

New Sound Film Equipment

Designed by Marconi Company

THE Marconi Company have now entered the talking-picture field, and, characteristically have created a sensation among the trade by the excellence of results secured by their sound-recording equipment.

At a recent motion-picture trade exhibition held in London, the first talking film recorded by the new "Visatone" process, as it is called, was the subject of much comment because of the crispness and clarity of reproduction. Dialogue was clear-cut, and the difficult "s" and "t" sounds, which are the crucial tests of a recording system, reached a high degree of purity.

Of Topical Interest

RECENTLY "Switch" mentioned that 3AR, Melbourne, had gone off considerably in volume. The Melbourne "Listener-in" publishes the following letter, which endorses "Switch's" statement:—

"Dear Sir,—What has happened to 3AR lately? This used to be one of the best stations for us to tune in; we got good clear transmission with great volume. Now the transmission is poor and most of the volume appears to have evaporated. This is not due to my set or atmospheric conditions, because other Melbourne stations, including the V.K.'s on Sunday nights, come in as well as ever.—Yours faithfully. A.E.R."

WHEN telephones are not left connected permanently to the set, but are put away, make sure they are placed in a dry airy position, as dampness is detrimental to them.

Octet's Temporary Leader

Distinguished Army Bandsman

MR. H. G. GLAY-SHER, who, as deputy conductor of the 3YA Studio Octet, has been in charge of that combination during recent weeks, while Mr. Harold Beck has been on holiday, is well-known to 3YA listeners as a harpist, on which instrument he is a very accomplished player. Mr. Glaysher has had a very interesting musical career. He has to his credit nearly 27 years of service with the band of the Royal Artillery.

Enlisting in the band as a boy of fourteen, Mr. Glaysher received his musical training at the Army School of Music, Kneller Hall, where every branch of the British Army, white as well as black, is represented.

The Royal Artillery Band is the largest in the British Army, being 92 strong, every member being a double handed player—the band being both string and military. Mr. Glaysher's instruments are harp, violin and clarinet.

As a member of the famous band he was privileged to attend many historic functions, including Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, the funeral



Mr. H. G. Glaysher.

of Queen Victoria, the coronation of King Edward and the funeral of King Edward, and the coronation of King George. He also attended all the banquets held in Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and the Mansion House, and the Royal Academy banquets at Burlington House. He visited New Zealand with the Artillery Band at the time of the Auckland Exhibition.

During the war, the band was engaged for six months every winter in playing for the troops in France and Belgium. After the Armistice the band toured France, Belgium and Germany, the tour concluding with eleven days in Paris, when the signing of the Peace Treaty was celebrated.

While in France, the band experienced the rigours of campaigning and suffered losses. On one occasion it was playing near the front line where the German trenches were only 200 yards away. A German band was playing at the same time. The Artillery Band had concluded its programme, and was in the middle of playing "God Save the King" when the enemy commenced to shell very heavily and inflicted severe losses.

Wavelets

IT is rumoured that a wireless station is to be installed at Mecca to call the faithful to prayer.

A lady was chosen from among 180 applicants to fill the role of announcer at Turin.

THE most powerful Mexican station, XEW, is now transmitting on a wavelength of 385 metres (780 k.c.).

WHEN a famous Dutch historian gave a ten-minutes talk on Rembrandt recently an American broadcasting network conducted a relay.

THE B.B.C. encourages young composers by broadcasting those works deemed worthy of recognition.

AN American contemporary states that the National Carbon Co. are making a new battery of dry cells, which are composed of porous electrodes which are capable of absorbing oxygen from the air continuously. It is claimed they will maintain a seven-valve receiver for a thousand hours.

Our Mailbag

Competition Wanted.

A CORRESPONDENT, "Rufus," from Ashburton, asks if it would not be possible to arrange a competition for readers who are not listeners. He states he is an enthusiastic reader, but funds will not permit his building a set, and he would like the chance of becoming a set owner. We have had a few letters from readers who are not listeners, but we think their numbers are really too small to permit a competition for them. We have in view a project which will possibly interest non-listening readers.

An Unrehearsed Incident.

QUITE a humorous though unrehearsed incident happened in the afternoon of Thursday, January 8, 1931, at the conclusion of a humorous record, a dialogue between two artists concerning road holes in London. Following an inquiry from one humourist, the other found the class of submerged pipe to be gas, by the aid of a match and hammer, with the usual result. Immediately listeners heard the fire engine coming down this London street to extinguish the flames. Then Mr. Announcer politely informed listeners that the Wellington Fire Brigade had just passed by the studio. Not the recording of a siren after all, but the sound of one picked up by the microphone at quite an appropriate moment.—Sense of Humour (Wellington).

2YA's Programme.

THERE is obviously considerable dissatisfaction with 2YA programmes, and it is certainly surprising that no apparent effort is being made to improve them at this station. 2YA is the "king" station in New Zealand, and there are possibly thousands of listeners who depend on it for entertainment, as the other YAs are too weak to give enjoyable reception. 2YA's weakness appears to be an excess of vocal items. 1YA and 3YA have numerous piano items, and also first-class instrumental trios. If these stations can provide first-class music of this description, surely 2YA can do so also. It almost appears to the average listener that 2YA, knowing that so many listeners depend on it, and that consequently it does not have to cater for listeners, puts on programmes of mediocre quality. Some of the bands that play at 2YA are appalling, as are some of its artists, and if 2YA would only on one night a week put on a programme of selected records of good music similar to its Sunday afternoon programmes, I feel sure that hundreds of listeners would be gratified. 2FC., Sydney, on Sunday evenings have what they call celebrity records recitals, and they are wonderful. If one night a week (Sunday would be most suitable) was devoted to this class of entertainment no listeners would object, and I am sure the bulk of them would welcome the change.

I sincerely hope that this suggestion will be considered by 2YA authorities. —Screen Grid" (Opunake).

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