

THE Wellington Pioneer Club's singing circle, which gave a concert from 2YA recently, merits a special word of praise. The solos, trios and quartets sounded delightful over the air.

4YA has been coming in with plenty of vigour lately, and has shown little inclination to fading or distortion. 1YA has also been at its peak of late. 3YA has always given Wellington as much volume as could be desired night or day. In the daytime 3YA, as usual, comes in at Wellington with out the slightest symptom of fading.

"TRAMPER" (Lower Hutt) writes:

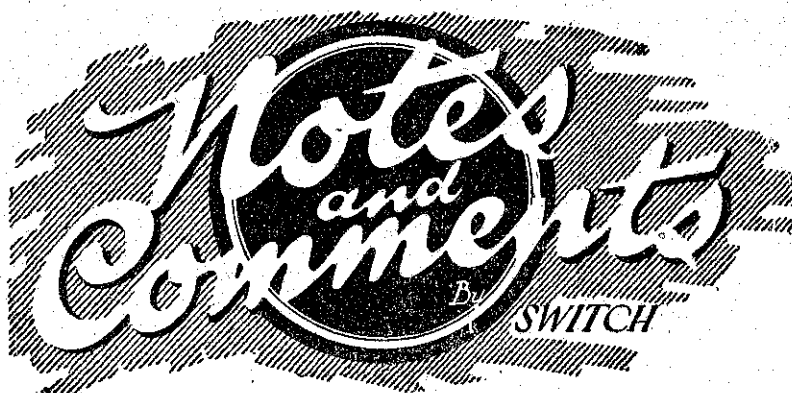
"Mention was made in your column recently of the advantage of using homing pigeons when search parties go looking for lost trampers. A radio transmitter is far too heavy to be packed over rough tracks, but the wonder is that the search parties have not used pigeons more than has been the case. In the Wellington district there are many homing pigeon fanciers who would gladly lend their birds."

A BEGINNER asked "Switch" recently why he did not hear any static when he tuned in to the local broadcast station. The explanation given was that the greater the sensitivity of a receiving set the more static it brought. To tune in the local station the sensitivity of the set is reduced to a minimum, thus rendering static inaudible. If the sensitivity of the set were increased to the maximum for the local station, reception from that station would be so loud as to overwhelm the static excepting when static is particularly bad.

RECENTLY a short-wave broadcast from London and rebroadcast throughout America by the Columbia network of stations included a talk

directly to the American people by George Bernard Shaw. Hitherto Shaw had curtly refused all invitations either to visit America or address Americans by radio, declaring he had nothing sufficiently important to say on a subject which not only would interest Americans but would interest Shaw! Professor Einstein, author of the relativity theory, was also heard speaking at a dinner at the Savoy Hotel, London, given by the joint British committee for the promotion of physical and economic welfare of Eastern Jews.

AN Island Bay correspondent, "Spider," says: "The other night when there was a steady rain I found reception had dropped considerably in audibility, and I could not account for it. Next morning I made an examination of my aerial and found that spiders had woven a heavy festoon around my lead-in wire and insulated tube where it enters the window. It occurred to me that the rain running down the lead-in wire poured over the cobweb and then ran down the side of the house, offering an easy path to earth for the radio-frequency current. I removed the cobweb and when rain fell again reception was excellent. I pass the hint along to your readers." Verb. Sap!



Hobart, have decreased 50 per cent., but the Japanese stations have been coming in with greatly increased volume lately.

FROM the Chicago "Herald-Examiner" radio page comes the following:—

"Question: Is it true that colder weather brings clearer radio reception?"

"Answer: Yes; there is practically no atmospheric static in the winter. Also, the ether seems to transmit signals much more efficiently, enabling fans to tune for distance with more certainty."

Fortunate Yankees! Here in New Zealand we get a considerable amount of static in the winter, although long-distance reception of Australian stations is much louder than in summer, but the earlier abatement of daylight effect, due to the shorter days, and the elimination of the daylight-saving half-hour are the main factors in securing better reception from Australia in the winter.

FOR the first time in the history of broadcasting in this part of the world, individual subscriptions to a national loan were notified to the various A class stations when the recent Commonwealth loan was being raised. The Australian A class stations had special telephones set apart for those subscribers who desired to record their purchases of bonds and to have their names and the amounts subscribed put on the air. The record was broken when 2FC, Sydney, announced that a £10 bond had been purchased for an infant only 2 hours old!

THOSE listeners who tune-in the Australian stations late at night must have been surprised at the clarity of the relays by 4QG, Brisbane, of the talks given at 5CL, Adelaide, on the Australia v. West Indies Test cricket match. The link-up of 4QG, Brisbane and 5CL, Adelaide, involved the use of something like 1500 miles of land line. There was, of course, a little hum on the line, and other parasitic noises, but the voice level was well above that of line noises. Stations in Melbourne and Sydney were also linked up, but 4QG was quite as clear as the intermediate stations.

IT seems certain now that an Empire short-wave broadcast station is to be established in England. A Press cable has gone so far as to announce that the news service will be purchased and broadcast three times daily. This should overcome the difficulty with regard to the differences in time of this "far-flung Empire." Doubtless the station will be of a much greater power than the existing 5SW, Chelmsford, and the YA stations will have a better chance of rebroadcasting.

LOOKING back through his "log" of five years ago "Switch" noticed that on May 2, 1925, 2FC, Sydney, broadcast a lecture by the New Zealand Government Agency in Sydney entitled "A Travelogue on New Zealand." It was put on the air by 2FC just before 8 o'clock. The use of broadcasting for enticing Australians to spend their holidays in New Zealand should not be lost sight of by the present regime.

Reception Table for Australian Stations

FOR the guidance of those who wish to check their reception of the Australian stations, "Switch" prepares weekly a table showing the average relative strength with which he has obtained reception at 11.30 p.m. during the past week:—

2FC, Sydney	10
2BL, Sydney	9
4QG, Brisbane	8
2GB, Sydney	7½
3LO, Melbourne	4½
2UE, Sydney	3
3AE, Melbourne	3
3UZ, Melbourne	3
3DB, Melbourne	3
7ZL, Hobart	1
5CL, Adelaide	1
6WF, Perth	1
2KY, Sydney	1

The above figures are the points assessed, with 10 as the maximum.

Reception has decreased from 40 to 50 per cent. as compared with midwinter reception.

the reply stated that the Japanese Government would not agree to any alteration in wavelengths. This sort of trouble was minimised in Europe by an international broadcasting conference at Geneva.

"SWITCH" has been asked to assess the decrease in volume of the Australian stations as heard in Wellington at the present period (midsummer) as compared with midwinter, at 11.30 p.m., New Zealand daylight-saving time. Two influences are at work at the present time which make for a greatly decreased volume in reception of these stations. They are the added half-hour difference in time and the extended daylight effect due to the lengthened days of midsummer. "Switch" estimates the decrease in volume at about 40 to 50 per cent. 5CL, Adelaide, and 7ZL,

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