

Notes and Comments

(By "Switch.")

BEGINNERS not infrequently are mystified over the measurement of a metre. A metre is approximately 40 inches. To convert metres into feet it is necessary to multiply the number of metres by 40, and divide the result by 12.

"**INQUIRER**" (Kelburn) has sent in a query as to whether it is possible to employ a loudspeaker separately in connection with a console receiving set employing a loudspeaker. The vendor could without much trouble insert connections for a separate loudspeaker.

STRANGE how insistent is the listener with the howling valve. The music of one of the New Zealand private stations heard in Wellington at midday is generally mixed up with piercing shrieks from some oscillating valve.

THE Japanese stations have returned lately, and after 11 p.m. can be heard through the static, not loudly, but are clearly audible from the loudspeaker. A Jap. station provides a faint background to 3LO, Melbourne, late at night.

A GIFTED children's entertainer is Miss Edith Harbry. The other evening the writer was listening to the

Reception Table

FOR the guidance of those who wish to check their reception of the Australian stations, "Switch" prepares weekly a table showing the average relative strengths with which he has obtained reception at 11.30 p.m. during the past week:—

2BL, Sydney	10
2FC, Sydney	8½
4QG, Brisbane	7½
3LO, Melbourne	7
2UE, Sydney	6½
3DB, Melbourne	6½
2GB, Sydney	6½
3UZ, Melbourne	5
3AB, Melbourne	3½
5CL, Adelaide	2
2HD, Newcastle	2
2KY, Sydney	1½

The above figures are the points assessed, with 10 as the maximum.

kiddies' session at 2YA, Wellington, when Miss Harbry dropped in to the studio to give the juveniles a few of her own vocal compositions. Her items must have been a delight in many a home.

LATELY 2FC, Sydney, put on an unusual "act" in the form of an imaginary visit of two Australians to London. The Australians visited the theatres, a gambling den in Limehouse, and other places, and kept up a descriptive running commentary on what they saw. Music, including an excerpt from the opera "Carmen," provided by gramophone records heightened the illusion. The thing was decidedly well carried out.

THE heavy downpour of rain last week, which marked the breaking of the drought, ushered in a general improvement in long-distance reception. Static on some nights still maintains a ratio too high in proportion to reception of the Australian stations.

THE Sunday night band concerts relayed by 2YA, Wellington, are immensely popular. The opinion expressed by several listeners who have commented on these concerts to "Switch" is that Sunday is now a "red-letter" night. There is some pleasing psychological effect also to listen in to a public performance, apart from the merit of the concert.

SEVERAL listeners have asked "Switch" from where the raucous note heard late at night recently emanated. This was merely due to the efforts of the 2YA technicians to bring that station up to concert pitch again. The 2YA transmitter has developed trouble lately, and this had to be overcome.

OWNERS of particularly sensitive sets will find it an advantage to reduce the volume to at least half when reaching out for the Australian stations. In the case of the louder Tasman stations, there would still be ample loudspeaker volume with a marked decrease in the racket created by static.

THE past month has been quite a busy time for the Wellington radio dealers. The A.C. set has been a potent factor in popularising radio, as the former intricacies of batteries and tuning kept many people from becoming owners of sets.

A RECORD which made a lasting impression upon the kiddies who listen to the children's sessions of 2YA was "The Laughing Policeman." The other day "Switch" was asked by a family to urge that this mirth-provoking record, if possible, be revived.

THE writer finds it more desirable to use old valves when static is excessive, and thus save his newer valves for more favourable nights. After all, valves enjoy a lifetime measured by working hours, and they do not deteriorate in the slightest by being put away on the shelf. They can be put into work when static is weaker, and then their efficiency will be a delight to those who want to get the best out of the Australian stations.

FROM what "Switch" can gather, Wellington listeners on the average are entirely in accord with the strictures of the London "Radio Times," published recently in the "Record," regarding the banefulness of broadcasting advertising matter as in America. In Australia the minor broadcast stations are filling their air with advertising matter, and the trouble in particular annoying to listeners who have a difficulty in cutting out these stations owing to their proximity.

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