

Foreign Language Lectures.

I WISH to endorse the suggestion made in the "Radio Record" for this week by "J.E.A." (New Plymouth) in regard to the broadcasting of lectures on foreign languages, as I consider that this would prove a highly interesting phase of the Radio Broadcasting Company's service. Although, undoubtedly, most students in this country are taking French, I would like to see the Spanish language fostered in every possible way.

The broadcasting of lectures on this very euphonious and commercially useful tongue, should be of great value to New Zealand students—especially so on account of our comparatively small number of teachers of Spanish. Re the international programmes, I suggest that 2YA should give us an English programme each Wednesday instead of an American one. The American "talkie" stars are having a serious effect upon our language, not only among children, but also, unfortunately, among those who are old enough to know better. It certainly is the duty of everyone to do his utmost to combat this derogatory influence.

I would recommend "Cromdale" (Otago) to attend "talkies" featuring George Arliss, Clive Brook, or Basil Rathbone—to name three of a large number—and to listen carefully. Of the ladies I can suggest only Ruth Chatterton. He will hear from these artists just "what is good English."—"Zedder" (Masterton).

Recorded Programmes from 1YA.

RE American recorded programmes. I thoroughly enjoy these, and hope that 1YA will follow 2YA's lead, for listeners up here cannot obtain the best results from 2YA on account of fading. If 1YA could broadcast them I am sure they would be appreciated immensely.—J. H. Sherrard (Waiuku).

International Programmes.

I READ with considerable interest the many and varied criticisms concerning the international programme being broadcast from 2YA on Wednesday evenings, in place of their usual silent night. Listening with special interest to this programme on Wednesday evening last, I failed to find any great difference between this and the present programmes being broadcast by New Zealand and Australian stations. One item certainly did not appeal to me greatly, but I am broad-minded enough to realise that the radio caters for all classes and not a select few, as some critics would have us believe, and it is to the credit of 2YA for giving New Zealand listeners an idea of the type of entertainment being broadcast overseas. My opinion coincides with those of Theo. H. Gunderson and A. D. Rogers, Wellington, in their attack on the insular "narrow-mindedness" of some people in this country, who delight in criticising everything American and are the first to applaud any act full of cockney accent and imitate the "perfect" English as spoken by Oxford and Cambridge "high-brows." If American speech is so corrupting, then what about the many and varied dialects heard so often by people from the Old Country? To these "weak-minded," egotistic critics, I advise that they tune in to China, Japan or Barbados, on future Wednesday evenings. Finding fault with everything (especially American) is sheer bigotry and the forerunner to international differences. Looking forward with added interest to 2YA international programmes, and thanking you, I am,—John H. Smith (Timaru).

Mr. J. Bishop Taken to Task.

READING through this week's "Radio Record," I noticed a statement made by Mr. John Bishop, of Wellington, at the annual meeting of the Music Teachers' Association recently held at Christchurch. He is reported to have said:—"We as teachers of music should do all we can to raise the terribly and abominably low standard of the radio work of New Zealand." This, I think, is a gross insult to the artists appearing at the YA stations.

Our Mail Bag

While we welcome the expressed views of listeners on topics pertaining to radio, we ask that these communications be kept to minimum length, as heavy demands are made upon space. Mere reiteration of arguments cannot be accepted for publication, and we cannot take responsibility for views expressed. Address communications to the Editor, and sign all correspondence, though a non-de-plume might be used for publication.

Does Mr. Bishop realise that the station directors and programme organisers are musicians of high standing, and does he think for one moment that these men with all their training can listen to "bosh," as he calls it, from their respective stations? The idea is absurd. There are at present too many first-class musicians requiring work to allow of this. Perhaps Mr. Bishop's set is one of the old-fashioned variety like a cheap gramophone that will not bring out the best in a record, or perhaps he has listened in

programme organisers have to compile a two-hour programme for six nights in the week, and please don't forget that the average song takes about four minutes.

In conclusion, to my mind the programmes transmitted by the YA stations compare most favourably with any from Australian stations.—Yours, etc., Australian stations.—Yours, etc., Reg. Morgan, Musical Director, Reg. Morgan's Concert and Dance Band.

Wednesday Programmes.

I WAS interested in the current issue dealing with the new Wednesday evening's programmes, and reply as follows: If "New Zealand Father" will read my former letter he will notice that I did not criticise the instrumental side of that celebrated Monday's programme; I agree with him that the Ormandy Orchestra is a fine combination which plays well-chosen numbers. The jazz instrumentalists and the Lockharts are certainly good items. It

is significant that the Broadcasting Co. have not given us further items of the "Secell and Sally" type. Some of the genuine American talk is interesting and pleasant, especially when spoken by an educated person, and not by a "Yankee."

In answer to "Cromdale," I repeat my opinion, expressed above, of the Ormandy and other instrumental pieces. I agree in the main with "Cromdale's" remarks anent errors in grammar, and confessing my shortcomings in this respect, but assert that anything broadcast over the air need not contain such glaring errors as we heard on the other Monday evening. Being of Cornish descent, I agree that some dialects heard at Home are extremely difficult to follow, but what has that to do with "Secell and Sally's" awful manner of speaking? As regards constructive criticism. Mr. Harris will bear me out when I refer to my correspondence direct with him on this and other topics. I, too, appreciate the good fare supplied to listeners for such a modest sum as 30/-. The Wednesday evening programmes of last week and this week were very much improved compared to the first effort of American programmes.—I. J. Retallick (member of 2YA Musical and Dramatic Advisory Committee).

Earthquake Service Appreciated.

I AM very disappointed that there were no letters in appreciation of the service rendered by the Broadcasting Company immediately following the disaster in Hawke's Bay. There are many to censure—few to praise. Surely the assurance of safety of so many names daily broadcast has allayed the fears and anxiety of hundreds of people as far as wireless is heard. In districts where mails are only once



A. GIBBONS-TAYLOR, a fine bass-baritone, who is sure to please his audience at 1YA on February 17.

on a night when there has been a fair amount of the popular music being broadcast.

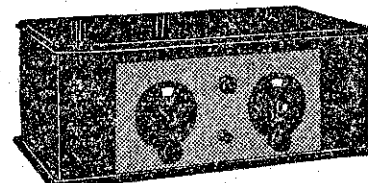
That evidently is the whole trouble. Musicians of his standing have the idea that they can make the general public crave and clamour for very high-class music. He doesn't realise that only about 2 per cent. of the listeners appreciate this class of music. The other 98 per cent. cannot understand it, and they want Variety, with a big "V." I know that in Auckland if an artist is not just up to the standard, there is not much hope of this person appearing again before the microphone.

Take a look at any of the YA programmes any night you wish. Mr. Bishop, and if you know any of the leading artists of New Zealand you will find a big percentage of them on the evening's programme. You can even listen-in to the children's session, for you will find there talent which will surprise you—talent which would be quite acceptable in any evening's programme.

It is a very easy matter to condemn a service, but kindly remember that the



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