

for all sorts of strange combinations of instruments — and even strange instruments — by this man who was as curious as he was sensible. His mastery over music was complete; his emotional faculty was all-embracing. He was the greatest of all comedy-opera writers, and he might, given time and a suitable librettist, have been the greatest of all the composers of tragedy-opera.

The tragic was not dominant in him. The typical Mozart air is light and pellucid, with a touch of tenderness and a touch of sadness, northern sorrow only just impinging upon southern gaiety, yet in places—as in the tremendous entry of the statue in "Don Giovanni"—we feel that he had a great dramatic and tragic power in reserve; and in some of the symphonies (notably the "Jupiter") we feel that he is saying all that Beethoven has to say, and saying it more reticently.

Mozart is one of the brightest stars in the musical firmament. His music breathes the warm-hearted, laughter-loving artist, living in and for art, whose genial nature all the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune might wound, but could not embitter. Joy is the keynote of his compositions; the rare note of tragedy or mourning is but a brief minor episode. From an instinctive repugnance to demonstrative excess of feeling, flowed plastic serenity of form; in his heartfelt melody German depth of emotion is expressed with Italian frankness, making his great dramatic works perennially fresh. That his piano works are less so is due chiefly to a century of progress in technical means of expression; yet his D major concerto of 1788 (for example) still charms by suave euphony, like many lesser pieces. Among his symphonies the "Jupiter" in C, and those in G minor (1789) and E flat, are prominent. In finish of form,

Cherubini and Mendelssohn are most akin to Mozart; in soulful melody, Schubert is his lineal successor. Like Schubert and Mendelssohn, his productivity was astounding and embraced all departments of musical composition.

Radio Amateurs

Upper Hutt Society

THE Upper Hutt Radio Society made a very promising start on Friday last, when an evening's entertainment was held in the Princess Hall, Upper Hutt. A large number of the younger generation were present, and a keen interest in the proceedings was maintained. Prior to commencement, half an hour's gramophone recital from two radio receivers of well-known makes was given.

On the stage were several sets of different types, including a Browning-Drake and a crystal set. During the evening the Browning-Drake, in conjunction with a horn speaker, was used to demonstrate the progress made by radio technique.

The chiming of 2YA officially opened the meeting, and then Mr. A. J. McCurdy, president of the society, addressed a few words to the gathering. He spoke of the early history of radio saying how experiments dated as far back as 600 B.C. He continued and outlined the excellent aims and objects of the society, urging co-operation between listeners for their mutual benefit. In country districts where technical service is not readily to hand an institution like this should flourish. It aims to teach its members how to look after their own sets, and to provide free service for those who are not able to undertake this.

He then introduced the next speaker, Mr. Colin W. Smith, of the "Radio Record," who spoke for a few minutes on the excellent work that the amateur enthusiast had done and was doing for radio. He referred to the great achievement of the amateur when he made short-wave broadcasting possible. He conveyed to them best wishes for success.

The next speaker was Mr. Preston Billing, a very well-known Wellington radio engineer. Mr. Billing presented a specially prepared address on the elements of radio. He used a blackboard to sketch out some of the circuits, and interested listeners with comparisons of the machines on the stage. Mr. Billing's address was listened to with great interest, and he evidently left quite a good impression on the minds of many of the younger folk, whom he urged to take up radio seriously, as there was a great deal to be done. "In a few years," he said, "television will be with us, and it may be one of my young audience will discover how to make it a commercial proposition." At the conclusion of the address further items, both radio and gramophone, were presented. During the earlier part of the evening power interference had spoilt reception of 2YA, but later it cleared up, and the Australian and other New Zealand stations could be received quite well. After this a vocal item was rendered and met with great approval, and the meeting concluded after a few further demonstrations. Keen interest is being shown in its activities in Upper Hutt, and a strong society should result.

Unusual Experience

Crystal Set Transmits

THE Editor of the Melbourne "Listener-In" received a report from a most unusual radio experience from a Tasmanian listener: "I happened across a peculiar transmission yesterday. I was warming up my set, preparatory to tuning to our local station's afternoon service. I had given the set more than the usual amount of reaction, and as I tuned toward 7ZL's wave-length I ran into a patch of strange voices. The spot was very near where I pick up 7ZL. I could pick up four voices and the conversation was just the everyday talk, and was quite unlike any broadcast I had ever heard. The voices were a bit hollow, as if talking at the end of the room away from the 'mike.' This went on for about five minutes, and then 7ZL started broadcasting and put a stop to it. I thought at the time that probably 7ZL had some visitors in the studio and the 'mike' had been inadvertently left open, but I thought it strange, as I couldn't get the generator hum, for I am in their shock area. After 7ZL's transmission finished, I tried again, and this time the strange 'transmission' was much better, the voices being much nearer to the 'mike.' By adjusting my set controls I was able to fill my speaker, and could hear every word and noise from this 'new' station. At last out of the peculiar style of entertainment I got the names of the 'artists,' and on logging them I found that they were those of a family of neighbours, three doors away.

"I made inquiries, and found they were using a crystal set, and they had been trying a small cone loudspeaker on it. When I got them to speak near to this speaker, or 'mike,' which it had turned itself into, their voices roared in at my end."

Australian Licenses

SOME interesting figures are revealed in a statement from the Postmaster-General's Department of the Australian Government. This sets out the number of licenses in that country as follows:—

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Western Australia	7,547	1.80
Tasmania	7,587	3.52
Commonwealth	330,169	5.13

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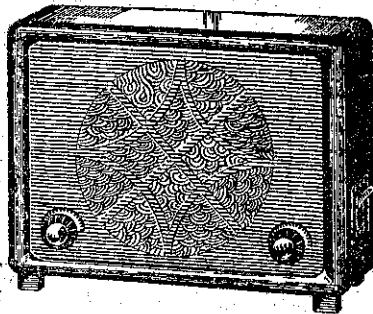
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