

Divided Control Question of Efficiency

ALTHOUGH most newspaper writers throughout the Dominion condemn the proposals of the Government in connection with the future broadcasting service, there was one writer who commended one aspect of the Government's proposal. This was a writer in the Wellington "Evening Post," who said that "on the technical side the proposed change is sure to be beneficial." The writer bases this statement on the allegation that the technical side of 2YA is hopelessly astray. This writer, after indulging in round condemnation of the whole technical output of 2YA, came down to details, and professed to find satisfaction in the fact that the placing of the Post and Telegraph Department in charge of the technical side of the transmission of radio would immediately remedy certain faults. These faults the writer proceeded to enumerate. They included as glaring examples: "(1) Voices that 'blast' habitually; (2) bad microphone placing; (3) poor orchestral balance; (4) false fluctuations in volume; (5) uncompleted microphone production and objectionable 'background' noises."

When claiming that these faults would be remedied by the transmission being placed under the technicians of the Post and Telegraph Department this writer is surely revealing a somewhat incomplete understanding of the radio business. Those faults, if they exist at all, are practically entirely studio faults, and would not come under the purview of the technicians responsible for transmission. A very definite dividing line would require to be drawn between the rendition of the programme and the technical side in the event of any division of control being established. The technical side would, and could, be made responsible only for the correct transmission of the sounds as they went into the microphone. The programme department would be responsible for the output of sound before the microphone and all details connected therewith. We can see no other way of arranging matters in the event of divided control being established. Under no circumstances would we approve of a division of control. We think it would lead to hopeless confusion and difficulty. The technical side, responsible only for the accuracy of transmission, would have no say in the evils alleged to exist.

Remarkable Symphony to be Broadcast

Winning Composition of £2,000 Competition

ONE of the features on 1YA's programme for Friday, October 31, will be the broadcasting of Kurt Atterberg's "Symphony No. 6 in C Major" as recorded by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham. Out of 500 works, this symphony was selected by a jury of eleven international musicians to receive the grand prize award in the Schubert anniversary contest.

Kurt Atterberg was born forty years ago in Gothenburg, Sweden, and studied in Germany. Returning to his native land, he became a noted music critic in Stockholm, conductor of the Stockholm Orchestra, and president of the Swedish Society of Composers. His large works comprise such varied forms as opera, cantata, concertos for violin and cello, and five earlier symphonies. He now achieves a new fame by winning the £2000 grand prize in an international composers' contest with his Sixth Symphony dedicated to the memory of Schubert.

Atterberg's pre-eminence among the many brilliant and scholarly composers who submitted works in the Schubert contest may be ascribed in great part to his splendid gift for melodic invention and brilliant orchestration. The Symphony is full of originality, picturesque beauty, exquisite melodies, and magnificent effects, often with touches of Scandinavian colour. The abounding energy of the Allegro, the poignant beauty of the Adagio, the humorous Fugato and terrific climax of the Finale, combine in making what is certainly one of the greatest symphonies of recent times. Of it, one eminent English musician, to whom advance proofs of these records were submitted, said: "I do not know when the first hearing of a work has given me such pleasure, and I look forward to its first public performance with great interest."

Radio to Assist Declining Theatre

THE once supreme attraction of the legitimate stage is fast declining the world over, a fact which has resulted in a proposal, made recently in London, that the British Broadcasting Corporation should devote a portion of its profits to the establishment and maintenance of a National Theatre.

The blame for such a state of affairs is attributed to the advance of the talkies, and though radio is in no way included, it is felt that it can assist materially in helping the stage to maintain its existence. The committee appointed to investigate the matter suggests that the surplus received from wireless broadcasting, a sum amounting to about £300,000 annually, should be used to defray the cost of such a theatre.

In other words, radio, once regarded as a serious competitor to the stage, now appears on the scene, like a fairy godmother, to prevent its complete dissolution.

Miss 1930 Calling!

Discussing Bargain Sales

THE fair sex is not usually credited with either knowing or caring much about the technical side of radio, and so it is rather a surprise to learn that in America there are well over forty feminine amateur transmitters. In Europe and other parts of the world, however, there are very few. England, apparently, boasts only two, France one, Switzerland one, and Australia one.

It would be interesting to know what these feminine enthusiasts talk about over the air. Do they, like their brother transmitters, discuss modulation and milliamps, or do they enthuse over the hats they've bought at bargain sales? Or is their conversation a mixture of the two—like this:

"Hull, Three Pip Emma Toe, this is Nine Double Ack Zebra answering! Yes, my dear, your modulation is just too perfect. I understand that some of my last remarks were jammed out by Q.R.M. No, I said five-and-eleven-three a yard, not nine-and-eleven-three a yard. And, my dear, I picked up the cutest little hat to match...."

A Thoughtful Gift

THE successful efforts of Aunt Hilda (editor of the Christchurch "Star's" children's page) and the little members of the Circle has resulted in the purchase and installation of a small all-electric radio receiver for the entertainment of the convalescent child patients at the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Burwood.

The funds available did not admit of the purchase of other than a small set and, as children in hospital are early abed, there was no need to consider the reception of any other than local broadcasts. For this reason and, in order that the hospital staff should have as little trouble as possible with the care and maintenance of the receiver, it was decided that a little two-valve A.C. set of British make would fill the bill.

The receiver is installed in one of the dining-rooms, an indoor antenna zigzagged across the room furnishing the aerial pickup. The set is "earthed" by battery-clip to the iron fire-grate. These makeshift arrangements were necessitated by the impossibility of installing a regular outdoor aerial and earth. However, a test made by "Aerial," radio editor of the "Star," showed that, despite the distance from 3YA and the deficiencies of the installation, good loudspeaker reception of 3YA's afternoon session was possible.

The official opening of the installation took place last week. Well wrapped up in blankets and reclining on comfortable armchairs, to which they had been carried by the hospital nurses, the "early-to-bed" children of the hospital listened, in company with a number of other children for whom early retirement was not compulsory, to Aunt Hilda, of the "Star," officially "open" the "Star" Circle's radio gift to the hospital children.

At 5.45 p.m. Aunt Hilda's cheerful "Hello, children," was heard from the loudspeaker in the hospital children's dining-room. Aunt Hilda was speaking from 3YA and, possessing a good radio voice, her every word was heard clearly and distinctly. After declaring the set "open," Aunt Hilda delighted her listeners with some up-to-date fairy tales, the moral of one—that it is not wise for children to meddle with wireless sets—not being lost on her hearers!

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