

Behind the Scenes at IYA

(Continued from page 1.)

facing the microphone and the conductor, the orchestra being in the centre of this semi-circle except for Mr. Morgan, who is at the piano close to the "mike."

It is some minutes yet before the time to commence, a gramophone record entertains listeners, and there is a steady buzz of conversation interspersed with the notes of instruments being tuned. Mr. Barnes is exchanging quips with members of the choir, there is a good deal of laughter, and everyone seems very happy. Then, "Ready please, boys," says the conductor. All eyes turn to the red light which comes on as soon as the studio is switched over for transmission. The light glows and the studio is on the air. Mr. Barnes greets listeners and announces the opening number "Abide With Me." The programme is under way.

A varied programme of songs follows including rollicking sea chanties, old marching songs, Scottish airs, and songs of long ago. In between items the breezy conductor keeps the studio, and, he hopes, the listeners, in continual laughter with his bright chatter.

Everybody in the studio, at any rate, is thoroughly enjoying the fun. As song follows song they seem to become more and more worked up until even "Call Up" (who usually confines such efforts to the bathroom) has to give voice to "Tipperary" from his unobtrusive corner.

While we sit watching these people sing and play in the comfortable studio it is intriguing to think of the thousands of scattered listeners who are hearing them in hundreds of different places—in lonely farmhouses, in the crowded city, on moonlit beaches, in spacious drawing rooms, in stuffy kitchens, in hospital, and in many other circumstances. All these listeners, rich and poor, happy and unhappy, sick and well, have something in common for a couple of hours, some sympathetic bond, for they are all listening to and probably singing the same old songs they all know and love.

Finally at 10 p.m. the final words of "Mademoiselle from Armentieres" ring out, "Good-night" call the choir to listeners, and the studio is switched off the air. "Hasn't it been a lovely evening?" says one of the choir girls enthusiastically, and that is typical of the spirit of this very jolly team of artists.

And here it is not out of place to remark on the special qualities possessed by such a programme as this community sing. There is little doubt

Man-Made Static

Severe Penalties in Belgium

BELGIUM seems determined to stamp out, as far as possible, all interferences to listeners caused by industrial motors.

Several towns have begun a campaign against "man-made statics," and the municipality of Ciney, in the province of Namur, has warned every possessor of electric apparatus that he is bound to put it, and keep it, in such a state as to cause no trouble to wireless reception.

A maximum penalty of seven days in gaol may be inflicted on those who transgress a second time. Similar measures are being taken in other towns.

that this is one of the most popular types of programme there is, and the reason for this is not far to see. Listeners can take an active part in such a programme by joining in the songs themselves. They are not mere passive "listeners," but active participants in a jolly sing-song. One imagines many happy little family groups singing with the loud-speaker the good old familiar airs, and if each such party is as happy as the one in the studio, well the programme is one hundred per cent. successful.

Another Enthusiastic DX-er

Claim Not Substantiated

THE Broadcasting Company receives many requests from overseas listeners for confirmation of their claims to have heard one or other of the YA stations. All manner of ruses are resorted to in order to procure the desired certificate.

By the last mail to all the YA stations came a letter from a young man in New Jersey, on the Atlantic Coast, which read:

"Please inform me if you were broadcasting on Sunday, December 21st, with church services. I am positive that I heard your station on about—(here he filled in the station's wave-length) at about 5.00 a.m. on date of 21st."

The writer was evidently under the impression that the YA stations were each separately owned, hence he sent the same letter to each. He listened in to four New Zealand stations at the same time! And he heard 500 watt stations in New Zealand when he probably cannot hear the more powerful stations located on the Pacific Coast. His astuteness in claiming to have listened in on a Sunday night, when it would be a certainty that church services were being broadcast in New Zealand, did not gain the reward he desired.

But not content with claiming to have heard the four YA stations on the same evening, he also writes to 3ZC Christchurch, 250 watts, reporting that on the evening of December 30th: "I heard what I believe was your station broadcasting." 3ZC was certainly on the air that day (Tuesday), as any log book would show.

By the same mail, IYA received a letter from another enthusiast in New Jersey, but he followed a different line of attack. He claimed to have heard the Auckland 500 watt station on a certain date and time. The items heard were mentioned and they were correct, too. Prima facie it was O.K., but unfortunately a comparison between the date of the letter and the date of the broadcast showed that there was ample time for the correspondent to have secured his information from a copy of the "Radio Record."

Since the day when the Broadcasting Company received two letters—one from the Pacific Coast and one from the Atlantic coast, 4000 miles across the continent—the writers claiming to have heard 2YA and quoting the same disjointed words from a speech they said they had heard, a grave suspicion rests on all Atlantic Coast DX-ers who claim to hear New Zealand stations. It is quite a common thing for the Pacific Coast to enjoy good reception of 2YA, but it is somewhat of an achievement for the radio waves to travel a further 4000 miles across land to the Atlantic shore. The fact that only a sentence or two out of a speech should have been quoted by the two correspondents pointed to only one conclusion, and that was that the radio fan on the West Coast had communicated (probably by telegraph) with his friend on the East Coast.

MAKE THIS TEST TO-NIGHT—!

BEFORE you hop into bed to-night, try this: strip down to your birthday suit and stand in front of your mirror. Look yourself over. What do you see? A fine, upstanding specimen of a MAN, splendidly proportioned, superbly muscled, glowing with health and vitality? Or do you see a flabby, sickly sort of fellow, with sunken chest, bloodless looking flesh, scrawny arms, neck and legs?

WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOU IN JUST 30 DAYS!

In the first 30 days I guarantee to add one whole inch of real live muscle on each of your arms, and two whole inches of rippling strength across your chest. I'll take the kinks out of your back, strengthen and broaden your shoulders, give you a wrist of steel, and a fighting, powerful personality that just yells youth, vigour and vitality all over. I've done it for hundreds, and I can do it for you!

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