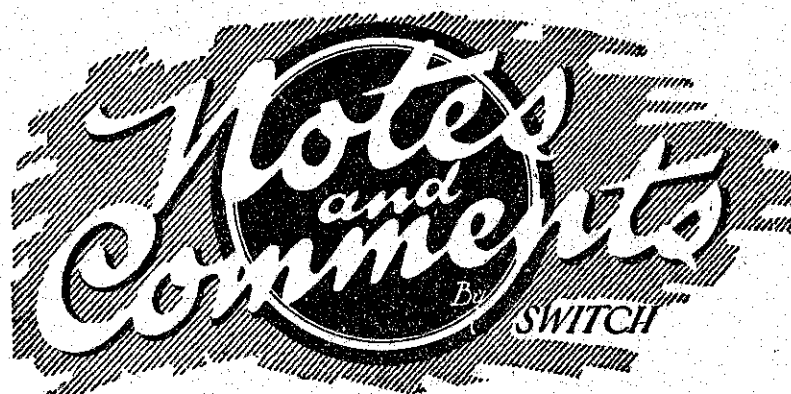


"SWITCH" has found that while the Australian stations have been coming in with great volume, the audibility of the Japanese stations has been ebbing somewhat. 5CL, Adelaide, and 7ZL, Hobart, are now available at satisfactory loudspeaker volume every night. Static has not been excessive, but fading has been a little more pronounced than usual. The most distorted of the Australian "A" class stations, according to "Switch's" log, is 4QG, Brisbane. This, however, may be seasonal.

LISTENING-IN in the early hours of the morning last week the writer was surprised to tumble across a powerful short-wave phone station, KBL, in California, testing speech with a Japanese amateur, J1AA, Tokio. The operator at the Californian station gave his name as Homer D. Jagers. In discussing weather conditions, the Japanese "ham" said they had just experienced a thunderstorm. Mr. Jagers reported that it was a beautiful early morning in Southern California. Gramophone items were put on by the Californian station.

ON the arrival of the Melbourne yacht Olmara at Sydney last week, the owner, Mr. F. J. Bennell, his son, and Mr. Fred Constance, of Auckland, who were members of the crew, were interviewed before the microphone at 2BL, Sydney. Mr. Constance complimented Mr. Bennell, senior, on his splendid organisation which had ensured the success of the run across the Tasman, despite the stormy adventure during the latter part of the trip. The interviewer's queries and replies by the yachtsmen were received in Wellington with full loudspeaker volume and faultless clarity.

NEW ZEALAND listeners who tuned in either 2FC, Sydney, 2NC, Newcastle, or 3LO, Melbourne, on Wednesday night of last week were treated to a most enjoyable presentation in the



3LO studio of Franz Lehar's musical comedy, "The Merry Widow." The relay by the two N.S.W. stations was a success. The performers and full orchestra did utmost credit to themselves, and one could scarcely believe that the piece was not being produced in a theatre. The play was produced by Mr. Maurice Dudley, announcer at 3LO, who is a former J. C. Williamson performer. He figured outstandingly as Baron Popoff in the broadcast production.

A PRACTICAL lesson in French pronunciation is available to any short-wave enthusiast who cares to listen in between 1 and 2 o'clock any morning. "Switch" picks up a powerful commercial radio phone station between those hours any morning he chooses to tune for it. The operator generally calls many times before he can get a reply. He shouts, "Allo, Allo, Allo, Allo, Parlee!" Paris comes back at about a quarter his volume. Possibly the louder station is up in New Caledonia.

JAPAN would appear to be at a handy range for long-distance short-wave phone testing. In the very small hours of the morning recently "Switch" picked up London calling a Japanese phone station and asking for

a test with speech. The Japanese agreed, and the London technical operator read out a lengthy extract from a radio technical article. He was received word for word by "Switch," as well as by the Japanese station.

SHORT-WAVE listeners must find 2ME, Sydney, an easy station to pick up. The writer, operating a two-valve set, with a new circuit, using only ten feet of insulated wire hung around the room, as an aerial, and no earth at

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	8
4QG, Brisbane	7½
2GB, Sydney	8
3DB, Melbourne	6½
7LA, Launceston	7
3UZ, Melbourne	6½
7ZL, Hobart	7
2UE, Sydney	5½
5CL, Adelaide	6
6WF, Perth	2
2KY, Sydney	1½

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

all, gets 2ME at good headphone strength. Simultaneously the writer's a.c. set (alongside the short-wave set) is tuned in to one of the Australian broadcast stations for the entertainment of other members of the family.

THE Australian Broadcasting Company is stated by the Commonwealth Auditor-General (Mr. Cerutti) to have lost some £4000 since the company took over the contract for providing the programmes for the "A" class stations. The running of broadcast programmes is not by any means a lucrative business.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to say that his a.c. set loses its sensitivity over half the extent of the tuning dial. The trouble would appear to be in the alignment of the variable condensers.

This, however, is provided for in the majority of a.c. sets by "trimmers" which can be adjusted so as to render sensitivity more uniform throughout the broadcast band. The bias-resistance on the radio-frequency valves may have broken down, for this would also cause the trouble mentioned.

THE most successful long-distance relay yet accomplished by 2YA, Wellington, was that of the Oxford-Cambridge boat race. When it is realised that the commentators spoke into a small portable transmitter on a fast-moving launch, the merit of the relay will be fully recognised. The description from the launch passed through the air to the English receiving station, was broadcast by G5SW, picked up 12,000 miles away in New Zealand, sent by land line to 2YA, and put on the air for the third time. And reception was practically word-perfect from 2YA.

THE New Plymouth broadcast station, 2YB, is now coming in most satisfactorily at Wellington, although its proximity in wavelength to 2NC, Newcastle, creates an annoying heterodyne note. From what "Switch" can gather the clash between the New Plymouth and Newcastle stations is creating complaints from many New Zealand listeners. The time is overdue for the authorities to shift the wavelength of the New Plymouth station.

IT was a commendable plan of Mr. C. Drummond, announcer at 2YA, Wellington, to write down a description of the Oxford-Cambridge boat race, and then give out a summary across the air. Listeners in remote districts who may have had to contend with static, either natural or artificial, would thus have a second opportunity of hearing an account of the race.

4YA Children's Session Committee

A MEETING of the 4YA Children's Session Advisory Committee was held on Friday, March 13. Mr. A. H. Williamson (representing the Headmasters' Association) presided. Also present were: Miss Telfer (Presbyterian Social Service), Miss Feichley (Girl Guide Association), Miss L. Mackintosh (League of Nations Union), Pastor W. D. More (children's organiser), Miss S. Neilson ("Aunt Sheila"), and Mr. A. F. O'Donoghue.

Apologies for absence were received from Miss Coe-Smith, Miss Hindle, Miss Anita Winkel, Brother Sullivan, and Mr. Cooper.

Arrangements in connection with the 4YA picnic were discussed and furthered.

The suggestion made by Mr. Crossley Clitheroe at the Musical and Dramatic Committee meeting that popular lectures on music should be given occasionally was discussed, and it was decided to ask Mr. Clitheroe to attend the next meeting of the committee.

Miss Mackintosh and Brother Sullivan were appointed official visitors to the Children's Session next month.

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