

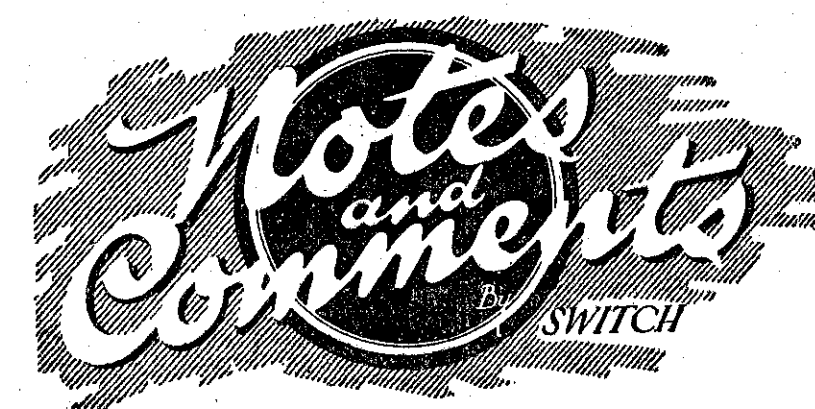
**STILL** another B class station is listed to commence broadcasting in Victoria within a few weeks. It is to be known as 3WR, Wangaratta. The power will be 50 watts in the aerial, and possibly it will be heard in some favourable localities in New Zealand. The wave-length allocated is 238 metres (1280 kc.). The Heising system of modulation will be employed, and a crystal oscillator stage will be embodied in the circuit.

**MARCONI** is still as enthusiastic as ever, and broadcast listeners may have further cause to thank him in the near future. Recently he said: "Wireless-controlled machinery, or even television, will not successfully operate in a perfect manner for many years to come. But I do think that I have time and the knowledge for making wireless transmission better than it is." This reminds one of a remark made at a Wellington home recently when a radio novice asked petulantly, "What's Marconi doing about this static? Can't he stop it?"

**ALL** New Zealand listeners who tune in to the Australian stations have probably heard the new station at Newcastle, 2NC. The studio is at the Strand Theatre, Newcastle, and the transmitting station is situated at Beresfield, 12 miles from the town. Mr. Stuart F. Doyle, chairman of directors of the Australian Broadcasting Co., states that a population of 200,000 in the Hunter River district, who previously had always experienced considerable difficulty in the reception of Sydney programmes, will be adequately provided for by the new station.

**MR. KEITH GRANT**, an ex-New Zealand vocalist, sang "Could I Express in Song" at the opening night of 2NC, Newcastle.

**A** WELLINGTON listener reported to "Switch" that while he received all stations on wavelengths below approximately 320 metres with good volume, he found that those operating



on wavelengths above that mentioned were relatively weak. This appeared to be a case calling for adjustment of the variable condensers in the set, and the listener was advised to have this attended. This was done and the trouble was thereby cured. This may serve as a hint to others who experience similar trouble.

**DAYLIGHT** reception of the Wanganui B class stations has been exceptionally loud in Wellington of late. The volume has been double that of the past, and the tone has been excellent. Reception has risen well above the usual electrical noise level which is very high in some parts of Wellington during the daytime.

**MISS MERCEDES GLEITZE**, when she attempts to swim Cook Strait in February, will be accompanied by a launch with a shortwave radio telephone transmitter. The progress reports will be rebroadcast direct from 2YA, Wellington. This is the first broadcast of the kind to take place in New Zealand. The shortwave operators, two well-known Wellington amateur transmitters, Messrs. Green (ZL2GR) and Dixon (ZL2BO) are to be commended on their undertaking.

distance reception, providing one's set is efficient, is a high and well-installed aerial.

**THE** latest radio sets are not necessarily the most efficient. "Switch's" own a.c. set was purchased four years ago. It has no screen-grid valves, nor the latest power valve. The circuit is of the neutrodyne type, and has what is known as an "inductor," a gadget to ensure equal volume on all the usual broadcast wave-lengths. There are four stages of radio-frequency, one heater-type valve as a detector, two stages of transformer-coupled audio-frequency, one valve being of the 210 power type.

**THE** writer's set, which is quite a good performer, is not permitted to work with worn-out valves. No one can reasonably expect good performances from the best of sets unless high-class valves are used, and these must be tested occasionally to ascertain their efficiency. A thousand hours' service is to be expected from the best valves, and if one uses a set for three hours daily, a year's service should be obtained from them. This set is operated about six hours daily, year in and year out. Hence not more than six months' life is expected of the valves.

**THESE** remarks concerning the normal lives of valves apply to those employed as amplifiers or as detectors. In the case of rectifying valves, some remarkable instances of longevity have come under "Switch's" notice. His own rectifying valve, which is of a high-class make, has been in constant use for about four years, and when tested recently was only slightly "down" in efficiency. This type of valve is well known to last out two or three sets of the amplifying and detecting types.

**DURING** the broadcasting campaign in Australia to raise the money for the Commonwealth conversion loan, New Zealanders were kept well posted in the individual amounts received by the various Australian A stations. The figures made available by the Commonwealth Treasurer show that a grand total of £640,140 was received as a direct response to the broadcast appeals.

**RECENTLY** the Australian Broadcasting Company received a letter from a listener in Queensland explaining a new use to which community singing could be put. A large snake was seen several times in the garden of a home in Mitchell, but no amount of strategy would entice the reptile into the open. Then, one day, the head of the house had a brilliant idea. It was community singing night, and, remembering that snakes are attracted by music, he placed the loudspeaker on the lawn, tuned in to 2FC, and awaited results. For half an hour nothing happened, but when "Yip I Addy" burst forth upon the air the reptile could keep to its hiding place no longer, but came out on to the lawn, either to hear more distinctly or make good its escape—which, no one knows. Down came the stick, and, with "Yip I Addy" as its funeral march, the snake's spirit flitted to the happy hunting ground.

**THE** Underwriters' Regulations are quite definite on the point of the gauge of wire to be used for aerials and earths. Despite this, an insurance agent recently informed "Switch" that lately he had seen wire employed which did not come up to the requirements of these regulations. No attempt had been made at soldering the wire joints and the earth wire was casually twisted around a water pipe. This was done by an expert. "Switch" asks, "Is it fair to the purchaser?"

**STRAUSS'S** immortal "Blue Danube" waltz, which has delighted millions of people for generations past, is apparently still unknown to some adults in this country. "Switch" heard a rumour that quite recently a couple of grown-ups, after hearing a delightful

### Reception Table for Australian Stations

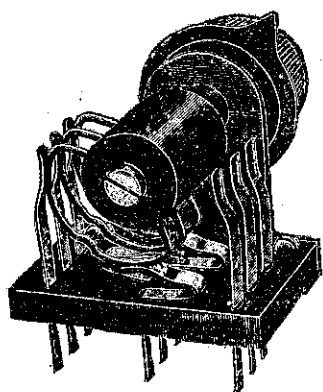
**FOR** the guidance of those who wish to check their reception of the Australian stations, "Switch" prepares weekly a table showing the average relative strength with which he has obtained reception at 11.30 p.m. during the past week:—

2FC, Sydney .....	10
2BL, Sydney .....	9
4QG, Brisbane .....	7½
3LO, Melbourne .....	7
3AK, Melbourne .....	6½
2GB, Sydney .....	6
2UE, Sydney .....	5½
3UZ, Melbourne .....	4½
3DB, Melbourne .....	4
7ZL, Hobart .....	3
5CL, Adelaide .....	2½
6WF, Perth .....	2
2KY, Sydney .....	1½

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

record of "The Blue Danube" broadcast by 2YA, Wellington, were so pleased that they phoned the studio asking for the name of the waltz and the number of the record! Fact.

**"SWITCH"** has met lately about half a dozen broadcast-listening novices who were keenly disappointed because their expensive a.c. sets had failed to reach the distant stations which were available during the favourable conditions obtaining on New Year's Eve. "Switch" inspected some of the installations and found that the aerials were low and short, and the lead-ins zig-zagged to chimneys or housetops. The greatest factor in obtaining good long-



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