

Programme Jottings from the North

(By "Call Up.")

THE Rev. Lionel Fletcher, better known over the air as Uncle Leo, is now back from his tour abroad, and has resumed his Sunday evening children's services from 1YA. He also had his church service broadcast last Sunday evening.

LISTENERS in the Devonport district are loud in their complaints in connection with Morse interference from the naval ships stationed at the Devonport base. The Morse interferes with stations on the band between 1YA and 1ZR, and seems to be right on the wavelength of 3YA. On some sets which are not very selective the Morse interferes over the whole range, and enjoyable reception of any stations is impossible. There have been similar complaints before, and it is high time the present state of affairs was righted.

THE international programmes from 1YA seem to be meeting with a rather mixed reception. Many listeners say they are the best evenings in the week, others enjoy them, while not being quite so high in their praises, while others frankly dislike them. Of

course, it is the same with all items, for it is impossible to please everybody. On the whole, however, the international programmes are popular, the main criticism of them being that they are not "international" enough.

FOR some time it has been suggested that the 1YA Octet should be increased in strength to include some brass instruments, and listeners will be pleased to hear that it has now been decided to do this. Thus the octet will be brought up to light orchestral strength. This combination has rendered splendid service at 1YA, having a very large percentage of the programmes to bear, and with its added strength should be far more capable of giving its required number of hours. Even as it is, the variety of its numbers and the size of its repertoire are amazing.

Children's Sessions

AT 2YA.

Monday.—There is to be a special "New Zealand Eveuing" to-night, when Mr. Douglas Tayler will provide us with a delightful programme of songs composed by New Zealand children. Uncle Jeff will be here to send birthday greetings.

Tuesday.—Children from St. Catherine's Convent will be in the studio this evening under the directorship of Mrs. Isobel Halligan. There will be choruses, riddles, and songs. Jumbo has arranged a little party, and he has a surprise in keeping.

Wednesday.—Listen-in to-night to Aunt Daisy and the Cheerful Chirpers, because there is to be a Spanish Chirper among them who will talk about the customs of her country. The Ngaio Chirpers will be coming, too, with their cheerful songs and choruses. Birthday greetings as usual.

Thursday.—Mr. Morgan, better known as "Cousin George," is bringing a party of children to sing choruses, play the vibraphone, and recite. "Cousin George" has also prepared a special talk, and I think he has an adventure story.

Friday.—Tweedledee and Tweedledum have arranged to give "Hop o' My Thumb" to-night, and Mrs. Pauli is bringing a band of little people to sing and play.

Saturday.—Cousin Julia and Ilma have a play called "The Prisoners of the Dobbadies," and Aunt Molly and Uncle Jasper, not forgetting Spot, have been asked to be their guests to-night. The orchestral music is being supplied by the Melody Makers.

Sunday.—The Karori Methodist Children's Choir, under the conductorship of Mr. Roberts, will be in the studio this evening. Uncle George will take the service this evening as usual.

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Eclipse of Sun

Radio Waves Affected

SPECIAL tests organised by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to investigate the effect of the total solar eclipse of last October on wireless waves, have been reported by Dr. M. A. Barnett.

In general, he says, the eclipse produced a partial return to night-time conditions as far as the transmission of wireless waves was concerned, and changes in signal strength followed fairly closely the changes in the amount of radiation reaching the atmosphere from the sun. There were indications, however, that the changes in signal strength came a little later than the change in radiation at the place half-way between the sending and receiving stations.

Scope of Tests Limited.

The scope of the tests which could be arranged was limited by various factors. In the first place, the path of totality crossed the Pacific Ocean, and the choice of observing stations was restricted, particularly as not all the islands are equipped with apparatus. Secondly, it was not possible to send observers with special equipment to any of the islands, and, moreover, the distance of transmission was inevitably considerable in many cases. Special transmissions were arranged, however, by radio stations at Wellington, Apia, Suva and Papeete. The receiving stations interested in the ex-

periments were numerous, and were dotted round and in the Pacific and all over New Zealand. The majority of the transmission lines crossed the path of totality.

Summary of Effects.

In his summary, Dr. Barnett says that the results were in general accord with those experienced during previous total solar eclipses. No effect definitely attributable to the eclipse was observed on long waves, although on the Rugby-New Zealand transmission a definite increase in strength occurred during the eclipse period. On the 850 and 800 metre wavelengths an effect equivalent to a partial return to night time conditions was shown for transmission distances lying between 600 and 1200 miles. This effect was noticeable whether the transmission path actually crossed the line of totality or not. The maximum change in the signal strength occurred approximately at the time of minimum eclipse effect between transmitter and receiver, although in certain extreme cases the records indicated a lag of as much as thirty minutes between the two phenomena.

In general, no eclipse effect was observed on short waves, except in certain cases on a wavelength of 52 metres, when a partial return to night time conditions was definitely indicated. In this case also the maximum effect on signal strength either coincided with or lagged slightly behind the maximum of the eclipse at a point midway between transmitter and receiver.

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