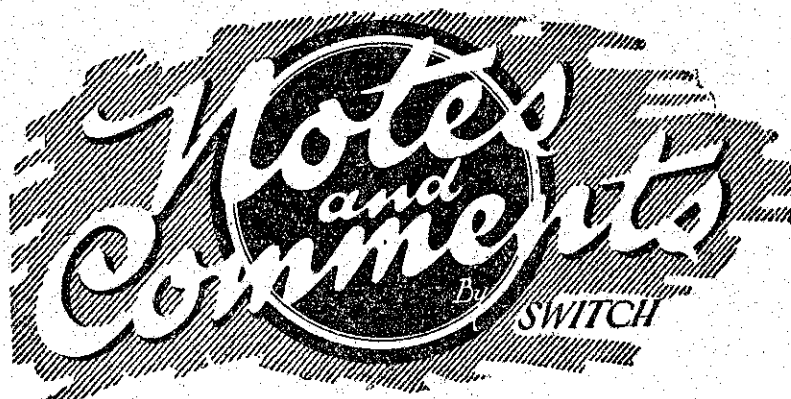


A SUGGESTION was made in last week's "Record" by "Amazon" (P.N.) that "in identifying Japanese stations the only satisfactory way is to describe the items, e.g., tenor solo, orchestral selection, stringed instruments, etc." The trouble is, though, that a number of the other Japanese stations relay the programmes of JOAK, Tokio.



RECEPTION of the Australian and all New Zealand stations has further improved in volume, even allowing for the termination of New Zealand summer-time. The volume from 3YA, Christchurch, "Switch" finds overwhelming, and he has to reduce it by 75 per cent. to render it tolerable. Even 4YA, Dunedin, comes in too loudly at full volume for comfort. Static has been mild to moderate of late, and listeners who reach out for long-distance stations have had little to complain of on that score.

AGAIN "Switch" advises listeners who employ the household water-service pipe as an "earth" to try a separate "earth." A 6-foot piece of water-pipe driven straight into the ground near the lead-in into the house makes a capital earth if the ground around it is kept wet, and if the earth wire is efficiently soldered to it. The earth around the top of the pipe should be scooped out like a crater, and filled with water every day. The water soaks down and keeps wet the earth surrounding the pipe. This system was adopted by "Switch" some time back, and its advantage over the water-service pipe was quite noticeable.

AN unknown station unmistakably heterodynes with 2FC, Sydney, as the night becomes late. After 2FC closed down one night recently, an effort was made to pick up the newcomer. Unfortunately, as is generally the case, when the louder station signed off the heterodyning station became too faint to be heard distinctly.

"SWITCH" long since has mentioned in these columns that something will have to be done about the interference caused by power noises. In last week's "Record" mention is made by "D.N.A." (Timaru) of the excessive trouble experienced in Timaru from that source. "Switch" suggests that at the next conference of the New Zealand power board authorities some representations should be made on behalf of the listeners of New Zealand.

THE power boards of New Zealand cannot overlook the fact that the radio listeners, whether owners of a.c. or battery sets, are consumers, and therefore customers of these power boards. In America, where electric supply is largely in the hands of private companies, the rights of radio listeners are recognised, and every effort is made to protect them from remediable interference. "Switch" intends to do his utmost to have the matter brought before the next conference of power board authorities.

LEGISLATION is urgently needed in New Zealand to deal with those who occasion electrical interference, and the wonder is that no member of Parliament has yet moved in the matter. There is the basic fact that a radio listener pays the Government for

the right to listen in, and yet the Government has done nothing to protect the right for which it is paid.

THE report of the meeting of listeners at Denniston, published in last week's "Record," shows how helpless listeners are without laws to protect their rights. If anyone chooses to use an electrical appliance which will prevent scores of listeners from using their radio sets no law of the land can interfere, even though by the use of a condenser the trouble could most probably be prevented at its source.

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	9½
3LO, Melbourne	9
3AR, Melbourne	8½
4QG, Brisbane	8
2GB, Sydney	8
3DB, Melbourne	7
7LA, Launceston	6
3UZ, Melbourne	6
7ZL, Hobart	6
2UE, Sydney	5½
5CL, Adelaide	4½
6WF, Perth	2
2KY, Sydney	1½

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

IN last week's "Record" mention was made by "Switch" of the reception of the new Gisborne "B" station—reception from which is excellent considering that the station is 250 miles from Wellington and separated by several ranges. The following paragraph was displaced and should have followed the above:—"The foregoing reference to reception across land, with its implication that radio waves do not carry so well over land as over water, brings to mind a statement by an American journal to the following effect: It has been proven that when a number of listeners in the same area are tuned in to the same station, reception volume is increased in the case of each listener. Tests were made with reception from a certain station at a point over water and at various points

on land. It was found that where receiving aeriels were more numerous, reception was loudest."

DESPITE the foregoing, it is well-established that radio waves do travel better over sea than land. The test reported in the American journal demonstrating that a large number of listeners in one vicinity strengthen reception for each other, has only a local application.

THE old-time nigger minstrel show broadcast by 2FC, Sydney, last Thursday evening, referred to in last week's notes, was picked up by "Switch." The entertainment proved as enjoyable as anticipated, and the voices of two or three performers who are old friends of the writer were readily recognised. One important oversight, however, in the entertainment was the omission of the singing of the refrains by a quartet, as was the custom in old-time minstrel entertainments.

THE "B" station, 4BC, Brisbane, has changed its wavelength from 283 metres to 262 metres because it was clashing with another "B" class station in Brisbane.

THE "B" station 3DB, Melbourne, which is heard with good loud-speaker volume in Wellington after 10 p.m., has organised an unusual competition. Prizes of £2/2/-, £1/1/- and 10/6 are being offered the public for the oldest and quaintest disc or cylinder gramophone record. Some queer old gramophone records are being unearthed, several of which are over thirty years old. It is reasonable to believe that the majority of these records will sound more like static than anything else, unless they have had little use.

A WELLINGTON beginner who lately purchased a costly A.C. console receiving set, came to "Switch" with the complaint that 2YA, Wellington, was too loud when he tuned direct on its frequency, or was not natural in tone when he detuned it. The cause of this is that by detuning a set certain frequencies are accentuated and others not given their due value. The remedy was provided by substituting for the outside aerial about ten feet of insulated flex wire hung against the wall. The set was then tuned accurately to 2YA's frequency, and the tone was all that could be desired.

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