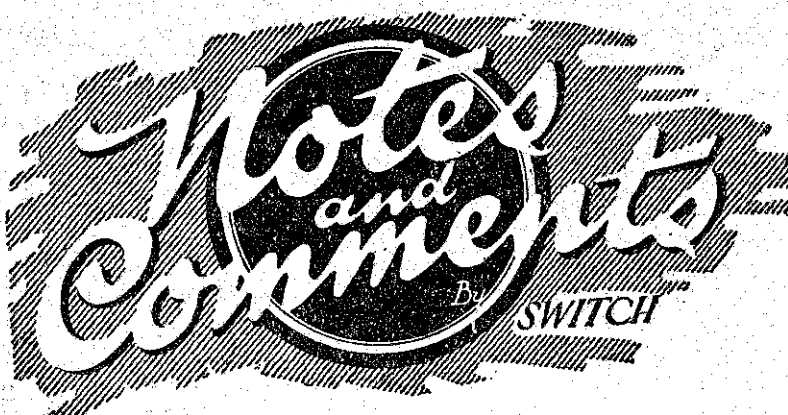


**HOPES** have been entertained by New Zealand listeners for a considerable time past that the proposed Empire short-wave broadcast station in England would become a reality. The writer has heard rumours that progress has not been made in connection with the establishment of this station, but is unable to gather anything definite about the matter. Perhaps some readers of the "Record" can furnish information on the subject.

SOME petulant person has been writing to the Press expressing disappointment with the Broadcasting Co. for having relayed the Blay-Donovan fight at New Plymouth instead of relaying items from an earthquake relief concert at the Wellington Town Hall. He asserts that the concert items would have been of more general interest than the fight relays. "Switch" cannot ignore figures, and it is a safe bet that if the same couple of boxers were to meet at each of the principal towns throughout New Zealand and the said concert items were put on at the same towns the attendances at the boxing contest would overwhelmingly outnumber the attendances at the concerts.

AN Invercargill listener mentions in last week's "Record" that he had experienced bad fading in 2YA during the last two or three weeks. "Switch" suggests that this may have been due to a seasonal cause. In these notes recently reference was made to the persistent fading of 4QG, Brisbane, a station which had previously been a fairly steady performer. There is much in radio which scientists have yet to solve.

MR. S. ELLIS mentions in last week's "Record" that there is a Moscow station operating on 1450 k.c. (207 metres) with a power of 40 k.w. which he says should be easily heard this winter. The call-sign is RA1. "Switch" is inclined to believe that the Moscow giant will be picked up in New Zealand during this winter. The best time to look for the Russian would be just before dawn, thus permitting the maximum amount of darkness to cover the globe between New Zealand and Russia.



A COUNTRY dealer informed "Switch" the other day that listeners inland now realise that broadcast listening is the cheapest form of entertainment in existence, besides fur-

this summer the best for new trade during his experience.

### 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 .....	10
2NC, Newcastle .....	9½
4QG, Brisbane .....	8
3LO, Melbourne .....	8
7LA, Launceston .....	6
3DB, Melbourne .....	6
2GB, Sydney .....	6½
2UE, Sydney .....	5½
3AR, Melbourne .....	5
3UZ, Melbourne .....	4½
7ZL, Hobart .....	3½
5CL, Adelaide .....	2½
6WF, Perth .....	2
2KY, Sydney .....	1½

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

nishing news in a concise form. He stated that now that money was tight country people had less spare cash for the usual entertainments and were looking to radio to supply a substitute. He had been in the radio business for four years, and had found

As a matter of fact, an electric globe drops considerably in efficiency some time before it burns out. A radio valve may continue to light for years, but its average efficient life is a thousand hours.

A WELLINGTON listener showed the writer an a.c. valve which had petered out after five months' use, averaging three or four hours nightly. The valve was of an obscure make, and the only advice "Switch" could tender was to replace it with one of a well-known make, several of which are advertised in the "Record." Beginners should insist upon having the best valves when buying a set; "boot-leg" valves are a snare.

THE writer resumed short-wave listening last week after a long spell, and found that by sitting up late one is able to get many a thrill and plenty of entertainment. Some time ago there was only the Siberian station at Khabarovsk with its endless talk and very little music, in the evening. Now there are a number of others which give good entertainment. The best reception obtained by "Switch" was from the short-wave station at Saigon, French Indo-China.

"SWITCH" found Saigon gradually increase in volume as the night wore on until it was quite pleasantly audible on the loudspeaker from a two-valve receiver. The music comprised native songs and instrumental melodies of a thoroughly Eastern character, and high-class European gramophone records. The announcer calls "Allo, Allo, Allo!" and speaks in the native tongue in the early portion of the programme, but later uses the French language. After each announcement he beats one stroke on a sweet-sounding gong. The native melodies are to the Western ear far more musical than the Japanese.

TUNING in to the British short-wave station G5SW, Chelmsford, after midnight, "Switch" has heard some excellent musical items. An organ recital from All Saints' Church, Margaret Street, London, came through full and rich. The writer was using headphones on a two-valve receiver. Dance music, presumably from the Savoy, had an enchanting lilt, although 5SW pulsed slightly with the usual gusts which characterise long-distance short-wave reception.

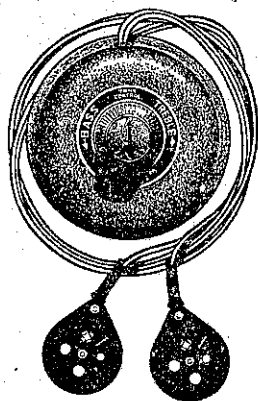
"SWITCH" discovered a strange station heterodyning with 2FC, Sydney, on a recent night. The newcomer was not loud enough to spoil 2FC's reception, but, nevertheless, he was distinctly audible as a whistle until 2FC closed down. A bubble in the stranger's whistle could be identified as music at times. When 2FC went off the air the stranger was only faintly audible though the rhythm of music was still distinguishable.

"SWITCH" tenders his congratulations to Mr. S. Ellis for having won the "Record" DX Cup with his wonderful log of 89 verified stations. The Pierce Earh System which Mr. Ellis adopted some three years ago is an American idea, and its virtue has been proved by many. One, however, must have a good receiving set and aerial system and, in particular, a favourable locality to compile a log like Mr. Ellis's.

BRISBANE had its own disaster recently when the river overflowed and flooded large residential and business areas. 4QG, Brisbane, rose to the occasion, and broadcast a series of bulletins giving the latest news of the flood from all points.

ANOTHER station is being erected near Brisbane, and, from latest advices, is likely to be heard over a wide area of New Zealand. The station is located about six miles out of the city. The two aerial masts are to be 160ft. in height, and constructed of tubular steel. The task of raising the masts is proving a strenuous undertaking.

A LISTENER who has operated a set for over a year surprised "Switch" recently by inquiring whether a valve was good until it burnt out, "just the same as an electric light."



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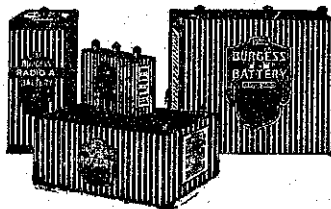
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