

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 nom-de-plume might be used for publication.

Amateur Transmitters.

ON reading last week's "Radio Record" I noticed that in an article headed "Transmitting from Napier" the Western Electric Company claim that the majority of the credit for the wonderful work done by the radio "Hams" during the terrible disaster recently in Hawke's Bay is due to their Mr. Cooper, who was dispatched by their firm to Napier. (I presume he took a W.E. transmitter, as nothing else would be capable of doing the work.)

This article I have read with disgust beyond words. After reading "With Towns Crashed in Ruins" ("Radio Record," February 13), and after hearing on my own S.W. receiver the wonderful work that was done in the first 24 hours of the disaster by the "Hams" in Napier, Hastings, Wairoa and Gisborne, I can only say that they deserve praise beyond words, and the majority of the credit is theirs.

Possibly W.E. Co. think New Zealand "Hams" and experimenters don't know the technical and practical side of radio science, but allow me to inform them that some of the greatest work in the world has been done by New Zealand "Hams" in the past years, and that those boys in Hawke's Bay have done only what a New Zealander could do. Let's have fair play. —T. W. Ward (Tariki).

Open-air Dance Broadcast.

I HAVE just been listening to the fourth "International" programme from 2YA and thought it was excellent. Anyone who considers the American accent in the different recordings harmful and unpleasant to listen to should either buy a new speaker or else dismantle their sets altogether. I would also like to praise the open-air dance programme put over the air by 3YA on Monday last. The band music came through beautifully, and any person hearing it must have longed to be there to join in the dancing. —T. M. McKinnon (Kurow).

Remarks Too Sweeping.

MIGHT I be permitted to comment on the remarks of Mr. Jno. Bishop and Mr. Reg. Morgan? Both these gentlemen are correct, but their remarks are too sweeping. We musicians know the fine qualifications of Mr. Bishop, and endorse his remarks to a degree, but he would be more correct if he referred to some broadcast items, and to "tosh" as being more correct in some instances. Of this there is no doubt, but at the same time ar-

tists of the calibre of Leon de Mauny, W. Haydock, Claude Tanner, and many others appearing nightly (and too numerous to mention), are always worthy of the highest praise. I am sure they are not intended to be included in Mr. Bishop's remarks.

The great point to remember is that a "recording" of "tosh" or anything else, is infinitely superior to poor artists, because in the former, items are always well performed, otherwise records are not released. As a case in point, "tosh" is included, with some other excellent items, in the much-discussed 2YA Wednesday programmes, but the quality of the broadcast cannot be adversely commented on. My receiver (9-valve, 4-screen grid) gives excellent reception. Nevertheless, some of the recent New Zealand numbers have been terrible, more noticeable by comparison with recordings of the same type which have appeared on the same programme. Instances could be quoted, but that is for the station directors (or whoever responsible) to find out, and suggest they listen in over the air some night, as the microphone is more critical than the human ear, and over the air faults are more easily detected.

Two of the southern stations are the biggest offenders, and when including dance bands I do not refer to Mr. Morgan's, as this gentleman (judging by reception) certainly knows his business, but I would have liked him to have heard another jazz band recently when one of the brass instruments was nearly a quarter tone sharp. This, in addition to the unmusical performance. Many band players are afflicted with "ear" (or lack of it), and this where the listeners suffer. Listen to band "recordings," and the difference is obvious. —(Gisborne).

Blay-Donovan Fight

THE broadcast of the Blay-Donovan boxing match, which took place at New Plymouth on Saturday, February 28, provided a greatly appreciated interlude in the broadcast programmes. The broadcast was carried out by 2YB, New Plymouth; 2YA, Wellington; 3YA, Christchurch; and 4YA, Dunedin. It was an event which all sport lovers throughout New Zealand thoroughly enjoyed.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTERS IN THE 1931 RADIO GUIDE AND CALL BOOK

For the past three years we have regularly published a Radio Guide and Call Book, which deals competently and thoroughly with every phase of radio. This year our fourth publication will completely eclipse all our previous efforts, as the "Guide" will be larger and incorporate many new features which will undoubtedly be of definite interest to those who are familiar with the workings of radio, or to the veriest amateur who can easily understand all the articles, as they are written by trained journalists and technicians in an easy to understand style. The most complicated processes are explained very simply.

Below we briefly summarise the different chapters which will be published.

Chapter 1:—New Zealand broadcasting. A review of the Broadcasting Co., and the story of radio in New Zealand generally. The "B" class stations. Events of the year.

Chapter 2:—A brief account of the technique of broadcasting. Linking up with recording for gramophones and talks. Selectivity and the Robinson Radiostat. Sets: How they work. All types, from crystals to super-heterodyne.

Chapter 3:—Gramophone section. Notes on popular gramophone topics, pick-ups, etc.

Chapter 4:—Construction, including tips and jottings, and

how to make all types of sets with complete circuits.

Chapter 5:—Power packs and chokes. Matching valves to speakers.

Chapter 6:—Short-wave reception and transmission. Complete circuits for different types of short-wave sets and adaptors.

Chapter 7:—Valves and their characteristics.

Chapter 8:—Trouble tracking fully described.

Chapter 9:—Tables, resistances, condensers, coils, etc.

Chapter 10:—Call Book. Every station that can be heard in New Zealand will be listed, giving the wavelength and frequency.

Chapter 11:—Glossary of wireless terms.

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