

bane and 4RK, Rockhampton, dance music from a cabaret was also being relayed. Then I sought the voice of a city dear to me, Melbourne, my native town, and the New Year was just breaking while 3LO relayed the joyous cathedral chimes of St. Paul's which were filling the air with tuneful reverberations. The boisterous cheering from the crowded streets came wafting through the ether. I left the peals of St. Paul's and switched back to 2FC. The cabaret band was playing "Auld Lang Syne," and the dancers were singing the old familiar song. While listening to 3LO I had switched momentarily to 4QG, Brisbane, and 4RK, Rockhampton, and had just caught the Brisbane Town Hall clock thundering out the midnight hour. The announcer then expressed his good wishes for the New Year to everyone. I now returned to the Queensland stations again and heard a cabaret band playing "Auld Lang Syne," while the dancers sang the song lustily. A male reciter then gave an appropriate rendition.

Back to 3LO, and once again I listened to the peals of St. Paul's until at 12.19 a.m., Melbourne time, they ceased. The bellringers had certainly performed magnificently.

There was still one Sydney "B" class station holding the air. It was 2UE, and I was in the nick of time to catch the station staff singing the final bars of "Auld Lang Syne."

On to 5CL, Adelaide, I pressed ahead of the New Year. A cabaret band was providing music for a merry gathering of dancers. The few remaining minutes of the old year soon fled, and as 1932 burst in the band struck up "Auld Lang Syne," which was heartily sung by the gathering. This rite having been completed, it was a case of "On with the dance," and the band continued to provide delightful music for the merry-makers.

Now came a long wait till the New Year touched Perth, 3300 miles to the westward and four hours behind. A concert programme was being broadcast from 6WF, Perth. My loudspeaker was now being subject to occasional crashes from distant lightning, these electrical discharges being plainly distinguishable from the ordinary static, which resembles more the ceaseless beating of surf on a sandy beach. Lightning, on the other hand, comes in a peculiar sharp and briefly sustained rasping sound. I have observed its effect when local displays of lightning have been visible, and, once noted, these discharges can always be

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Following the Old Year into the West

(Continued from page 3.)

identified, whether local or distant. They now stood out prominently against a background of peppery static.

However, it was not sufficiently severe to necessitate more than a quarter reduction in the volume of reception. From 6WF came the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" and cheering, and I knew that the old year had finished its unhappy career so far as this quarter of the globe was concerned. I knew that far to the westward it was fleeing across the Indian Ocean, followed hotly by the New Year, to be joyously wel-



MARGHARITA ZELANDA.

The unusually gifted N.Z. soprano, who will broadcast from 4YA this week.

comed by the multitudes in distant lands. May it prove worthy of its welcome, I devoutly wished as I glanced at the clock—it was 4.15 a.m., New Year's morning (New Zealand time). I switched off the current from my set. Dawn was breaking. The gale whistled shrilly as it swept my aerial.

The New Year on Short-wave

AND now we shall ask Mr. F. W. Sellens to take up the running for with short waves it was possible to reach the American continent and follow the old year from New York to Honolulu,—22½ hours behind New Zealand.

Last year the coast-to-coast broadcast was heard from one station—

W2XAF—through the National Broadcasting Company.

This year the Schenectady station closed before the journey was completed, but by turning in W3XAL, it was possible to continue from where W2XAF left off.

At 4.45 p.m. here, 11.45 p.m. New Year's Eve, New York, W2XAF concluded a relay from the Hotel St. Regis, Fifth Avenue, New York, and went over to the Hotel New Yorker, where dance music was heard till 5 p.m. (midnight). They then changed over to the riverside, where hooters, sirens, etc., could be heard. After two minutes of this, a quick change was made to the crystal room of the De Witzler Hotel, Albany, where "Auld Lang Syne" was heard. Members of the orchestra wished their radio audience a happy New Year.

The first musical item after the greetings was "Shout for Happiness." Later another change was made, this time to the New Kenmore Hotel, Albany. At 5.58 p.m., W2XAF joined the National Network, and went over to Chicago, where there was still two minutes of the old year left, "Auld Lang Syne" was heard from Chicago at 6 p.m. (midnight there), followed by greetings. Music and greetings were relayed from four different places in Chicago. W2XAF then returned to their studio for further music, but closed before the next time zone was reached.

W3XAL was next tuned in, to hear the New Year celebrations at Denver. Midnight struck there at 7 p.m. our time. This was followed by "Adeste Fideles" on bells and peals. Dance music was heard from Denver till 7.45 p.m., when the next change was made to San Francisco, where the "Vagabonds" entertained with music at the Palace Hotel till 7.59 p.m., when the Hotel St. Francis was visited to see in the New Year again. This was done in the usual way, by making plenty of noise with hooters, etc.

Los Angeles was visited at 8.20 p.m., and then back to Washington.

The last stage on the westward journey was to Honolulu, where the New Year arrived at 10.30 p.m. our time. Reception by now, although still good volume, had become very noisy, so that details could not be followed so easily. Some native music was heard from Honolulu, and greetings sent to many countries, including Australia and New Zealand, concluding with "All radio listeners, wherever you may be."

The call "WJZ (Z pronounced zee) New York" was heard several times during the relays. WJZ is the key station of the National Broadcasting Company.

Tips and Jottings

IF an aerial is placed close to telephone wires it will be screened by these, especially if half a dozen or more wires pass near it.

IF you spill acid on the carpet or clothes, neutralise it immediately with ammonia, soda, or bicarbonate of soda liberally applied.

WHEN a pick-up is inserted in the grid circuit of a detector valve whistling and distortion is often caused by unnecessarily long leads.

SOME cone loudspeakers are inclined to over-emphasise the high notes, so a pentode valve should not be used with these unless it is provided with a pentode output transformer.

ONE way of making a valve "soft" is to employ far more plate voltage than the makers recommend for it.

AS atmospheric disturbances generally come from a definite direction it is sometimes possible to minimise them by using a frame aerial.

TO get the maximum amount of power from a crystal set both the aerial and crystal circuits should be tapped into the tuned circuit.

ALTHOUGH the joining of a .25-meg. grid leak across the secondary windings of an audio transformer is apt to cut down the strength a little, it is often very efficacious in stopping a slight tendency to instability.

A SURE way of shortening the life of a "B" battery is to place it in warm quarters like a cupboard backing on to a fireplace or a shelf with hot-water pipes underneath it.

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