

sorbed that I fancy his views will change.—M.B.

### Much Ado About Nothing.

AS a regular reader of the "Radio Record," an enthusiastic listener-in, it seems to me that everyone far and near is making a great deal of fuss about nothing. The services given by YA and B stations are as good as anything heard overseas—I operate an eight-valve super-het—and it will always be impossible to suit everyone. Surely, if one particular programme and way of announcing do not please, it is a very simple matter to turn elsewhere. The Radio Board does its best to cater for all tastes, and I should be pleased to see a little more appreciation, instead of these continual grumbles.

I hope, however, that it will not be necessary for the B stations to close down particularly 2ZW and 1ZR. We have two B stations here who give excellent service to their listeners. Before closing I must mention how much we enjoyed the dance programme broadcast by 2YA on Friday last by the Rangitiki Band, with special mention of the vocalist who sang so delightfully in German.—Satisfied (Gisborne).

### Of Educational Value.

A RETROGRADE step is the elimination of the educational session. It was the very best item in all the years of broadcasting. Certainly only a few schools have radio, but that is a matter of license adjustment, etc., and if parents and children are brought to a common interest, how much is gained?

One lecture on "clever hands," which shifted the honours to clever hearts, is one that I would like to hear repeated in the adult session. Also the lecture on pottery. I can imagine the boon that lecture would be to some of the young people who are eating their hearts out in enforced idleness. Another thing since gold looms so high in the national welfare: why not two lectures per week on prospecting? Is there any form of instruction, technical or otherwise, being given to the unemployed camps? It would be of supreme interest to everyone.—Mother.

### Service Suggestions.

PRESUMING that the Radio Board has settled down to its duties, I venture to make the following suggestions, all of which would appeal logical and practical, in the hope that some at least may eventually be accepted and carried out.

1. That the idea of relay stations be dropped, and the power of the YA stations all increased to 6 or 10 k.w. If a super station be required, I believe that Christchurch would be a better location than Wellington for it. Relay stations would probably mean more expenditure, and would certainly add to the congestion of the ether.

2. That at least one station open at seven in the morning and continue to eleven, and on Saturday nights to midnight.

3. That duplication, such as all stations broadcasting news or dinner music, be avoided. Say 1YA and 4YA could, at five o'clock, start the children's session, followed by dinner music, and then the news session. 2YA could commence with dinner music, followed by children's session and news, while 3YA's sessions could be dinner, news,

and children's. This arrangement is faulty, and would have to be improved on, but will serve to show the idea.

4. That the Board provide interference tracking equipment where required. In places such as Timaru, electrical interference ruins reception at times, and must deter many from becoming listeners.

5. That dinner and dance session items be published in advance.

6. That immediate steps be taken to stop all hetrodyning interference caused by New Zealand and Australian broadcasters.

7. That sponsored advertising of approved types be allowed to the B stations. This would be better than subsidising them.

8. That political matters be broadcast at times, provided each party has equal time allowed.

9. That on Sunday nights at least one station broadcast musical items instead of a church service. (This should go with No. 3.)

Trusting that other listeners will write expressing approval or disapproval of the above.—Envoy.

### No Evidence of Red Tape.

"W.G." (Hamilton) in your latest issue has got his gun pointed the right way when he says "surely the high horse of officialdom is being ridden to death when the personality of our announcer has been attacked." Listeners will need to watch the red-tape trail and be on their guard, for nothing can be worse for a broadcasting service than to be entangled in red tape. Though I was aware of this danger, I supported the system of Board of Control, which I think is the best that could be devised. Personally, red tapeism is my bete noir, for I have seen too much of it, and I have accordingly been watching the operations of the board very carefully. A sounder argument than that put forward by "W.G." to buttress up his warning will, however, have to be advanced before I can honestly charge the board with following the practices of Bumbledom.

In fairness to the board I must say that so far I have failed to notice anything that could be considered to have the taint of a Government department. On the contrary, from what experience I had with the YA station, which had to refer everything to the head office in Christchurch, I should say that there is a freer air everywhere.

I cannot agree with all this talk about attacking the personality of an announcer. That seems to me to be all bosh. "W.G." overlooks the fact that the announcers under the Broadcasting Company said just what they were allowed to say, and some things they had to say which they did not want to say. Nor did listeners wish to hear them say it. Those long announcements informing listeners that the station they were listening to was "owned and operated, etc.," can hardly be assumed to show an announcer's personality. Personally, I fail to see why the Broadcasting Board should not have its own style of announcements just as the Broadcasting Company did.

It cannot yet be considered that the board is properly launched and under its own power. It is still in tow of the Post and Telegraph Department. Realising this fact, one must in fairness give the board great credit for the initiative it has displayed since January 1. It has surprised

me, and I have been looking at everything with a critical eye. I feared red tapeism and officialdom, but I now realise that as the board will soon be "on its own," the time for this danger is rapidly passing.

It was only to be assumed that in the process of the Government buying out the Broadcasting Company and passing on the business to the Broadcasting Board, the board should have to work in close co-operation with the Government department responsible for carrying out the transaction. What more natural, too, than that an officer of the department should be lent to the board during this period of transition, for it has to be remembered that the Post and Telegraph Department has for years past been directly associated with the broadcast-

ing service, and the officer in question knows the whole ins and outs of everything.

What is the record since January 1? Has the service to listeners (and that's the only thing listeners are concerned about) been better or worse than before? If the service was worse, the board could be excused under the circumstances; if the service was no better, the board could be commended by listeners for having done so well under the most adverse conditions; but every impartial listener will say that the service is much improved, partly by what has been left out, partly by what has been put in. The acting-general manager has, so far, done a thundering good job in the face of the board's financial difficulties.—Accountant.

(Concluded on outside back cover.)

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