

Cleaning Connections.

WITH a three-valve receiver of conventional type, it is possible for there to be as many as thirty separate plug-and-socket connections. When it is remembered that in radio reception we are dealing with minute currents, particularly on the radio-frequency side, it is easily realised that poor contact in even two or three of these sockets is quite sufficient to materially affect the sensitivity of the set. Both plugs and sockets are easily cleaned with smooth emery-paper, and in some cases the improvement made will be surprising. In the case of plugs of the split-pin variety, a screwdriver should be forced down the slot so that the two halves of the plug are sprung outwards.

A Simple Stain.

A FEW crystals of potassium permanganate dissolved in a cupful of water provide a cheap and simple stain for all kinds of woodwork, and particularly for the purpose of colouring the baseboards and woodwork of pieces of experimental apparatus. Permanganate solutions quickly destroy the bristles of brushes, and, therefore, they should be applied to the woodwork by

holding the hands over with a few crystals of sulphate of soda moistened with a little warm water. Photographers' "hypo," acidified with vinegar, will also act in the same manner.

Tracking Down Howls.

SOMETIMES a receiver may suffer from a certain amount of audio-frequency instability which manifests itself in a tendency to produce howling. When searching out the cause of this trouble the set owner should bear in mind that this particular form of annoyance may sometimes be traced to mechanical vibrations passed from the speaker itself to the receiver. Especially is this the case, of course, when the speaker is mounted on top of the receiver.

Choosing a B Battery.

THE B battery is generally regarded as one of the chief sources of troubles. In general, the sole reason for this is that as they are in many

Tips and Jottings

ed in the set's B lead you can actually measure the B battery consumption of the set. If it is anything up to 12 milliamps, the ordinary standard B battery is adequate. If, however, it is more than 12 milliamps when the proper grid bias, etc., has been applied, a double-capacity battery is required, and, of course, if the B consumption is more than 20 milliamps a double-capacity type will be inadequate, and one of the triple-capacity variety will be necessary.

Cleaning Condensers.

UNWANTED noises are frequently caused in a receiving set by dust collecting on the vanes of the variable

condensers; the dust particles provide minute leakage paths between the fixed and moving vanes. The usual method of cleaning by inserting a feather between the vanes is not very satisfactory, especially if the condensers are built up into a set and are in inaccessible positions. A much simpler and more efficient way of cleaning out the dust is to blow it away with a strong blast of air. A pair of ordinary bellows may be used for this purpose, and indeed for cleaning any part of a set. The bellows should be "worked" a few times before applying the nozzle to the set, to ensure that any dust inside them is blown out.

NOT only is the grid-leak method of detection much more sensitive than an anode bend, but there is much less risk of microphonic noises with the grid-leak detector.

RADIO ENTHUSIAST HONOURED

OUR short-wave correspondent, Mr. F. W. Sellens, was recently made the recipient of a silver cup presented by short-wave station P.C.J., as a mark of appreciation of the reports which he has been regularly sending in respect of local reception from that station. It is a great honour for a New Zealand amateur to be thus singled out from listeners all over the world, and we congratulate Mr. Sellens on his splendid achievement.

The presentation took place at the monthly meeting of the Wellington branch of the New Zealand Amateur Radio Transmitters' Association, held last Thursday evening. Mr. Fitt, who made the presentation, commented on the great service which Mr. Sellens is carrying out in the interests of radio, and added that frequently station PCJ (Holland) made mention of the excellent work which Mr. Sellens is doing.

means of a piece of flannel. If required, two or three applications of the stain may be given to the woodwork in order for it to reach any desired depth of colour. Permanganate-stained woodwork is capable of taking a good polish if, after it has been given ample time to dry thoroughly, it is rubbed over with a rag moistened with raw linseed oil. When working with permanganate stains, the fingers invariably acquire a deep brown and sometimes an almost black discolouration. This, however, may readily be removed by rub-

cases incapable of supplying the current required of them, and consequently they are always overworked and thus rapidly run down. The correct way to choose a B battery is to ascertain how many milliamps your set is taking in B current, and to choose a battery which is able economically to stand up to the current drain imposed upon it. If a milliammeter is connect-

Short-Wave News

(Concluded from p. 40.)

4 p.m. The last hour was devoted to dance music from the Hotel St. Regis. W2XAD was R6 when first heard at 1.30 p.m. A long talk in a foreign language was on till after 2 p.m. Volume reached R8 by 2 p.m. and remained at that all through the transmission. W3XAL at 3.30 p.m. was R3, increasing to R9, with dance music. Reception was very good.

On about 30.2 metres duplex was heard at R9 at 4.20 p.m., but a strong morse station spoilt reception. Another station on about 25.5 metres at R9 was heard at about the same time; it also had morse interference.

KZRM were R4 at 7.50 p.m. with records. From 9.30 p.m. their musical programme was received at R7-8, being gushy. RA97: Some fine orchestral items were spoilt by static. Strength R9.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE

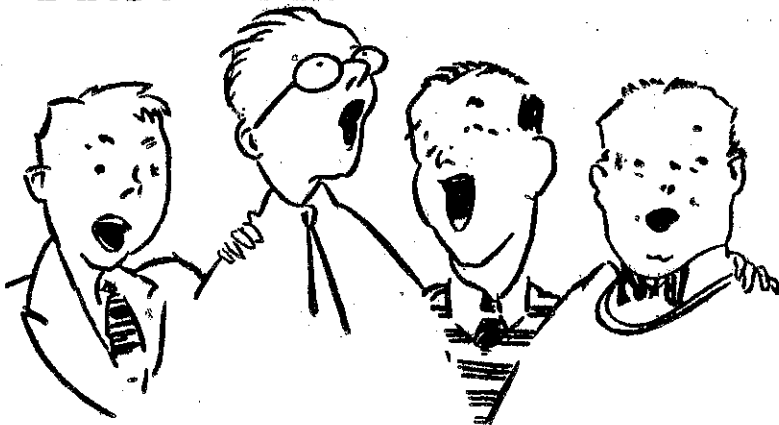
The rate for small advertisements under this heading is 1/6 cash for 20 words, and twopence for every other word thereafter.

STALLOY-TRANSFORMER. — Strips 36 x 1 inches, 2/- doz. Other widths proportional. Also supplied cut, punched. Special quantity quotations. Johns, Ltd., Chancery Street, Auckland.

SCREEN Grid and Standard Metrodyne Super Electrics give wonderful performance and value. Agents wanted. Catalogue Royds-Howard Co., 553 Colombo Street, Christchurch.

11 VOLT Number 6 Cells, guaranteed, 1/11 each posted; 45 Volt from 9/6. Speakers 32/6. Royds-Howard Co., 553 Colombo Street, Christchurch.

THIS MELODY FOUR



Tom: What do you chaps think of the Wellington Melody Four?

Ned: Not much.

Jack: Ned's opinion is punk. He learnt music from that old German music master. Bald as a coot.

Dick: Shut off that Grand Trunk boost, and listen to the Australian Melody Four. (Sets the record going.)

Jack: Needle scratches a bit, but the tenor's good.

Tom: The Wellington Melody Four is on in two minutes—have a cigarette, boys?

Dick: They're good, but the tenor's weak.

Tom: Too right, they're good. I'd always listen to them.

Ned: What's the Set, Jack?

Jack: Courtenay Local Receiver.

Ned: Not much interruption, no hum.

Jack: Crystal detection, Ned. Every note just as sung.

Ned: How much?

Jack: Ten guineas for the Set, and 32/6 for the Speaker. They could get more for this Set, too.

Tom: Too right, it's a good Set.

Dick: Remember trying to get Aussie on that 6-valve we used to have? All static and China Wars.

Tom: Good thing we dumped it. Sitting up late for nothing. Hand in your pocket all the time for batteries.

Ned: You couldn't tune it.

Jack: There was no tune in it.

Ned: When does the Melody Four come on again?

Tom: Item after this, Ned—don't go until you hear it.

Ned: Yes, I'd like to hear it, and where do you get these Courtenay Sets? Seems to me local broadcast is good. What do they cost to run?

Jack: About tuppence a month, Ned. You should be able to get a Courtenay from any radio dealer, but we got ours from the distributors—

STEWART HARDWARE

LIMITED.

COURTENAY PLACE WELLINGTON.