

Replies to Correspondents.

DX12HB: The question you submit is dealt with in our issue of February 26.

Correspondence Condensed.

"No Grouch" (Auckland) writes making suggestion that speakers who have been on the air regularly for a period should be changed—not through any inherent defect in the speaker, but simply because listeners are apt to get tired of hearing the same voice.

Brief but Pointed.

WE wish to notify you that we would sooner have the older way of announcing.—Cargill Family (Westport).

To Prevent the Shivers.

SINCE the majority of listeners think it their duty to write and tell the Broadcasting Board just how the business should be run, I also hasten to offer a suggestion. Would it not be possible to install heaters of some kind in the various studios, as it is painful to hear the women artists shivering. I assure you the thought that they appear in ice chambers (judging by the continuous shivering) makes me shudder in sympathy.

I can't think of anything else to Grumble at, except static, and it is a bit early yet to ask the Board to cut that out.—"Manurewa."

Surprise Items Enjoyed.

I AM enjoying your Mail Bag column, and desire to enter the field of criticism. Firstly, I must say I notice a marked improvement in the pro-

grammes from YA stations. I'm a dial-twirler, and there is evidence of freshness in the ideas of the new management. Surprise items are new, and I've enjoyed them very much. The board earned my undying gratitude when they stopped the infamous "Go-o-o-d night," a thing that was bringing broadcasting to a childish stage. Wednesday night programmes are my favourites, and they must, according to listeners in my vicinity, have a large audience. My vote is for the national service run by a board who have no axes to grind. Can the same be said of some of your correspondents?—E.C.

Dominion Coverage.

I HEARTILY agree with the board's policy of seeking to give coverage over the whole Dominion before subsidising B stations. Mr. R. H. Nimmo might alter his opinion if he came up here and listened to what we get for our 30/-.

2YB has a heterodyne whistle.

2YA distorts and is a complete wash-out, likewise 1YA.

3YA fades continually.

4YA is weak but steady, and can only be brought to reasonable strength when static has gone to bed.

2ZW might just as well not exist as far as I am concerned.

I do not think the people within 50 miles of the main stations realise what we get served up to us under the name of wireless. I am not blaming the stations' transmission, but after it leaves the transmitting aerial it must travel a very rough and rocky road on its way to Taranaki.

If our popular announcer, Mr. Drummond, could only hear his distorted speech, as coming from my speaker, it would make him laugh, and yet 30 seconds later his voice will be clear and distinct 50 yards away.

I am an old listener, having built my first set in 1924, before any YA stations were in existence, and I say without fear of contradiction that the so-called wireless we receive after sundown is a disgrace to those responsible. If the board are sceptical as to my statements, they are welcome to send a representative along at any time and test the truth thereof. Surely it is the duty of the board to see that all listeners received a reasonable service before catering for B stations, which only duplicate existing YA stations.—Geo. Lamb (Inglewood).

Not the Majority.

SAYS "Traveller": "Re all the letters condemning everything possible with radio, I would like to say that we are quite satisfied with the new board."

What on earth is he talking about? If we (I presume he means the listeners) are satisfied, then pray why all the letters he talks about? He then goes on to say: "We think this and we think that." Is he under the impression that he is writing on behalf of the radio listeners as a whole or on behalf of the 10 per cent. minority?

Truly, "W.G." (Hamilton) is talking sense when he says that "Now is our opportunity for action." It certainly is, but will we take it and act accordingly? We certainly shan't, unless we all "pull together."

Are we going to prove ourselves to be the "90 per cent. majority," or will we be called the "noisy minority"?—"Six-valve" (Christchurch).

Plays and Players.

I AGREE with most that has been written in condemnation of 1YA plays. Why can listeners not get something better than this locally-written rubbish? It is well known that there are numberless good plays

available, provided a copyright fee is paid, so why suffer these extraordinary offerings, whose chief merit (?) appears to be that they are locally written?

I am moved to write this after hearing another of these productions from 1YA this week. It was announced as a comedy, and we were assured that the dialogue was "bright and sparkling," and that listeners would have a delightful hour's amusement. (Poor Mr. Bell! He evidently has to say what is written for him.) Actually and really there wasn't one laugh in the whole tiresome thing, but much endless talk leading to—nothing!

I defy the greatest optimist in the country to raise even a smile at any part of the thing; it was just pointless rubbish. But worse even than this I fear that any moment we shall be told that still another locally-written and powerfully-constructed play will be broadcast.

Do the responsible people at 1YA really believe there is entertainment value in these so-called plays, or is it that they get them cheap, and so foist them on listeners? For goodness sake let us have some bright, short plays written and acted by people who know how.—Takapuna.

Quarterly Licenses.

A VERY large number of radio listeners will be compelled, not by choice, but by circumstances, to relinquish their licenses in March.

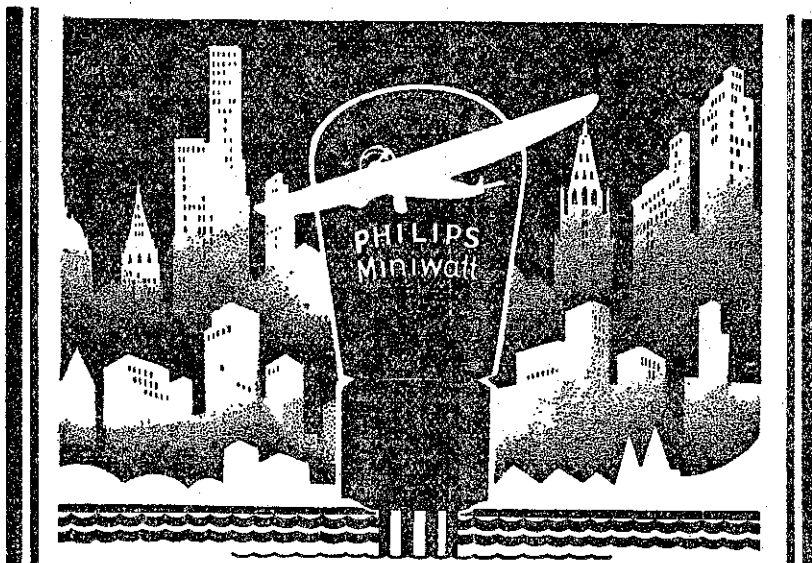
This will be a serious matter for the broadcasting authorities, but it is one that must be faced. I am in touch with listeners all over the Dominion and so can vouch for the fact that a very large number indeed have no alternative but to give up the license, more especially those on relief work.

Would it be too much to ask the Government respectfully to consider a quarterly license, at least for a year? Many people would not object to paying an extra sixpence each quarter, which would help the cost of extra attention.

It will mean a great loss to the radio world if licenses are dropped; we must face facts and if people have not the money they simply cannot find a year's license fees. Our experience shows that business firms and also the Railways Department are doing their best to accommodate the public, and listeners who expect good programmes cannot afford to lose their fellow listeners, whose license fees are urgently needed to maintain the broadcasting service.—A. B. McDonagh (Secretary New Zealand Short-wave Radio Club).

In Defence.

"W.G." Hamilton, behind a good cover, is courageously sniping at someone connected with the new board, but in so doing is also aiming at the board members themselves. Are they not controlling the service themselves? The talk of officialdom is arrant nonsense. Did "W.G." enjoy listening to the oft-repeated "operated and controlled by, etc.," that nauseated most listeners—was it officialdom that eliminated that? If so, praise to it. I cannot understand any common-sense person suggesting that the elimination of the word "everybody" has destroyed the "genial feeling of good-fellowship between the listener and announcer." I advise "W.G." to read Sir John Reith on announcers and their personalities, and when he has ab-



Progress!

The Philips Valve is symbolical of Progress because the history of commercial radio has been the history of the valve and the history of the commercial valve has been the history of Philips. Always have Philips been ahead in valve design. The latest proof of this is the Penthode—greatest tube achievement of to-day and product of the brains of the scientists in Philips Laboratories.

**PHILIPS
VALVES**

W70R

PHILIPS—THE VALVES WITH A PAST AND A FUTURE.

Advt. of Philips Lamps (N.Z.) Limited. Head Office: P.O. Box 1673, Wellington. Branches: Auckland—Poghel's Building, Ansac Avenue. Christchurch—226 Tuam Street.