

# Editorial Notes

Wellington, Friday, June 10, 1932

**THIS** week will see the Radio Wiring Regulations gazetted, and it is to be expected they will clear up the many difficulties with which traders installing sets have been faced. To a large extent the Regulations were previously incorporated in the Electrical Wiring Regulations, but in many instances it was somewhat difficult to find precise interpretation on all points. Now that the Radio Wiring Regulations have been gazetted, however, there can no longer be any element of doubt. In the first place we notice that no person shall manufacture for sale, or offer for sale, etc., any radio apparatus which does not comply with the requirements. This is an important step. Up to this time there has been a fair amount of amateur radio manufacturing, and the result has been that there are not a few radio sets in use which have been made by unauthorised persons, and which now do not comply with the regulations. This practice is henceforth stopped.

Secondly, no person shall knowingly continue to use or maintain any radio apparatus if, for any reason, such apparatus has ceased to comply with the requirements of the regulations. This clause throws the responsibility of using sets which do not comply with the regulations on the users themselves, and those who have purchased apparatus from any but the regular sources should read the regulations carefully, and ascertain if their particular apparatus is in order. Non-compliance with the regulations, we note, carries with it a fine not exceeding £5.

**JUDGING** by the reports received by 2YA on the talk broadcast last Saturday evening by Mark Nicholls, the series of sports talks arranged from the YA stations will become very popular. Before Mr. Nicholls had finished talking we understand congratulatory messages were received from all over the city, and even toll calls were put through, one being from Wanganui. Written messages are now being received by the Board, and all speak in the same eulogistic terms. New Zealanders undoubtedly are interested in sport, particularly Rugby football, and we think that the Board, in arranging this series has taken an important step, and are advancing one stage

further in their endeavour to give listeners fare which will be to their taste. It is only to be hoped that the talks arranged from the other centres will be so well received.

**2YA** was on the air on Sunday morning testing, and took the occasion to adjust the balance of the new concert orchestra of sixteen players. The Board had arranged for certain listeners who were in a position to advance constructive criticism to listen to the transmission and, when the experiments were completed, it is stated that the balance was almost perfect. We are glad the Radio Broadcasting Board took this very necessary precaution as, in the past there have been occasions when it was found that although preliminary studio tests were successful, the actual broadcasts left much to be desired. The technical difficulties in balancing an orchestra of such dimensions are indeed many. One has to realise that the characteristic sounds of all the instruments in the orchestra are to be concentrated at the microphone—a very small area compared with that occupied by the players. Consequently if this instrument is not placed in such a position as to give accurate balance, those musical instruments near it will be heard and the others lost. It must be realised too, that the attenuation of sound as picked up by the microphone is different from what it is when interpreted by the air, so that although an orchestra may sound perfectly balanced to the listener, it may be hopelessly inadequate in front of the microphone. Although the position of the microphone can be worked out theoretically, it takes a great deal of experimenting until its optimum position is actually found—and so the Board were wise in going to the trouble of bringing the station on the air, and assembling the musicians at the studio on Sunday morning.

**IN** augmenting the orchestra to its present dimensions, the Board is developing its orchestral music along sound lines. In Great Britain the Broadcasting Corporation has done the same thing, with the result that to-day they have an orchestra which has no parallel in England, and probably few parallels in the

world. Some six years ago they were unknown, but by a process involving a tremendous amount of labour, and not a little expense, this unrivalled orchestra has been evolved. It comprises 115 players. In assembling it the B.B.C.'s aim was to have an organisation capable of dealing with the entire orchestral needs of its programmes, either working as a whole or in subdivisions. There are five divisions, symphony concerts requiring the full modern orchestra of at least a hundred players, symphony concerts requiring medium sized orchestra, say eighty players, dramatic pro-

grammes, musical comedies, etc., requiring between thirty and forty players, light orchestral and light symphony concerts (forty to seventy players), and miscellaneous works (variable combination). The orchestra may play as a whole, or any particular group may be heard on its speciality. It was the B.B.C.'s aim in starting their new orchestra that they should set a standard for English orchestral playing, and it may be claimed that this hope has already been realised. They consider, however, that by no means has the orchestra yet reached the limits of its powers.

## In Phase and Out

By "Quadrant"

**THIS** from 2YA Sunday last: "We are now passing over to relay from the Campanile the last and final recital by Mr. Clifford Ball." Tut, tut! He surely means the last and first.

**"LICENSE** renewals are coming in faster in Dunedin than in any other part of the country."—News item. After all, there must be some truth in the saying that radio is the cheapest form of entertainment.

**A FRIEND** of mine was reading this column in my presence the other day but did not know I was the perpetrator. "Ooh! He's (presumably) wrong about that" she suddenly burst out, "people like the Sunday night concerts because there is such a variety of entertainment. The items are so different and all are of popular appeal." Perhaps she was right, but with apologies to Pilot, "What is Popularity?"

**SOME** people have a tremendous nerve and a colossal cheek. Did you read last week's mailbag?

**THE** topic of conversation in Wellington this week is "Where is Mr. Heigh Ho going?" To which I can only answer that I do not know. If he is to be lost to broadcasting then the loss is a great one.

**THIS** might sound a joke, but it is true. A listener reputed for his vigorous economy campaign heard that a certain private station's programmes were published in the "Record." He sported 3d. and bought a copy, but to his inexpressible disgust he found that they were not present that week (an accident I am informed). Instead of drowning his sorrows in the approved manner, reading the rest of the paper or writing to the editor, he took his paper back and asked for a refund!

**AGAIN** they have televised the Derby. Unquestionably it's coming but, though probably it will burst upon us without warning, do not

think it is not suffering growing pains; remember that the butterfly was once a chrysalis, and before that a grub, and that it had many growing pains while it was becoming a butterfly.

**THEY** seem to be tiring of radio advertising on the other side of the Pacific. Only the other day I read that the newspapers were regarding radio as a serious rival, and talking of banning the publication of programmes as a service to radio. Strangely enough, a few days earlier I noticed an advertisement in a radio magazine for a device whereby the radio could be cut off merely by flashing a torch. The advt. was headed "Cut out bally-hoo and bunk," and from the speaker was emanating a speech concerning some fictitious product.

**I THINK** radio announcers who broadcast news services, especially the 9 p.m. variety, should be recruited from the sub-editor's desk.

**DON'T** those who broadcast get a lot of brickbats. It's like everything else—watch a topnotcher at anything in action. Doesn't whatever he is doing look simple, and do we not think we could do better—but when we try!

**I BELIEVE** the radio regulations are to be gazetted this week, and that there is going to be trouble if installations do not conform to the regulations. "And let there be no moaning at the bar when my set goes out to sea."

**I WONDER** if "Spark" would give me 5/- for this one? Mr. Jones (that's not his name, but the rest of the story is quite 'rue) bought a radio set—a small one—and took it home to try out over the week-end. He switched it on, and it didn't go. Then he read the instructions: "If the set does not go when connected cut off power and check over the following points . . ." He took a pair of scissors and carried out the instructions on the cord—which is now a proud exhibit of a local radio dealer.