

Notes and News from the North

AN interesting new artist who is to be heard from 1YA during November is Mr. Bert Skeels, late of the Westminster Glee Singers. Mr. Skeels, who terms himself a male alto, will sing from the Auckland station for the first time on November 21. Another new singer, Miss Norma Calder, contralto, will be heard from 1YA on November 23.

ALONG interesting programmes to be given from 1YA during November are the following:—Wednesday, November 26, the Auckland Training College Glee Club in choral and solo items, and also a sketch entitled "Walking Off" by Mr. C. H. Box; Thursday, 27, concert by the Orpheus Club, assisted by Mr. Frank Sutherland; Friday, 28, a full evening's programme of dramatic sketches and solo items arranged by Mrs. Zoe Bartley-Baxter; and Saturday, 29, a special St. Andrew's Day programme, including items by the Auckland and District Highland Pipe Band, Miss Rita MacCullay, vocalist, and Sandy and Mac, humourists.

THOSE Auckland listeners, and they were numerous, who sat up late on Saturday night and early on Sunday morning to hear the results of the New South Wales elections, were well repaid. Reception of both the Sydney and Melbourne stations was excellent and the manner in which the results and figures were announced made the broadcast most interesting.

WHO would not have a radio receiving set? The set on which "Call Up" has lately been doing most of his listening was built at a total cost of three shillings and fivepence! It is only a humble crystal, but it brings in 1YA as clearly as could be desired and when that station is not on the

air can pick up 1ZB, Auckland. The aerial used is the wire mattress of the bed in which the writer sleeps.

THE Auckland Radio Society is not a very active body nowadays. In the winter their activities lapse owing to the icy atmosphere of their meeting room and in the summer there seem to be too many other diversions. No doubt this inactivity is quite a good sign and indicates a state of fairly general satisfaction with radio matters in New Zealand. All the same, it is often helpful for radio enthusiasts to meet and exchange news and views and it seems a pity that this society does not do more to keep radio enthusiasts together.

THE items from 1YA by the Congress Hall Band on Wednesday evening were enjoyable and it is to be hoped that this band will be heard over the air again. The contract for the broadcasting of the Municipal Band has still not been arranged for the next twelve months and listeners have not heard the band for some weeks. Even if the contract is not renewed, the Congress Hall, Birkenhead and Devonport United Bands should be able to provide Auckland listeners with good music.

Tightening Terminals

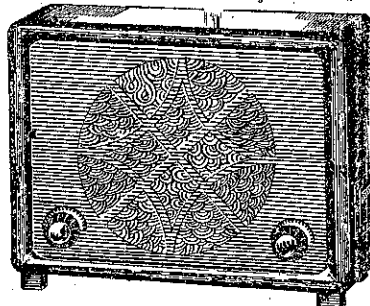
HOW many enthusiasts make a point of testing the tightness of all terminals before screwing down the parts. Much annoyance is saved if this rule is followed, as there is generally at least one loose terminal in, say, three or four valve holders. A hot soldering iron invariably seems to loosen an already loose contact, and when connecting wires are being tightened down by screwing home the nut of a terminal the least slackness will allow the terminal to work loose.

Laboratory Jottings

Blue Spot Receiver

THERE is no doubt that the popularity of the local station receiver is becoming progressively more popular, and the introduction of another low-priced electric receiver will be welcomed. This is the Blue Spot local station set, the New Zealand agents for which (Messrs. Scott and Holladay) have supplied us with a receiver for test.

In appearance it is decidedly neat. It is self-contained, small, light and portable. In the front are the grille



covering the speaker and the two controls—tuning and reaction. It is well-finished, properly balanced and unique in appearance. At the back are the protruding valves, three in number, rectifying detector and power valve, two sockets for the aerial plugs, earth terminal, plugs for a gramophone pickup, a wave change knob and a diaphragm adjuster. To safeguard the valves from falling out or becoming dislodged, they are held in position by spring caps.

For local station reception, the set can be regarded as a portable. It can be shifted to any part of the house, or even outside, providing there is a light socket handy, and with a small piece of wire be made to work at excellent strength. We used the set for this purpose and found that it would receive quite well with a piece of insulated wire 10 feet long laid anywhere handy. There was no need to erect a proper aerial. One of the aerial sockets is specially designed for this type of aerial for it is tightly coupled to the aerial circuit and makes use of the slightest impressed signal. The other terminal we found of little practical use, for although its use resulted in quite loud signals and sharp tuning, it was nevertheless of no great value, as selectivity is not required in such a set.

The tone of this set is good, all things being considered. It is distinctly in the leading class of this type of set and very enjoyable tone is secured. It uses an adjustable cone speaker of the "Blue Spot" type and this is an undoubted assurance that the quality will be as good as that type of cone is capable of producing. It will handle quite comfortable room strength without rattling, and as a gramophone amplifier it is quite as good as the table model machines.

Apart from the qualities of the instrument as a receiver of the local station, it has quite good qualities as a distance getter and can provide a considerable amount of enjoyment on the silent night. Without much difficulty we were able to receive the four New Zealand "A" stations, 2BL, 2FC and 4QG at comfortable speaker strength. This test was made quite

Musical Thunder

MUSICAL thunder, accompanied by a vivid electrical display, was encountered by radio engineers recently in experiments with high-powered short-wave broadcasting. The thunder, created artificially, was converted into music corresponding to the input at the radio microphone. In handling powers above fifteen kilowatts on the short waves, the engineers found that vivid coronas flashed when attempts were made to modulate.

Since the power supplying the arc was modulated with music, the arc alternately collapsed and built up according to the modulation, this action setting up air-wave vibrations similar to thunder. Instead of the roar and roll of real thunder, however, it was a musical sound similar to the music being broadcast, and persons 400 feet away thought they were hearing the output of a giant loudspeaker. The arc finally melted the copper and caused the antenna to drop.

The trouble was solved when larger antenna wire was used, and a large corona plate was placed at each end, making it possible to obtain thirty-five kilowatts, perfectly modulated in the antenna, without coronas.

Communication With Mars

THE projected attempts to communicate with the planet Mars are meeting with a great deal of comment. The latest in the field of such commentators is Edouard Branley, inventor of the famous Branley coherer. Professor Branley is decidedly sceptical of the ultimate success of such communication, even though, as he himself is inclined to believe, the radio or other waves did reach their mark.

Time Signals from 2YA

THE advent of summer time automatically brought the Dominion Observatory time signal, as broadcast by 2YA, from 7.30 to 7 o'clock. This arrangement has not proved as satisfactory as the clock time of 7.30, and the Broadcasting Company has now made arrangements with the Dominion Astronomer for the time signal to be sent out at 7.30. For the duration of summer time, therefore, the signal (which will be one impulse instead of the three as heretofore) will be broadcast at 7.30.

early in the evening before the Australian stations had reached maximum strength. At the time of the test there were many other stations that we did not stop to identify, and anyone interested in reaching for the smaller Australian stations could derive endless fun from the set. The slow motion dial and the smoothly acting reaction makes tuning to these distant stations relatively easy.

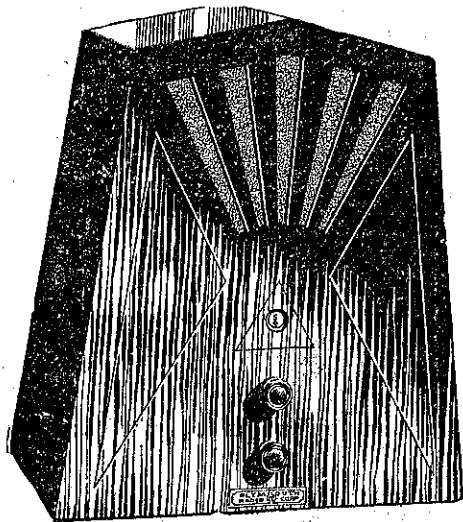
It is necessary to alter the position of the three-way switch at the back to receive all the stations usually heard. The switch covers three bands, viz., 180-400 metres, 250-650 metres and 700-2000 metres. Although this latter band is of little use in this country, many who wish to listen to the Morse in those regions will find it of interest.

Plymouth Screened Grid Dynamic Radio.

WE GUARANTEE RESULTS.

SPECIFICATIONS:

- (1)—Triple Screened Grid.
- (2)—Power Detection.
- (3)—245 Power Amplification.
- (4)—Rola Dynamic Speaker.
- (5)—Novel non glare Dial.
- (6)—Single dial control
- (7)—Tubes: 3, No. 224 s.g.; 1, No. 245; 1, No. 280.
- (8)—Current 230V A.C., 50-60 cycles.
- (9)—Cabinet, genuine walnut, in conservative modernistic design. Scientifically constructed to give perfect acoustics and maximum tone quality for a small cabinet.
- (10)—Compact portable
- (11)—Size 16in. high, 13in. wide, 7½in. deep.
- (12)—Weight 17lb.



PRICE: £22 CASH
Apply for Terms.

F. J. W. FEAR & CO.
63 Willis St. - WELLINGTON
PHONE: 41-446.