

## Our Mailbag

### Jazz Week Wanted.

I AM a very interested listener to the latest theme songs and think that a jazz week from 2YA will be quite in the way of modern times. We have had high brow music for a week now. Give us the low brow, and be fair to the listening public, especially to the lovers of theme songs. The only good night from 2YA is Tuesday when they put on something light. It is always a programme worth listening to. Why not make our dinner music a bit lighter and not play the same recordings over and over again? Make the items of all tastes with two or three fox-trots in between. I for one can tolerate high brow music so can the high brow listeners tolerate the modern music. So be fifty-fifty and cater for us jazz fiends.—"Happy Days." (Okato.)

### Criticising Broadcast Technique.

LEOPOLD STOKOWSKI, the conductor of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, said recently with reference to the broadcasting of orchestral music that "eventually this will be not only equal but musically more eloquent than concert hall projection of music." Now, I don't think we can expect this from our New Zealand stations for some considerable time, but I do think that with very little effort the present broadcasting could be vastly improved. This evening's overture from 2YA was "Poet and Peasant," by the Wellington Municipal Tramways Band. The tone, balance, or rather hopeless lack of it was really ridiculous. On turning to 3YA we have a recording of "Finlandia," which was really thrilling.

And yet, when any mere listener presumes to criticise the "experts" they fatuously claim that they have more experience on these technical matters, microphone placing, etc., than any listener. At present band broadcasts from 2YA are poor, while from 3YA they are sometimes quite good. Records, however, are better from Wellington than the other stations. It surely wouldn't take much experimenting to find the correct technic for broadcasting orchestras, bands, etc., and keep to it. It seems obvious to a listener that there is no set procedure at all. Sometimes for instance a cornet solo with a band has the cornet much too loud and again it is too much in the background. There is undoubtedly room for a great deal of improvement.—"Philadelphia" (Hillgrove).

## Radio Telephony

### Projected Pacific Service

THE Federal Radio Commission of America has recently issued licenses to the Mutual Telephone Company of Hawaii for the use of ultra short waves (5 to 13 metres) for radio telephony. Five islands of the Hawaiian group are being linked up for inter-island telephone service, which will later be expanded to connect with the projected trans-Pacific radio-telephone.

# NOTES and NEWS from the NORTH

A COMPLETE evening's programme by new artists will be heard from 1YA on Wednesday, November 12. The main items will be given by the Devonport United Band, while vocal solos will be given by Miss Sylvia Dobbs, soprano, Mr. Jack Johnston, an Irish tenor, and Mr. Philip Mayhew, a young English bass. The last two-mentioned singers should be particularly welcome to the ranks of local artists, as such voices are comparatively rarely heard over the air in New Zealand.

THE rebroadcast by 1YA of 2ME, Sydney's relay of the welcome to Wing-Commander Kingsford Smith at Mascot aerodrome and later at Mascot Town Hall on Wednesday was one of the most successful rebroadcasts ever carried out by the Auckland

station. Everything came through very clearly, including the roar of the aeroplane engines and the cheers of the crowd. The rebroadcast lasted from 4.50 p.m. till 5.50 p.m. and the local station received many congratulations on its effort.

THE suggestion that a short wave station in Sydney, operated by whatever body controls broadcasting in New Zealand, would be well worth while is made by Mr. H. B. Arthur, of Auckland. Mr. Arthur, who is one of the best-known short wave experts in the Dominion, gives it as his opinion that an Empire short wave station in England would not be of very great benefit to New Zealanders, but that a similar station in Sydney run for the special benefit of New Zealand listeners would give us a better and

more valuable service. After years of short wave work he is convinced that it will never become really popular with ordinary listeners on account of the great amount of atmospheric interference which is always present during reception. At the present time listening to short wave stations in different parts of the world provides a certain amount of novelty, but there are very few regular short wave programmes to be picked up which will interest the average listener, apart from those broadcast in Australia.

THE concert by the 1YA Choir on Sunday was up to its usual high standard and most enjoyable. Another community sing by the choir will be given from the studio on November 13, when it will be assisted by Reg Morgan's band. Included in the same programme will be a dramatic sketch, entitled "The Drum," founded on the legend of Drake's drum and written by Mr. E. J. Landon, of Auckland, whose other sketch, "The Signal," has been heard from 1YA twice. On December 9 the choir will give the cantata, "St. John's Eve," by Frederic Cowen, a piece particularly appropriate for the Christmas season.

THE judging of the entries for the 1YA Song Writing Competition is taking longer than expected, but it is hoped to be able to announce the winner shortly. A total of 333 entries was received, one competitor sending in no fewer than forty-five, so that the judges are faced with no easy task.

A SLIGHT hitch in the transmission occurred at 1YA on Tuesday evening. The programme was interrupted for a few minutes about eight o'clock while a signal light was readjusted. This is the first time a hitch has occurred in the broadcasts from 1YA for about eighteen months, and the station is to be congratulated on its consistent transmission.

THE opening ceremony at the new Auckland Railway Station is to be relayed from 1YA on November 26.

AN Auckland listener writing to a local daily states that when 1YA is off the air he gets 1ZB, generally 2YA, and sometimes after 10.30 p.m. 2FC on his crystal set. He prophesies that if the new proposals in regard to the New Zealand stations being increased in power are carried out, difficulty will be experienced in separating the transmissions on a crystal set.

AN Auckland radio dealer at the request of a householder recently took a set out to demonstrate in a suburban home. Imagine his surprise when on arrival he found nine other sets, all of different makes, already in the house and being put through their performances by the prospective buyer. This gives some idea of the present competition being experienced among radio agents.

### TEN DAYS' FREE TRIAL.

"Modern Radio Communication." (J. H. Reyner). The most authoritative manual of up-to-date theory and practice. 220 pages; 121 illustrations. Post free 6/3, or will be sent for 10 days trial FREE. The Technical Publications Ltd., Book Dept., G.P.O. Box 1572, Wellington.



THE CLARION QUARTET.

Mr. Lambert Harvey (tenor), Miss L. Wood (soprano), Miss Beryl Smith (contralto), and Mr. Duncan Black (bass). One of the leading Auckland quartets, who are heard regularly from 1YA.

—S. P. Andrew, photo.