

News and Notes from the North

(By "Call Up.")

OUR Auckland correspondent "Call Up" writes: The listener who rushes to the telephone to complain to the studio as soon as he hears an item which does not meet with his approval is apt to blunder well and truly. Before to-day disgruntled listeners have rung up 1YA studio to complain of the poor singing of Clara Butt and the poor playing of Kreisler, mistakenly blaming some unfortunate local artists. The other day an irate man rang up. "I have just heard your octet and it's awful," he said.

"I think you're mistaken, sir. It has not played yet to-night."

"Don't be a fool. It has just finished a number."

"The octet you've just heard is considered to be the world's best."

"The world's worst!"

"That was J. H. Squire's Celeste Octet playing on a Columbia record!"

Supposed collapse of listener and source of much mirth to station staff for next few days.

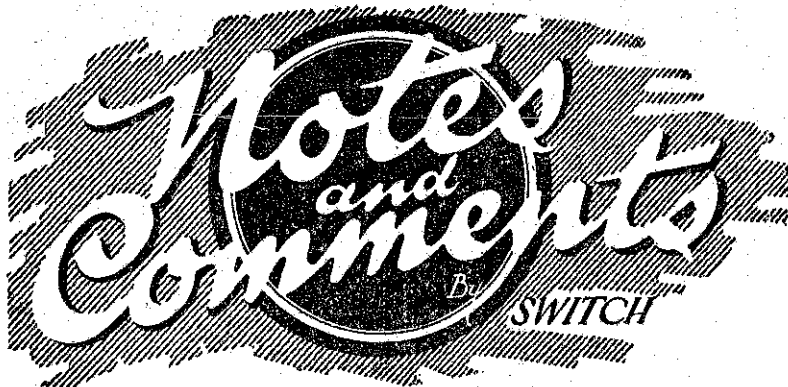
MANY entries are being received for the 1YA Song Writing Competition, which closes on September 26. Three judges have been appointed, subject to their consent, and it is expected that the result will be announced shortly after the closing date.

AN artist of outstanding merit who is to be heard from 1YA soon is Miss Jessica Shmith (contralto), who was formerly of station 3LO, Melbourne, and has recently been heard from 2YA. Miss Shmith is to make three appearances from 1YA next month.

THE play, "David Garrick," which was to have been presented from 1YA by Mr. J. F. Montague on September 26, has now been postponed till October 17. The Savage Club entertainment has also been postponed.

THE 1YA Station Choir will give a programme of part-songs on September 24, followed by half an hour of community singing from the studio. The choir will be heard again on October 19, when it will give a Sunday evening concert.

IF many listeners only knew more about their sets, complaints would be fewer and general satisfaction greater, and with this idea Mr. B. S. Jones is now giving a series of talks from 1YA on "How to Get the Best Out of Your Receiving Set." Mr. Jones has had fifteen years' experience in radio matters, and this has been gained at sea and in all quarters of the world. He considers that New Zealand is the listeners' paradise, owing to the clarity of the atmosphere and the comparative rarity of static, reception from a much greater distance than in most parts of the world is possible. On board a ship in New Zealand waters time messages can be received at night from very great distances, even with quite small installations. The programmes here, taking everything into consideration, compare very favourably with those of other countries.



ONE of the neatest and most effective broadcasts of an instructional nature transmitted by the "YA" stations is the "farmer dialogue" from 4YA Dunedin. On a recent Wednesday evening "Switch" tuned in the Dunedin station and listened to this feature. The material was most instructive and logically expounded, while the conversation between the two farmers was most natural.

LATELY New Zealand listeners have missed the Monday night broadcast from Sydney of the community

"Switch" examined his friend's equipment and found the aerial hardly worthy of the name. It was scarcely higher than a clothes' line. When the aerial was raised to 30 feet—above fences, shrubs, and buildings—the "outside" stations came in with exceptional volume. When will beginners realise that a good aerial is an essential?

FOR many years radio in Western Australia has been practically at a standstill. One of the reasons urged by listeners was the abnormally long

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singing in the Ashfield Town Hall. The night was changed to Thursday, and, instead of 2FC Sydney being the relaying station, 2BL Sydney was substituted. The master of ceremonies was, as usual, in great form, and kept his listeners and those present in the hall in a happy humour.

NEW ZEALAND is so well supplied in rural districts with electric rectification that very few battery-model receiving sets are now stocked or sold by radio dealers. In the United States conditions are widely different, for, of nearly six-million farms in that country, only 7.2 per cent. have an electrical supply. Thus the American radio trade still finds a good market for battery-operated sets.

THE other day the writer's advice was sought by a Wellington listener, who was greatly disappointed with his reception of "outside" stations. He was inclined to blame his new a.c. receiving set, which, by the way, is a first-class instrument.

wave-length employed by 6WF, Perth, was beyond the tuning range of sets. Eventually the wavelength was reduced to 435 metres, and the number of listeners increased considerably, but until eleven months ago, owing to the indifferent programmes, there were still only 3888 listeners in Western Australia. Programmes were then improved, and the number of listeners in that State now totals 6625. The Western Australian station can usually be heard in the vicinity of midnight on the loudspeaker in Wellington.

ANOTHER small broadcast station will be on the air in Victoria in about six weeks' time. It is being in-

stalled at Geelong, about 50 miles from Melbourne, and will have an aerial input of 50 watts. The wavelength is to be 214.2 metres. Who will be the first to log the newcomer?

POOR quality of reception, which one occasionally hears, may, in a number of instances, be found to be due to worn-out valves. The writer had brought under his notice recently a set which "gurgled" slightly on the shorter wavelengths of the broadcast band, and it seemed as though some of the stations had fallen off in power. After a series of careful tests of the various valves in the set, an a.c. model, it was discovered that the power valve had dropped considerably in emission. A new valve was inserted and the set then performed faultlessly.

A WELLINGTON youth, Master Wesley Chisholm, who has a bent for wireless set construction, won two first prizes at the recent Y.M.C.A. hobbies competition, his exhibits being a crystal set and a two-valve set. These make six first prizes that this young amateur has won for radio construction. He is now only 15 years of age, and has made a good start in life in the Wellington City Corporation electricity department.

"SWITCH" heard an announcement on the air that the Melbourne "Herald's" broadcast station, 3DB, although burnt out by a fire which started at 5 o'clock in the morning, was substituted by a temporary station which commenced broadcasting on schedule time. It was rather unfortunate that two expensive microphones at 3DB were destroyed.

"HELIX" (Lower Hutt) writes: "Could you kindly tell me the difference in time between New Zealand and Japan?" About a fortnight ago "Switch" heard the hour being struck in the studio of JOHK, Sendai, after the announcer had made a statement in Japanese, which, when translated by a friend, proved to be an announcement of the time. This was checked up with New Zealand standard time, and showed Japan to be 2 hours 10 minutes behind.

"TURBINE" (Masterton) writes:—"Can you tell me what a Beveridge aerial is? Has it exceptional properties. Kindly publish the data on it." This query has resulted in much research on "Switch's" part, but he has not been able to discover the data required. The writer well remembers when the Beveridge aerial was first exploited. If he remembers rightly the aerial is about 500 yards long, supported by many posts, and is hung fairly close to the ground, about seven feet at its lowest point. A condenser (.00025 mfd.) at the distant end is employed for "tuning" the aerial. This aerial is amazingly sensitive, but is strongly directional and must be pointed in the direction from which reception is desired. "Switch" would welcome any further particulars from listeners regarding it.

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