

NEW ZEALAND listeners who find that 3AR, Melbourne, has become very weak lately will be interested in the complaint of a listener residing in Caulfield (an outside suburb of Melbourne), published in a recent issue of the "Listener In":—Sir,—Considering the power used by 3AR, this station should be received in Melbourne suburbs as loudly as any other, yet, strangely enough, it is one of the weakest, and, although my two-valve receiver brings in all other stations, including amateurs, 3AR is the weakest of them all.

SHORTWAVE listeners will soon hear a super-abundance of telephony from the Philippine Islands. Radio telephony is now being installed throughout the Philippines, in order to place Manila in conversational reach of every point. Later the inter-island radio telephone service will be extended to connect with the United States and Hawaii.

FOR a while recently patrons of the Wellington dirt track speedway missed the cheery voice of Mr. Geof. Shrimpton, the official announcer at the speedway microphone. Mr. Shrimpton, however, is back again in the arena, and his lively remarks are making the crowd laugh as of old. This well-known amateur radio transmitter appears to have given up his hobby.

SOME disappointment was expressed among listeners when it was announced that Miss Mercedes Gleitze had accepted an invitation to leave shortly for Sydney to compete in the ladies' endurance swim there, as many were looking forward to listening to the progress reports broadcast from the accompanying launch during her swim across Cook Strait. Miss Gleitze, however, has reassured us by stating that she had come to New Zealand for

the special purpose of swimming Cook Strait, and she would return from Sydney to carry out her intention.

WHILE listening to Mr. Scullin's address in the Ashfield Town Hall, Ashfield, Sydney, recently, "Switch" found that 2FC, Sydney, was decidedly weak. Switching over to 2NC, Newcastle, he received Mr. Scullin's speech many times louder than from 2FC. Within half an hour, however, 2FC recovered, and the volume soon overshadowed all the other Australian stations. An unusual steadiness was also maintained. Atmospheric vagaries may have accounted for 2FC's behaviour on that occasion.

AN indifferent receiving set can sometimes be improved 50 per cent. by the use of the "best" valves, and the "best" set may not perform within 50 per cent. of its capacity with indifferent valves. "Switch" is moved to reiterate this warning to listeners, as only a few days ago he inspected a friend's set which was obviously not pulling its weight, although six months previously it had done well. The reason was clearly deterioration

in the efficiency of the valves, which had not given more than half the period of usefulness obtainable from first-class makes of valves.

THE ship's barber on the Union Company's new San Francisco—Wellington liner "Monowai" has a first-class American screen-grid a.c. broadcast receiver in his barber's shop on the vessel. For an aerial he ran about 30 feet of insulated wire out of his cabin port-hole up to a stanchion on the boat-deck above his cabin. He obtains good loud-speaker reception of American stations far out in the Pa-

"ROY" (Kelburn) writes: "When searching for distant stations lately I have experienced loud clicking which considerably interfered with reception. I made a tour of the vicinity of my home and found a street light flickering with every gust of wind. What do you advise?" The street lamp was undoubtedly the cause of the interference. The best thing to do is to take the number of the post to which the street light is attached and write or 'phone to the city corporation electricity department. The trouble will then be rectified.

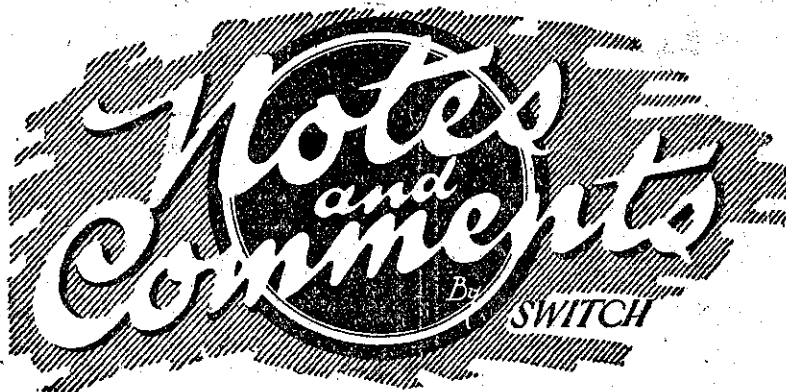
AFTER a splendid record, 2FC, Sydney, has at last dropped back second to 2BL, Sydney, in volume. Seasonal effect may be the cause of this lapse, and yet it may be due also to technical causes. A defective valve at the transmitting station would weaken transmission. Still, as 2NC, Newcastle, has been relaying 2FC, and the Newcastle station has good volume, the programmes from the Sydney station have been readily available, in the early portion of the evening when 2FC is weakest.

"SWITCH" always enjoys that prince of entertainers, Mr. J. F. Montague, of Auckland, who is touring the YA stations. Mr. Montague is a cultured performer, who carries his personality over the air. "Switch" has figuratively followed him from station to station, and has found him consistently entertaining.

THAT there are still a number of radio "pirates" in and around Wellington is evident from the whispers heard from time to time. This is nothing less than theft, and should be punished by a penalty commensurate with the offence, instead of the trivial fines recorded in the daily papers against those stealing broadcast programmes.

ALTHOUGH it was 2YA's "silent day" when Mr. Guy Menzies landed in the West Coast swamp after his great flight across the Tasman, the Wellington station was promptly put on the air, and the surprising news of the Southern Cross Junior's departure from Sydney for New Zealand was flashed throughout the country. A country listener living in the Wairarapa informed "Switch" that he picked up 2YA on that afternoon, much to his surprise, and received the news promptly. He, himself, spread it far and wide by telephone messages to his friends.

THE foregoing paragraph again exemplifies the value of a powerful broadcast station at Wellington for use in reaching the public of New Zealand in case of national emergency. The geographical position of the capital city justifies the placing of New Zealand's most powerful station there.



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:—

2BL, Sydney	10
2FC, Sydney	9½
2NC, Newcastle	8
4QG, Brisbane	7½
3LO, Melbourne	7
2GB, Sydney	6
2UE, Sydney	5½
3UZ, Melbourne	4½
3DB, Melbourne	4
7ZL, Hobart	3
3AR, Melbourne	3
5CL, Adelaide	2½
6WF, Perth	2
2KY, Sydney	1½

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

cific, and gets the New Zealand "Y.A." stations hundreds of miles out from Wellington.

"SWITCH" notes that in last week's "Record" a correspondent, "Jaka," mentions that the new Australian station, 2MV, is one degree above 2NC, Newcastle. "Switch" hears the newcomer nightly, and, in fact, he finds that when either 2NC or 2MV "swing" slightly they clash a little. 2HD, Newcastle, is now well below 2NC, but "Switch" is quite certain that a little while ago he heard 2HD and 2NC metaphorically rubbing shoulders.

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