Wednesday, June 4.

A 41.6 metre station at 6.15 a.m. was R3-4 with foreign talk. Zeesen was excellent at R9 with instrumental music at 6.15 a.m.

GBP on duplex were R7, but 2ME was not audible. 5SW was weak and gushy. The 31.5 metre German was R2-3.

ZL2XF on 180 metres (about) and 2XX on about 32 metres were testing during the evening. RA97 was excellent at R9 without any static at 10 p.m. Orchestral music, singing and talks were heard. They were R5 on the first harmonic (35 metres).

Thursday, June 5.

STATION 5SW was R4, but very gushy at 6.20 a.m. Volume was better at 7.30 a.m. 2ME was again inaudible, while GBP was R8-9 at 7.30 a.m. Zeesen was gushy at R8-9 from 6.30 a.m. till 7.30 a.m. ZL2XX were again testing during the evening.

KIXR were R7 at 8.15 p.m. on about 31.3 metres, and very weak, just audible, after 9.30 p.m. RA97 was again excellent at R9. Beside the usual orchestral items, news in English was read by a lady.

Friday, June 6.

STATION PCJ at 6 a.m. was R7 but mushy. The same volume continued till 7.30 a.m., signals clearing up a little toward the conclusion of the programme.

Zeesen was R8-9 with a choir at 6.15 a.m. The 31.5 metre German was just audible at 6.30 a.m. VK2ME were R3 and GBPR7 at 6.30 a.m.

5SW at R5 were very gushy from 6.30 a.m. till 7.30 a.m. KIXR were R3 at 7.45 p.m., increasing to R5 by 8.30 p.m. RA97 at 10.15 p.m. were R8-9. Static medium. W2XAF at R7 were talking to Sydney about Miss Amy Johnson, who, it appears, was to have spoken at Sydney. The American was very disappointed to learn that Miss Johnson was not available.

Saturday, June 7.

STATION PCJ was gushy at R7-8 when first tuned in, but were excellent at R8-9 by 7.30 a.m.

Zeesen was weaker than usual, being R6. 2ME at 6.30 a.m. were R2, and GBP R5. 5SW at 6.30 a.m. were R4, increasing to R6-7 by 7.30 a.m. PCJ was very poor all through the afternoon programme. R4 at 1 p.m. increasing to R8 by 3 p.m., and down to R5 by 5.30 p.m. Reception was spoilt all through by mush.

W2AD was very good from 1.30 p.m., as was 2XAF with the same programme. W3XAL were R4 at 4 p.m., increasing to R6 by 4.30 p.m. W9XF was R7 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., after which is decreased in volume.

NRH were first heard about 2.20 p.m., when a bugle call followed by Japanese style of music was broadcast. Talk was too gurgly to be readable, except the call, which was given slowly and distinctly. They were gone by 3 p.m.

CJRX were just audible at 2.30 p.m. The ripple of a nearby beam station spoilt reception. At 5 p.m. 2ME was R9, and GBP R6.

K1XR was R6 at 10 p.m., increasing to R8 by 11 p.m. 3UZ at 10 p.m. were R6, with severe fading. Just before 10.30 p.m. volume increased to R8. They were making an announcement at 10.30 p.m., when the station suddenly went off the air.

New Short-wave Loggings

Above 80 Metres

REGARDING shortwave reception. There does not seem to be many new stations to report, but from 80 metres up I have logged a few new ones. They are not of much interest to listen to, but for all that they are there to be logged. Their calls and wavelengths are as follow: KFO, Oakland, California, 99.6 metres; KOE, Wyoming, 99 metres; KQM, Iowa, 91 metres approx.; KQC, Wyoming, 91 metres; KQD, Utah, 9 metres; KFM, California, 100 metres.

I have heard these stations working between the hours of 5 and 6 p.m., 8 and 9 p.m. and 10 and 11 p.m., and generally they have been exchanging weather reports, and giving positions by numbers. Evidently the numbers are aeroplanes, because all these stations are owned and operated by the Boeing Air Transport Co. of America. There is also a station working on approximately 120 metres which has been heard giving American stock reports and also music. One evening I listened to him just before he closed down, and he made the announcement: "This is WRDH. It is now 1 a.m. and we are closing down." It was 5.30 New Zealand time, and no locality was given.

On exactly the same wave another station has been heard, and by the nature of the conversation it is probably another station operated by the police department, because the conversation heard is identical with the station I reported some time back, on approximately 90 metres. The call-sign I gave of this station was WGK, and Mr. Easter reports it the same in his notes in this week's "Radio Record."

On June 1 quite an interesting six-way conversation was heard between American amateurs on the 80-metre band per 'phone. The stations operating were W6ABF, W6BEP, W6BXA, W6BXI, W6BBJ, and W7MK. The six districts cover the states of California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona. W7MK is situated in Oregon, so my call-book states. All these stations were heard with the exception of W6BXA, W6ABF being the loudest of them all. It was 9.35 p.m. when I heard the first station, and it was after 11 p.m. when they closed down. W6ABF was working on practically the same frequency as ZL2BE, Hastings, and I believe he was causing a little interference in the early part because I tuned to ZL2AW, who was working 2BE, and I think he stated that there was another station on his frequency and he thought it was an American.

This winter is the best I have ever experienced as regards DX reception on the broadcast band. The Americans come in early and loud. To give an instance. On April 25 WTAM, Cleveland, Ohio, 1080 kilocycles, could be heard at good strength at 4.30 p.m. KGU, Honolulu, Hawaii, has been heard quite a number of times, and can be found just above 3YA. The other Hawaiian station I have not logged so far. KHJ, Los Angeles, California, 333 metres (900 k.c.), can be heard any night till 8.30 p.m., New Zealand time. On Monday night he closes down at 7.30. I have very often heard him give his frequency. Evidently he works off his wave because he is heard just below 1YA.—A. P. Morrison (Brooklyn).

Useful Hints

IN converting out-of-date sets to use modern power valves, it may be found that the eliminator only delivers 135 volts. This is not sufficient for most power valves. Consequently, if one does not wish to purchase a new eliminator, a 45-volt B battery must be inserted in series with the B eliminator to secure 180 volts on the plate. The B power tap on the eliminator is taken to the negative terminal of the battery, the latter's positive terminal thus becoming the positive terminal of the power supply. Of course it will be necessary to renew this added battery from time to time.

* * *

POWERFUL local station signals will come in on almost any type of aerial, but it takes a really efficient aerial and earth to bring in DX (long-distance) signals properly.

* * *

ANY amateurs may have a couple of low-voltage B eliminators, and yet can they be in difficulties to secure a high-voltage supply. Such a supply can be easily made by placing two B eliminators in series, the total voltage being the sum of the separate units. In this case the positive terminal of one B eliminator goes to the negative of the next. The high voltage is then taken from the two extremities. In a similar manner a dry battery can be hooked up with an eliminator to increase the voltage.

* * *

IT is a good plan never to mount spring switches, potentiometers, or rheostats with spring adjustments until the constructor has made sure that the tension on these is sufficient to afford good, strong, positive contact.

IN some circuits the experimenter may find that there is not sufficient filament current for the operation of 227 valves. To overcome this difficulty, an extra filament transformer may be placed in parallel with the first to give greater current. However, in performing this operation, use a small 3-volt torch bulb across the output of the two transformers when paralleled. If the lamp lights when both the 230-volt line plugs are connected, the secondaries are correctly hooked up. If the lamp does not light, one of the plugs will have to be reversed. When proper polarity is found, the two single supply lines should be wired together permanently.

* * *

NOT only does the provision of a suitable grid bias improve quality, but it effects great economy in the B voltage consumption.

* * *

CRACKLING or fluttering in a radio set has been known to be caused by a loose plug in the wall receptacle. If this is the case it may be remedied by putting a slight outward bend on one prong of the plug with a pair of pliers. However, in doing this be sure that too much pressure is not exerted on the prong or else the prong will be torn loose from its mooring in the compound from which the plug is made.

* * *

EVERY aerial possesses a certain amount of inductance and of capacity apart from the coils and condensers associated with it.

* * *

IN the absence of a polarity plug the radio enthusiast may make a very simple substitute which can be used either on a d.c. or a.c. line. If it is found an a.c. set hum a little more when the plug is in one direction it may be reversed and the hum reduced. After finding the proper polarity, a dash of white paint may be put on the plug at the pole desired, and another dot of white paint placed on the wall receptacle in which the plug is to be inserted. The two paint marks should meet, thus indicating the plug is in the right direction.