

Radio Programmes

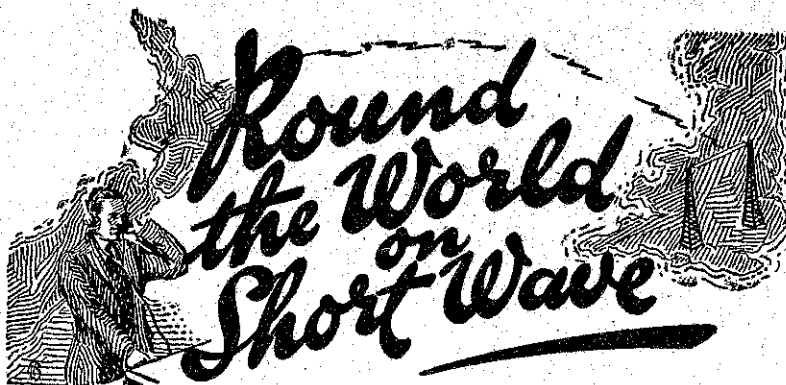
(To the Editor.)

MAY I be permitted to express a few comments on the programmes of the Broadcasting Company's stations. I realise that this is a subject that must be rather outworn by now, but there is one aspect that appears to have escaped general notice. In the first place I wish to say that it is my firm opinion that any listener who is dissatisfied with the programmes as generally transmitted at present ought to sell his radio set and buy a gramophone, when he will be able to please himself what he listens to.

It is rather amusing, to say the least of it, to read the multitude of diametrically opposed opinions that one reads on any particular programme. To the jazz addict I would say that I personally have found it quite possible to listen to jazz any night I wished to. But quite apart from whether Smith complains that he has to listen to too much highbrow stuff, the Broadcasting Company must realise that it has a duty in respect of the items it presents. Our "A" stations, as the national representatives of our broadcasting stations, ought to have an educational influence as well as merely fulfilling the position of entertainers, and the dissemination of good music should be one of their chief aims. My own particular complaint is this: I have been a constant listener now for many months, but I could count the number of times I have heard a Kreisler recording on the fingers of one hand. I have never heard a Grieg Concerto or a Beethoven Sonata. I heard a Gilbert and Sullivan only once, and that from a "B" station; I mean anything like the complete score of an opera. I have been personally associated with a private station, and I know that the owner has scores of requests for operatic pieces of all descriptions.

But I have heard the "Stein Song" on a number of occasions that must be getting near three figures. I have heard "Smiling Irish Eyes" till I feel like committing murder every time I hear it now.

How about the Broadcasting Company putting over the score of say one of the operas of the "Ring des Nibelungen," or a Beethoven sonata, or even some really good talking records instead of the interminable John Henry



THIS page is conducted in the interests of shortwave enthusiasts. A weekly log comprising notes of reception and interesting topical events is contributed by Mr. F. W. Sellens, Northland, Wellington, but all listeners are invited to send in paragraphs of general interest.

Short-wave News

Britain Talks to America.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made for a number of Sunday afternoon broadcasts by prominent people in Great Britain to listeners on the Columbia chain of stations in America. The series opened on Sunday, September 14, with a talk at Savoy Hill by Mr. John Masefield, the Poet Laureate. Among other speakers will be Sir Oliver Lodge, Lord Beaverbrook, Sir Herbert Samuel, the Marquis of Zetland, Mrs. Mary Agnes Hamilton, Viscount Astor, and Mr. H. G. Wells. These talks are to be transmitted via the Trans-Atlantic Telephone Service, the times being 5.30 a.m., Monday morning, N.Z. summer time. The wavelength to be used is not stated, but it will probably be one used on the regular telephone service, which ranges from 16.10 metres to 33.26 metres, according to the time of day and year.

It has been decided to increase the power of Konigswusterhausen (Zeesen) from 35 to 50 kilowatts.

THE station reported on about 49.9 metres during the early morning, in these notes, has been identified as 7LO, Nairobi. This station has been heard good enough in Australia to hear the call sign, but at the time of writing nobody in New Zealand has reported it, except as a query from an Auckland listener. I have not heard

records, which are by the way an excellent illustration of the fact that lack of variety is one of the most insufferable things in life. We have to put up with enough mediocre music in the way of raucous Americanisms which dominate the talkie stage. It has become a platitude now that most persons who dislike the so-called highbrow music do so because they do not get the chance to hear better. Let not the Broadcasting Company forget itself so far as to make the remoter ether resound to the interminable strains of negroid music—Axon (Wairoa).

[In complying with requests such as that of our correspondent, the Broadcasting Company, and for that matter "B" stations, are opposed by the Performing Rights Association. Some of the cases cited are typical examples of what the broadcasters must not broadcast.—Ed.]

7LO for several mornings now, since learning who it was.

VK2ME were heard to tell London that they were conducting tests with Bandoeng, Java, at present on Friday of each week from 11.00 to 13.00 G.M.T. (11 p.m. to 1 a.m. N.Z. summer time), in connection with the opening of a service between Australia and Java.

PK3AN, Java, 49.7 metres, and PMY, Java, 58 metres, are reported to be receivable at good strength from 11.41 p.m. (our time).

THE excellent Italian station, 3RO, Rome, has been missed from its 25-metre transmission recently. It would be a pity if they changed their wavelength, as reception has been very good on the one used during the past few weeks.

Notes on Reception

A TRIP to Christchurch, followed by some alterations to my receiver, has prevented me from doing much listening during the past few days.

The mornings have been very poor, 5SW and Zeesen weak, with 3RO off the air.

FZR, Saigon (24.9 metres), and FTN, Paris (24.6 metres), have been heard at good volume on duplex, after 10 p.m. W3XAL and W9XF have been the best Americans, the latter carrying on till 7 p.m.

KIXR and RV15 have come in at excellent strength after 10 p.m., but static has spoilt reception.

A talk to New York from Sydney, via London, was heard on Friday evening. Speech from New York was a trifle unsteady; the quality was spoilt by retransmission, as GBP, the English station was excellent, when speaking direct to Sydney.

Short-wave Notes

ON Sunday, 26/10/30, three new short-wave stations were heard JIAA, Tokio, Japan, at 2 a.m., was heard calling U.S.A., and later worked duplex telephony. Signals were not very strong, but clarity was excellent. Wavelength 35 metres.

KEL, Bollinas, California, working on about 43 metres, was playing records and calling JIAA, Tokio. Signals from KEL were good strength, and very clear. While working duplex telephony, JIAA was heard better through KEL than direct. KEL is located at Bollinas, and is owned by the Radio Corporation of America, KBK and KGRM, Radio Manila, on about 46 metres, were transmitting a special programme until 3 a.m., when I closed down. This station is not the ordinary relay transmitter which is heard nightly, as it was received with better volume and modulation than KAIR. The announcements made were: "KBK and KGRM, owned and operated by the R.C.P., transmitting a special test programme for reception in San Francisco." This station is identical with the Manila station heard testing on 21 metres during the week.—A. D. Rogers (Newtown).

Crackling Noises

BEFORE blaming interference for crackling noises, it is as well to make sure that the trouble is really outside the set and not inside. This can be done by removing the aerial plug from the set. If the set is in order, no sound should be heard, but if noises are still heard it is obvious that the fault is in the set itself.

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The rate for small advertisements under this heading is 1/6 cash for 20 words, and twopenny for every other word thereafter.

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