

STATIC

by
"SPARK"

STUDY circles to take full advantage of the W.E.A. talks from all stations should be a feature of radio work this year. Particularly in country districts would I like to see these circles established.

HAVE any listeners noticed this?

In the early days of broadcasting announcers avoided sibilants because they were inclined, like the sausage, to come out vastly different from what they went in. Now the microphones will handle nearly anything, and the announcers have no hesitation in spitting such sibilants as "anaesthetic," "subpoena" and "Cesarewitch" into the blue.

HAVE you returned your questionnaire? You remember the fuss made when legislation was promulgated for the board to take control of broadcasting, which resulted in provision being made for the Advisory Council. The council might and might not be able to represent your views. The questionnaire is your

Wool Sale Broadcast

FROM 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. next Monday morning, April 11, 2YA will be on the air to broadcast proceedings at the Wellington wool sale.

personal and direct representative on the board, and because all your friends are expressing a preference for Hawaiian and elocutionary items you must not think you will not have your share of chamber music, providing you return your questionnaire properly filled in. I believe the response so far has been quite satisfactory, but you are urged not to neglect your return.

ACCORDING to the annual report of the Australian Postmaster-General, the Department secured a surplus of £35,148 from listeners to go to the Department's general funds. Is this not special taxation of

radio listeners and conversion of moneys from the purpose for which they were levied? Listeners will be alert to see that nothing similar happens here. According to the Act, a report must be presented to Parliament each year in respect of the board's work.

RADIO was useful last week in Wellington in establishing an alibi for a man charged with the theft of a car. It was proved that he heard a certain item from 2YA when at a party at a time which made it impossible for him to have been guilty of the offence charged against him. When I read this I was reminded of Edgar Wallace's use of radio in one of his "thrillers." The hero detective knew a young lady was a keen radio fan and would be listening to the broadcast of an opera. Tracking down the criminals, he attended that opera and suddenly had occasion to warn the girl to lock her door. Leaping to the stage, he shouted his warning into the microphone—to the dismay and hysterics of prima donna and management. But he saved the girl. Bravo, radio and Edgar!

A NEW feature to be introduced shortly in the YA programme will be a weekly half hour of recordings of the latest light and bright numbers. The titles of these records will not be available for publication as the intention is to use the newest numbers available at the last minute.

MR. HEIGH-HO did not attempt to fit appropriate music to the Vacuum Oil Company's concert—"Oil from the Bowels of the Earth to the Bowser"—Why?

ALL 2YA listeners will regret to learn of the distressing motor accident to Mr. L. W. Probert, drummer of the Salon Orchestra, and hope to hear of his speedy recovery and early discharge from hospital.

A CORRESPONDENT in a Wellington paper who has lately spent some time in the Wellington Hospital writes to say that many earphones of the radio installation are in dis-

order. There is no fund for radio repairs, and a suggestion is made that as a thank-offering for our own good health, when paying the 10/- for our own pleasure, 30 pence be forwarded to the Hospital marked "for radio repairs." My half-crown has already gone, but complete success of such a fund would be assured, if the wonderful Smith Family took the matter up.

THOSE who happened to be tuned to 2BL on Tuesday night and heard that eminent Australian of

A Sketch "ONLY A WOMAN" (Milne)

will be presented from
1YA on April 16

by
Mr. and Mrs.
J. W. Bailey

this and former days, Banjo Paterson, describe his recent visit to the New Hebrides, heard a racy recital that would make them glad that their sets reached Australia. Mr. Paterson is a born raconteur, and his humorous account of some of the experiences of early and later pioneers in these islands was spiritedly told. The natives were apparently not unlike our own Maoris, and were willing at any time to sign a paper conceding miles of territory for tobacco, knives and other implements of civilisation. The fact that another native, with or without authority, had conceded the same region a week before to some other party, did not prevent the barter being vigorously pursued, and many amusing and complex incidents naturally arose therefrom. The speaker com-

pared the New Hebrides to Java—the richest country he had ever seen—and thought that with the discarding of Condominium Control—which is no Government at all—and establishment of a rational Government where enterprise would be assured the fruits of endeavour, these islands would open up a field of wealth comparable to that of Java.

THE report of concealed wireless sets in Mt. Eden gaol reminds me how difficult it is sometimes to locate more bulky apparatus, even with the aid of the nose, as well as the eyes. I went on board the vessel that repatriated the German prisoners of war from Australia to see one whom I had known in German New Guinea prior to the outbreak of hostilities, and sampled "moonshine" that had been distilled on board by the prisoners from potato peelings. It was not very palatable, and I can understand what Will Rogers means when he says that "in the States you are either sober or dead," but I suppose it was satisfying in the circumstances. Thorough, systematic and continual search failed to reveal the whereabouts of two stills that were in almost constant operation by these prisoners.

MR. J. JOHNSON'S talk "Literature" (3YA) was listened to with much appreciation, and with the approach of Anzac Day, his mention of Masfield's "Gallipoli" will make many reach for that epic, which although written as propaganda for U.S.A. consumption, is nevertheless a gem that no library can be without.

THE bijou concert arranged by Lewis Berger wreathed about Damascus (2ZW) was very well constructed, at least so we have been taught, although I cannot connect

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