

Talks by the B.B.C.

In your specially featured article, "The B.B.C. from a Different Angle," the opinion is expressed that the British corporation gives too many talks. Last winter in England I listened in most days, and evenings for a period of ten weeks; might I therefore give you the benefit of my impressions. I found that the general adjustment between classical music, light music, vaudeville, entertainment talks, and educational talks was designed with a very great sense of proportion and justice. In London, with even a cheap set, and good sets are extraordinarily cheap in England now, one can readily get at least three programmes, National, London Regional, and Midland Regional, and when a talk is being given on one wavelength, there is almost invariably a different form of entertainment on the others. But this is only one opinion. Recently the "Daily Herald," which has a rapidly increasing circulation of considerably over a million, and which contains some of the most intelligent journalism in England, held a plebiscite, with the result that its readers, by a majority of ten to one, approved of the retention of the talks as at present given.

The B.B.C. always has welcomed criticism, and shown itself extremely sensitive to the public demand. Its general cultural attainments have been outstanding; such was the opinion of various people with whom I discussed these matters in England. To say, as your contributor does, that "the B.B.C. has spelt ruin to the English programmes" is calculated seriously to mislead the New Zealand public, and is quite simply not the truth.—P. W. Robertson (Wellington).

Government v. Private Control.

BEING a radio dealer I have come into contact with hundreds of licensed radio listeners since the above controversy commenced. It is a sig-



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 non-de-plume may be used for publication.

nificant fact that not one of my clients nor any other listeners I have spoken to are in favour of the Government being interested financially in broadcasting. Some have expressed their disapproval in no uncertain terms. I am sure if listeners only knew the seriousness of the position they would have much more to say in the matter. It seems incredible that the Government should want to spend £30,000 in purchasing the present company's plants in the main centres when the country is in such a bad way financially. The Government is continually advocating reduced expenditure and increased revenue, yet the next moment they decide to spend £30,000 (that is the Postmaster-General's estimate). I am afraid he will be a long way out when he goes into details. I should say that with the expenditure necessary for linking up "B" class stations, the cost will be more like £50,000 to £60,000.

It seems hard luck on the present company after having pioneered radio

broadcasting (for hard pioneering it has been) to such a successful and high standard to be deprived of its just reward. The Government will find it extremely hard to secure the services of competent men at the remuneration offering. The present company improved its broadcasts as finance permitted, which is only sane business. How, then, can the proposed new board improve matters unless with greater ex-

Faraday Centenary

FOR the rebroadcast of the Faraday centenary celebrations, to be held in Queen's Hall, London, the YA stations will be on the air on Tuesday morning, September 22, at 6.30. Should atmospheric conditions be favourable, and if G5SW can be well received, New Zealand listeners will hear some distinguished speakers, including the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Ramsay MacDonald, Lord Rutherford, the Duc de Broglie, Senator Marconi, Professor Elihu Thomson, Professor P. Zeeman, and others, paying tributes to the work of Faraday. The commemorative address for the occasion will be given by Sir Wm. Bragg. The B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra, under Sir Henry Wood, will contribute to the musical programme.

penditure. The average person has no idea of the magnitude of providing fresh talent and broadcast matter for four stations. In using the B.B.C. as a model for the proposed new management of broadcasting, surely Mr. Donold does not hope to equal, or get anywhere near, the standard of talent available to the above company. The revenue from licenses in New Zealand is a mere pittance when compared with that of the B.B.C. An article in the "Radio Record" of September 11 by Mr. H. A. Bloxham reveals whether or not the B.B.C. is a model after which to fashion our broadcast service. This gentleman gives us an instance of £1000 being paid for one item, and those who foot the bill have no redress in the matter. One would think that the Government had enough to manage without interfering in the social pleasures of the people. It is impossible to please everyone, but any broad-minded listener must appreciate the difficulties with which the present company were beset and the practical way in which it has overcome innumerable setbacks, financially and otherwise.

In three more months we will have a change over, but in the writer's opinion the proposed board has a hard battle in front of it to improve on our present broadcast service with the capital available.—"Not Too Hopeful" (Hamilton).

Pipe Music.

WHY are there not more pipe band records? I have had my set just 12 months, and during that time I have heard the pipes about five times. When I arrived home to-day I was informed that the best music on the afternoon programme from IYA was a selection, the march past of the Highland Regiment, and the Tattoo selection. Alas, I was not home to hear it. I think records like these could be played at least once a day, alternately, from the YA stations, preferably during the evening sessions. The bagpipes are historic, and two players of them have been awarded the V.C. King George still maintains his private piper, and royalty always attend the Highland games in Scotland; therefore I think Scotland's national instrument should be heard a little more often. Trusting I have not taken up too much space of your valuable paper.—Piper (Warkworth).

Music and News Sessions.

WHILE I have no complaint with the programmes, I would suggest that two of the YA stations could put on the usual dinner session from 6 to 7 p.m., while the other two could give the news and lecture session at 7 p.m.; the order could be reversed, the first two could give the news and lecture session and the other two a musical programme from 7 to 8 p.m. Personally the news session does not interest me, as I get the daily paper, and most of the news broadcast is already 12 hours old, but I fully appreciate the needs of country listeners as regards news. If my suggestion were adopted I think it would remove the cause of a lot of complaints and dissatisfaction and at the same time enable those who do not desire to listen to the news, etc., to tune in to a musical programme and vice versa. At present for those who do not listen to the news there is nothing to tune in to between 7 and 8 p.m. After all, it is the A class stations that we support, and we should not be forced to turn to B class stations for musical entertainment, particularly between 7 and 8 p.m.—F. Spencer.

"To be Continued."

IT'S not often I rush into print, preferring to derive a certain amount of education and quiet amusement from your weekly "Mail Bag." Also, I must say that your technical articles and construction columns have been very useful to me, and I look forward with pleasure to each issue of the "Radio Record." Now, don't break your arm trying to pat yourself on the back as I've a kick coming. I am heartily in agreement with you concerning advertising over the air, but, Oh, Mr. Editor! Why not be consistent? Look through the last few issues of the "Radio Record" and there you will find advertisements jumping at you from all quarters. Personally I object to having good reading mixed up with advertisements. You start off an excellent article which fills up half a page; the rest of the page is filled with one or two advertisements, and you tell your readers to turn to page 29 or 30 to finish the article. (Continued on page 29.)

New Zealand Listeners!

Do you listen to the Australian Stations?

If so, you will be interested in the arrangements now being made to provide you with accurate advance programmes of 2FC, 2BL, 3LO and 3AR.

IN each issue of the "Wireless Weekly" as from September 4 (which is available in New Zealand on Thursday, September 10), there will be a special section containing the complete evening programmes for these stations from Friday, September 11, to Thursday, September 17, inclusive; and so on. You will thus be able to secure a full week's accurate advance programmes of the Australian stations from which to choose your items.

By buying "Wireless Weekly" thenceforth you will avoid missing the best features of Australian broadcasting, the symphony concerts, the operatic programmes, the talks of famous visitors and others.

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