us, listeners should take care to tighten their lead-in wires. The writer has lately heard of three cases in which the lead-in has snapped where it leaves the aerial. This type of trouble is due to the lead-in being too slack, thus enabling it to swing about in the wind too freely, eventually causing the wire to weaken and snap close up to the aerial.

RADIO listeners who operate electric sets, whether A.C. or of the battery type, are good customers of the various city corporations and power boards. The Wellington City Corporation's electricity department appreciates this fact and is not behind in assisting listeners when possible. Lately a street light in Wellington, through its habit of flickering, caused interference with broadcast listening over a wide area. Time and again the lamp socket was renewed, and still the light flickered whenever the wind sprang up. Eventually an electrician was sent to examine the light at night-time. The trouble was then located in the wires leading to it from the mains and was promptly rectified. The surrounding listeners much appreciated the City Council official's action.

ON Wednesday night, March 5, while "Switch" was listening to 2FC, Sydney, he heard the shrieking of a siren. There was no mistaking the sound, as it was quite different to a howling valve, and the writer remarked that it sounded like the passing of a fire engine. Presently the announcer stated that it would be of interest to country listeners to know that the noise they had just heard was the siren of a fire engine dashing along Castlereagh Street past the studio.

A BEGINNER who has just purchased an up-to-date A.C. set has informed "Switch" that he gets morse, though not obtrusively loud, on somewhere about 1000 kilocycles (300 metres), and he asks whence it originates. The station heard is the Government morse station-VLW on Tinakori Hill, overlooking Wellington. The morse heard is from the second harmonic of that station.

"HEADPHONE" (Karori) asks whether the writer has heard two stations clashing on a wave-length about 235 metres (1275 k.c.), and asks which stations they are. "Switch" hears the stations referred to frequently, but is not able to identify them. It would appear that one is in New Zealand, but the heterodyne whistle created by the proximity of the wave-lengths of the two stations prevents the call sign being distinguishable. One station closes down at about the average time observed for signing off in New Zealand. A small Australian station operating on about 210 metres (1430 k.c.); can be heard clearly from the loudspeaker after 11 o'clock every night, but "Switch" has not been able to distinguish the call sign.

A LADY vocalist with an uncommon voice was heard from 2FC, Sydney, the other night. She was announced as a "lady baritone," and it was almost impossible to believe that one was listened to other than a male singer. The voice was rich in quality, and with a full baritone range. The lady, whose name was duly announced, sang a number of items.

"SWITCH" congratulates the Broadcasting Company on the success of the broadcast of speeches in connection with the visit to New Zealand of the Australian dairy farmers. Reception from 2YA, Wellington, is reported from near and far as being perfect. The speakers, without exception, enunciated clearly, and their voices were so well modulated that one could almost believe they were practised broadcasters. All New Zealand listeners, whether farmers or not, could not help being interested in the wonderful praise bestowed the dairying industry in New Zealand by the Australian visitors. They left one with a sense of satisfaction in the knowledge that one of our main primary industries is conducted on amazingly efficient lines, and is on the whole well in advance of that in Australia.

IN a few months Australia is to have five powerful broadcasting relay stations, three of which are to be replicas of 2YA. All the new transmitters have been ordered from Standard Telephones and Cables (Australasia) Ltd. Three of the new stations will have a power of 5000 watts in the aerial—the same as 2YA, and the other two are to have 2000 watts in the aerial. Even the latter two will be more powerful than any of the existing "A" class stations in Australia.

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