

R.S. Examination

Humorous Sidelights

MARKING examination papers evidently has its humorous side, though it must be a most monotonous and uninteresting job taken on the whole. The other day the writer was speaking with one of the examiners in the radio serviceman's examination, and in passing some of the amusing points were mentioned. One candidate, asked how he would test a valve, replied that he didn't know anything about it and would send them out to a qualified serviceman, of course forgetting that he was aiming to become a qualified serviceman himself. Another remarked after he had done about one question in the second section that, as he had passed in this section last time, he had concentrated on the first section. Would the examiners be lenient? Another, in not attempting to answer any of the questions, said he considered the paper grossly unfair. It was many years since he had left school, and he had forgotten how to take the square root and work fractions, at the same time implying that what he did not know about radio wasn't worth knowing. Many commented that there was not sufficient time to finish, which, by the way, is quite a superfluous remark, as the examiner takes no notice of it. A candidate is asked to do the paper in a certain time, and if he cannot, it is only an indication that he has not seen immediately the point of the question. Incidentally, the examiner said that one candidate had taken a sheet and a half, and in that space had put down all the essential points in each question. His was about the second highest paper marked so far. Another candidate took a whole book and failed to get half marks.

In one way and another the writer has been subjected to a few examinations, and it seems to him that the essential points when doing an examination are:—

1. Read the paper right through first.
2. Pick out the questions you know best and do them first.
3. Think about each question before you start to write about it. *See if you can see the point that the examiner has in mind. Usually each question has two or three vital points. Get them down in a minimum of words and don't "pad." By "padding" is meant writing round the subject in bringing in extraneous matter. It only annoys the examiner and possibly some of the points you made are so covered by padding that they are not seen.
4. If you really cannot see the point of a question, and realise it is beyond you, do not attempt it. If you have done a good paper, the examiner may possibly be lenient, thinking that it is a matter of time which has crowded out the last question. And furthermore, by the time he gets to it, he has already a high opinion of your work.

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Our Mail Bag

An Apology.

OWING to an oversight a letter which contained what we consider to be an unjust personal attack and which, according to our policy, should not have been published, found its way into the Mail Bag Columns last week. We refer to the letter signed by M. K. Johns. Now that it has occurred, we can only express our apologies to those concerned, i.e., Mr. de Mauny and Mr. M. T. Dixon. While in our Mail Bag Columns we encourage the expression of opinions of our readers, we do not encourage biting personal attacks, and, in consequence, any letters containing such are usually withheld from publication.

Unjust, Unfair and Incorrect.

I THINK that the sooner M. K. Johns (vide last week's Mail Bag) sets out on his travels the better, if he can do little more than criticise in such a manner the 2YA musical combinations. Obviously he is not giving either Mr. Dixon or Mr. de Mauny a fair run. He says, first of all, he heard the Orchestra under Mr. Dixon. What a ridiculous statement! Mr. Dixon had no connection with the Orchestra, nor the Orchestra with Mr. Dixon. Which has he heard? Might I suggest that, before he levels criticism, he at least makes certain that he is levelling his criticism at the right person. Furthermore, both combinations have given excellent service to 2YA, and at a time such as this, when they are to be disbanded, I would like to place on record my appreciation of their very fine services. Certainly the time is ripe for a larger organisation, and if there

have been any shortcomings, then these have surely been due, largely, to the limitations which were necessarily imposed upon the two capable conductors.

But I think his attack on Mr. de Mauny is beyond a joke. I have heard many of Mr. de Mauny's performances, both concerts and broadcast, and I can only say that he is one of the finest musicians and conductors I have heard in this part of the world. As a violinist he is an artist with an enviable reputation, and I look forward to hearing him again in the near future. As a conductor he has few equals. One has only to see the way he has built the Wellington Symphony Orchestra to realise this. A short time ago there was no such combination in the city, and Mr. de Mauny started out on very ambitious lines, and largely through his own efforts as a teacher, was able to get together a splendid combination. I have not missed any of his concerts, and each one I have found more enjoyable than the one that went before, so I have no fear in asserting that Mr. de Mauny is not only a capable soloist and conductor, but a very, very progressive musician. I am certain that his acquisition at 2YA will do much toward making that station even more popular than it is.

May I, in conclusion, again emphasise my point that Mr. Johns' criticism is not only mean and unjust, but, what is more important, his statements are incorrect.—Chas. Smith (Karori).

"Keep Travelling, Mr. Johns!"

I AM surprised at the tirade of insults directed against Messrs Dixon and de Mauny by M. K. Johns in last week's

"Mailbag" Columns. In the first place, Mr. Dixon's orchestra was not engaged to play dance music, and so it is grossly unfair to criticise their renderings of this type of music. In the second place I have never seen anything so unsportsmanlike as your correspondent's remarks on Mr. de Mauny, before that gentleman has even appeared before the microphone in his new capacity. In conclusion, I notice Mr. Johns is evidently on tour. Keep travelling, Mr. Johns.—J. K. Evans (Dannevirke).

The Bridge's Trio.

I AM a settler on the Wanganui River, and a regular listener to the very fine programmes put over by 2YA. For some time now, I, together with other listeners up this river, have been wondering why that clever combination, the Bridges Trio, with their wonderfully toned marimba xylophone, have not been heard over the air. My house is always full of appreciative listeners, both Maoris and pakehas, when these clever artists are performing. The former enjoy the guitar music and Maori songs immensely. I would venture to suggest that you give these young people an engagement if available, and give us back-block people a special treat.—"Lover of Light Music."

World Radio News

ACCIDENTS and special circumstances occasionally necessitate the withdrawal of important broadcasting programmes. The B.B.C. have recently had to postpone a mining play called "Danger," because on the very day it was to have been broadcast twelve men were killed in a mine accident.

FIRE-FIGHTERS in America's national forest will this summer be equipped with portable transmitting and receiving radio sets. Each set weighs 10lb., but will enable the forest personnel to keep in constant touch by signal code. A telephony set, weighing 25lb., and with a range of one hundred miles, will also be tried out, but this type will be transported on horseback.

RUTHLESS retrenchment is the order of the day with the German broadcasting authorities, and the latest move is the decision to put into service the new auditorium at the Berlin Radio House without adopting the elaborate acoustic devices which had been planned by its engineers. Other proposed economy measures are the suppression of "local" programmes in favour of national relays and the shortening of the transmission periods.

AN electrical organ was recently demonstrated over an American radio network by its inventor, Richard H. Ranger. No microphones were used, because the notes produced by the musician were in the form of electrical, not sound, impulses. In other words, the organ was connected directly to the broadcast transmitter without any intervening pickup. Thus the instrumentalist was not able to hear his music until the vibrations made the round trip to and from the transmitter to a radio receiver in the same room as the organ.

International Rugby
Read Masters to Broadcast

IN addition to the talks already scheduled for Stations 2YA and 1YA by Mark Nicholls and Fred Lucas, Read Masters will appear at Station 3YA, Christchurch, in a series of six talks, to be delivered on Friday evenings, at 9 p.m., as under:—

"Tense Moments Experienced by the 1924 All Blacks" (2 talks).
Friday, June 10
Friday, June 17

"Outstanding Rugby Personalities of Recent Years."
Friday, June 24

"Travel Memories of People and Places" (2 talks).
Friday, July 1
Friday, July 8

"A Brief Record of the Ranfurly Shield."
Friday, July 15

Read Masters represented Canterbury during 1921 to 1925, and gained his All Black cap in 1923, 1924 and 1925, playing lock in all the All Black Test matches in England, Wales, Ireland and France during the 1924-25 tour.

