

They are a source of gaiety and cheerfulness for the old as well as for the young, for do not our grandparents even now love what they call "a dreamy waltz"?

Six choice recordings illustrated the recital, and on each of these musical items illuminating comment was made prior to the playing of the selections.

The initial record was Weingartner's superb orchestral version of "The Invitation to the Waltz," which Weber composed and dedicated to his wife Caroline a few months following his happy marriage. This piece is usually credited with being the most important forerunner of compositions known as programme music—those pieces that present an actual picture of some scene in nature or experience in life, as distinct from what is called absolute music.

Arditi's tuneful vocal waltz followed, and this exquisite little song was irreproachably rendered by Amelita Galli Curci.

No programme of waltzes could be called complete without the inclusion of Strauss's "Blue Danube." The rise of the Strauss dynasty was outlined, and this most famous of all the 400 dances by the "Waltz King" was described. Just a century ago, in 1832, Vienna had a population of 400,000, out of which some 200,000 danced at 772 balls at carnival time. The original musical idea of the "Blue Danube" was jotted down by Strauss on his shirt cuff, as were all the ideas of his fertile brain. Arnold Bennett paid it the compliment of being "that unique classic of the ballroom, which, more than any other work of art, unites all Western nations in a common delight." Another writer called it "one of those irresistible waltzes that first catch the ear, and then curl round the heart, till on a sudden they invade and will have the legs."

Chopin, the greatest composer to etherealise the waltz, was drawn on for an example, and his "Waltz in C Sharp Minor, Op. 64, No. 2," as played by Moriz Rosenthal, was chosen. This is one of the most beautiful of the whole series of Chopin waltzes.

The waltz chorus from Gounod's "Faust" was given, and a delightful programme was capped by a particularly fine rendering of a modern Tin Pan Alley specimen, "After the Ball," by Harris, and played by the Edith Lorand Orchestra. Over three million copies of this composition were sold in America alone, and between this and his numerous other compositions of the sob-stuff genre (including "Break the News to Mother") Harris made a decent fortune.

COMMON causes of instability in an R.F. amplifier are inefficient screening and stray couplings between the various battery leads.

THE prestige of "static-hunting" parties recently formed in Germany to locate interference with broadcast reception has suffered a severe blow from the discovery that some of these ardent sleuths are nothing more than burglars in search of free electrical apparatus. Under the guise of public-spirited citizens these individuals have been able to enter workshops and private dwellings and collect their spoil under the very eyes of their victims. The public are being advised not to admit static-hunters who are unprovided with identity cards.

Radio Licenses in N.Z.

Substantial Increase Recorded

An increase of nearly 2000 in the number of licenses in force in New Zealand was recorded during last December, the grand total at the end of that month being 73,147, as compared with 71,297 at November 31. Details are as follow:—

DISTRICT.	Receiving	CLASS OF LICENSES.			
		Private Experimental	Dealers' Experimental and Special	Free	
AUCKLAND	21,344	108	279	—	96
CANTERBURY	11,471	104	157	2	46
OTAGO	8,908	75	133	2	32
WELLINGTON	29,730	191	409	4	56
	71,453	478	978	8	230

Grand Total 73,147

Rowing Championships

Broadcast from Hamilton

JANUARY 29, Anniversary Day of Auckland Province, was a gala day for Hamilton, where for the first time in seven years the Dominion Sculling Championships were held.

The day was gloriously fine, and in the early afternoon the riverbank was thronged with many thousands of residents and visitors from places as far distant as Christchurch.

From the traffic bridge the scene was one to be remembered. Flowing laz-



Perhaps the most precarious of the three vantage points along the river, which were in constant touch by telephone with the announcer on the railway bridge.

—J. F. Loudon, photo.

ily northward was the Waikato, on whose placid surface the contests for sculling supremacy were to be held. On either side the willows and other trees which clothe the banks provided shade for those who had gathered along them, while in the distance was the railway bridge lined with many spectators. Scurrying to and fro on the river were many canoes whose owners were having a glorious day out and were, for the most part, very anxious to exhibit their prowess. Many

were just a little too keen and took headers into the stream, to be helped ashore by their more fortunate mates. All this, however, provided diversion for the visitors.

A running description of the various races was broadcast by stations 1YA and 1ZH, Hamilton, Mr. Gordon Hutter being the announcer. By special permission of the General Manager of Railways a stage was erected beneath the high-level railway bridge spanning the Waikato River, and from that venue, some 80 feet above the river and about halfway along the course, the announcers had a thrilling bird's-eye view of the races, and as a result were able to give unusually clear descriptions.

Listeners could plainly hear the roar of trains passing overhead (and the announcer's remarks about the risk of hot cinders down his neck!)

A feature of the broadcast was the fact that the whole of the race was described in each case, although the announcer could not see the beginning or the end of the course. This was made possible by a system of telephone communication installed by the P. and T. Department, and arranged by Mr. G. S. Anchor, of station 1ZH, Hamilton. The telephones were placed at vantage points on the riverbank, the first near the two-mile starting point, the second at the bend at the mile peg, the third on the bridge with the radio announcer and the fourth on the boatshed at the finishing post. There was an announcer with field glasses at each 'phone. When a race started, Mr. Hutter at 'phone No. three listened to the description of the progress from points one and two and repeated it over the microphone. When the boats rounded the bend and could be seen from the bridge, a first-hand description was given till practically the end of the race. If it was a close finish, the announcer at 'phone four described the last few lengths. At 'phone four there was also another microphone connected to the public address system and the descriptions of the races were also broadcast from this point to a crowd of some 6000 on the banks of the river.

Reports from listeners indicate that the broadcast from Station 1YA and the relay from Station 1ZH were very much appreciated by listeners over a wide area.

The events were all closely con-

Radio "Pirates"

Relatively Few in Dominion

APPROXIMATE figures that have been compiled show that something like one New Zealand family in every six owns a radio set. The number of licenses issued for the financial year up to December 30 was 73,147, against 62,467 licenses in existence at the end of March last. Owing to licenses not being renewed the number dropped to below 46,000 by the end of April, and from then on to the end of December there were nearly 28,000 registrations.

There are prosecutions occasionally of those who have installed wireless sets and have neglected to take out a license, but it is officially considered that there is comparatively little radio piracy in New Zealand. The Post and Telegraph Department relies upon information and observation to detect unlicensed listeners-in. The facts that radio dealers are required to take the name and address of customers purchasing radio equipment and that inspectors of the department regularly inspect these registers make the risk of detection too great to be neglected. It is considered that most of the offenders are those who make up their own crystal sets—a fairly simple matter—and those who purchase second-hand sets privately, of which the department receives no record. Officers of the department are always on the look-out for those who are evading payment of the license fees, the penalty under the Act being £50, although the fines vary from £1 to £5.

The department possesses a van which is engaged in detecting interference of any kind, and when the source is discovered little difficulty is encountered in getting the matter put right.

There are so few unlicensed sets in use in New Zealand that it has not been found necessary to adopt the course taken in London of sending round detecting vans. This method was adopted about October last, when the Post Office organised a hunt to trap radio pirates. A newspaper man went in one of the five detecting vans to a quiet road in North London. The engineer stopped the van opposite some houses which appeared aerial-less, and for some minutes listened on a pair of telephones attached to a receiver, while a companion rotated a circular hoop aerial on the roof of the van. Finally he said: "he was certain that there were wireless sets in each house. At the first house the owner had a portable set—and a newly-acquired license. At the second a wife admitted that her husband had made a set four and a half years ago. He used an indoor aerial.

The vans work up to 4 a.m. each day, assisted by a secret car, known throughout the Post Office as "the ghost car," which bears no signs of its purpose and uncanny equipment.

tested, and as the Hamilton four again secured the championship the pride of the district and province was satisfactorily thrilled by the day's broadcast.