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From Different Angles

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prophecies that the time is coming when broadcasting will fade to an insignificant position as far as music is concerned. In other words: 'Exit Beecham enter Chaos.'

"As a broadcasting gramophone lecture-recitalist in a distant dominion, my experience teaches me to go to the gramophone for music impossible to hear in any other way; that it educates the general public to a sense of values somewhat discomfiting to the superior musical persons who sneer at 'mechanical music'; that it is an educational factor with stupendous potentialities; and that its devotees are impatient of mediocrity, having tasted the joys of finished artistic performance.

"With all this to its credit can anyone logically refuse to recognise the fact that it is an almost indispensable adjunct to wireless, specially in a country of strictly limited musical talent?

For the last three months I have arranged (apart from the evening programmes) 1YA Brunswick studio programmes for every Tuesday afternoon, and Parlophone studio programmes for alternate Sunday afternoons, using upwards of 500 different items without repetition of a single number. With a list of 15,000 titles to cull from the standard gramophone record catalogues there is no need for monotony or lack of interest. The N.Z. Radio Broadcasting Coy. is following a proven policy in this respect, as the British Broadcasting Corporation pay records a handsome tribute in their liberal use. After all, for us in New Zealand, is it not better to have a broadcast recital of an opera from records than no opera at all?

My occasional contact with listeners convinces me that despite this latest "pill" from Beecham, it is in the best interests of the musical enlightenment of the public to continue providing the world's best music by the world's best musicians per medium of the gramophone and wireless.

PROBABLY the man who is most interested in radio is he who relies on it for livelihood, and into this class the dealer bulks largest. So I went to see one of the liveliest wires in Auckland, Mr. A. C. Tucker, president of the Auckland Radio Dealers' Association.

"It is absolutely essential that the radio dealers and the Radio Broadcasting Company work in with each other. The importance of this co-operation cannot be too greatly stressed."

Mr. Tucker particularly emphasised this point.

"I believe that the 'trade' can have a very decided influence on the progress of radio in this country, and our association is certainly doing all it can to help and foster radio here. The trouble and expense which we went to in connection with Rear-Admiral Byrd's broadcast to school children can be quoted as an example of our efforts. It is against our own interests to pour destructive criticism on the broadcasting authorities, but there are certain improvements in the service which we naturally desire.

"The most important, from our point of view, is the extension of the broadcasting hours. We would also like to see an increase in power from the local station.

"I suggest that, in view of the present large number of unemployed professional musicians, a good service would be done to the community if many of these were engaged for broadcasting. Listeners would appreciate new interpretations, and new numbers, and it would be helping a good cause.

"In my opinion the time has come for the establishment of a definite advisory board which would give the different interested parties more direct representation in the control of broadcasting in New Zealand. The R.B.C. has several times stated its willingness to co-operate in any effort to further the interests of broadcasting, and I suggest that one of the best ways they could do so would be by supporting such a committee.

"The committee should consist of representatives of the R.B.C., the Government, the "B" class stations, the listeners, and the dealers."

IN another issue I am going to relate other views that I have encountered. To conclude this part, I shall give you my impressions; I am sure you would like to hear them.

I used to consider radio merely a novel and wonderful form of entertainment. Like many other listeners I know I first listened because of the novelty and wonder of radio. The music and speech came in poorly—more often than not in those old days—the headphones were uncomfortable, sets were expensive and imperfect, but the fact that one could hear in one's own home speech or music uttered in a distant place unconnected by even a wire, intrigued me. I was entertained by listening, certainly, but the programmes in those days hardly deserve the credit for that. It was the fact that I was hearing, not what I was hearing, that entertained me.

This stage passed. The novelty wore off, and familiarity lessened my wonder, but I still listened. By then I had come to value the actual programmes as a form of entertainment. Naturally I did not find them perfect, but there were always some parts which I really enjoyed, or which brought something fresh into my life. Frankly, however, at this stage I still considered the gramophone superior to the wireless as a source of entertainment.

I Finally came the third and present stage. Now I value broadcasting not only as a means of pleasant entertainment, but as an almost necessary amenity in my home. Cleanliness may be next to godliness, but I believe that if I had to choose between a house with no wireless and one with no hot water service, I would take the latter and have my radio.

To me, now, then, radio means a concert chamber, theatre, and lecture hall in my own drawing room. More than that, it acts as a newspaper, an educationalist, and, most important of all, a homemaker.

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