

A WELLINGTON shortwave enthusiast has shown "Switch" a statement in a leading American radio journal to the effect that for short-wave reception battery sets are preferred to the A.C. sets by the United States Army, Navy and commercial companies. The reason given is that on shortwave reception battery sets are free from noises that creep in from the A.C. supply. The trouble incidental to battery maintenance does not count with the navy, army and commercial companies.

THE broadcasting of the late Dame Melba's singing of "Home, Sweet Home," by 2YA, Wellington, just after the announcement of the sad news of the diva's death, was thoroughly appropriate. "Home, Sweet Home" always gave Melba pleasure, and on many notable occasions she sang it in public. There was a tremendous rush for Melba's gramophone items when her death was announced. One large Wellington dealer completely sold out of "Home, Sweet Home."

"T.B.J." (Dunedin) writes to say that he finds the audibility of the Australian stations varies considerably with the table compiled by "Switch." His table reads as follows (with "Switch's" figures in parentheses): 2BL, Sydney, 10 (9½); 3LO, Melbourne, 7½ (7); 2FC, Sydney, 7 (10); 4QG, Brisbane, 7 (8); 3UZ, Melbourne, 5 (5½); 2GB, Sydney, 4 (6½); 3AR, Melbourne, 3½ (4). As previously stated by "Switch," locality is an important factor in long-distance reception. There are also "distance zones" in which a given station is

heard at its maximum, while a few miles nearer or further it loses in volume.

A NENT the foregoing paragraph, it is well-known that many receiving sets have a "peak" on their tuning dials, and a number of sets "Switch" has tested seemed to have maximum sensitivity about the wavelength of 2BL. In the writer's set there is a device which the makers choose to designate an "inductor," the function of which is to maintain peak efficiency on all wavelengths.

"A MATEUR" (Marton Junction) asks whether on an ordinary broadcast receiving set it would be possible to pick up a short-wave transmitting station. If the receiving set were in the vicinity of a short-wave transmitter it would be possible to hear the latter. "Switch" has heard on his ordinary broadcast receiver a

short-wave amateur transmitter at a distance of about 2½ miles. The station mentioned by "Amateur" generally broadcasts on 240 metres and occasionally on 30 metres.

"R.B. (Wellington) sends a list of stations which he has picked up on his eight-valve a.c. receiving set. His list comprises 17 verified stations and 26 unverified stations. Considering that "R.B." has had his set for

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 | 9½ |
| 2NC, Newcastle | 9 |
| 4QG, Brisbane | 8 |
| 3LO, Melbourne | 7½ |
| 7LA, Launceston | 6 |
| 3DB, Melbourne | 6 |
| 2GB, Sydney | 6½ |
| 2UE, Sydney | 5½ |
| 3AR, Melbourne | 5 |
| 3UZ, Melbourne | 5 |
| 7ZL, Hobart | 3 |
| 5CL, Adelaide | 2½ |
| 6WF, Perth | 2 |
| 2KY, Sydney | 1½ |

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

only 16 months and he has been DX-ing for only eight months his performance is exceptionally good seeing that he is located in Wright Street.

THOSE who tuned in 3LO, Melbourne, on the night of February 24 heard a superb presentation of the well-known musical comedy "Gipsy Love." The piece was produced by the Australian Broadcasting Company, and it is entitled to the fullest praise for its success. The performers were selected for their radio voices, and they gave a highly meritorious interpretation. The orchestra, too, was magnificent. 3LO, Melbourne, will broadcast "The Merry Widow" on March 25 and 31.

"BEAU GESTE," broadcast as a radio play, was most realistically put on the air by 2FC, Sydney, on Thursday, February 26. The defence

of the fort by the Foreign Legion against the desert Arabs was excitingly vivid. Rifle fire, the war songs of the Arabs, and the animated dialogue of the English brothers came across like the real thing. "Switch" held 2FC, Sydney, at good loudspeaker strength as steady as a rock.

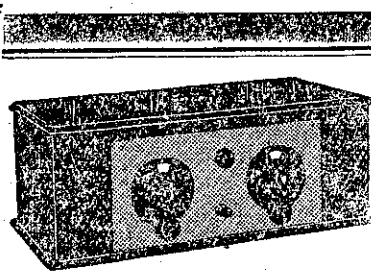
THAT wonderful old melodrama, "The Silver King," by Henry A. Jones and Henry Herman, will be presented from 3LO, Melbourne, on Wednesday, March 4, and will be relayed to 2FC, Sydney, and 2NC, Newcastle. The play belongs to another generation, but it should find a wide popularity to-day. Maurice Dudley, the well-known Melbourne announcer, will take the part of Jaikes, the faithful old family servant.

MR. CHARLES D. MACLURCAN, one of Australia's first successful amateur short-wave transmitters, recently returned to Sydney from a visit to England. About seven years ago Mr. MacLurcan passed through Wellington with a short-wave transmitter specially fitted on a 'Frisco mail-steamer to carry out a series of tests on the run up to the Californian port, under engagement to Amalgamated Wireless. His report convinced the big Australian company of the effectiveness of short-wave transmission in the Pacific.

THERE is one Australian station that has not performed up to its former standard for some months past, and that is 4QG, Brisbane. This station has now a confirmed habit of fading frequently with consequent distortion. One would not mind if this peculiarity of 4QG were restricted to those nights when the other Commonwealth stations are similarly afflicted, but on other nights when they show little fading 4QG maintains its vagaries most consistently.

DURING the latter half of last week long-distance reception increased wonderfully, and the Australian and Japanese stations came in with rare volume. Owners of efficient sets had an enormous variety of entertainment. A pleasant surprise on the Thursday night was to hear Miss Jessie Shmish, who sang at the "YA" stations a few months ago, contributing from 3LO, Melbourne. Her rich contralto voice sounded as well as ever across the 1400 miles of ocean. Miss Shmish is one of 3LO's "star" performers.

A WELLINGTON radiotrician impressed "Switch" the other day with the rapid spread of interest in short-wave reception. He showed him a large bundle of letters received recently from all parts of New Zealand, written on the subject of short-wave reception. The promised big British short-wave broadcast station, when it eventually goes on the air, will be sought for by some thousands of new short-wave enthusiasts in New Zealand, if one can judge by the steady increase of interest in short-wave reception.



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