

## Answer to Correspondent.

**J. O.J. (Wellington):** If you write to the Radio Inspector, care of the P. and T. Department, Wellington, he will clear the matter up for you.

**H.M.G. (Wanganui):** It is not the Registrar who is refusing you your certificate, but the Wireman's Registration Board. Altogether the position is unsatisfactory, and needs straightening out in the near future. Thank you for pointing out that case of plagiarism: we noticed it just after it was too late: fortunately not to stop the award.

## The Orchestra and the Standard of Music.

**MIGHT** I express my appreciation of the 2YA Concert Orchestra and of the work of Mr. Leon de Mauny to further the cause of good music. Thanks are also due to Signor Truda and Mr. Dixon for the work their combinations did. It is a gross injustice to abuse Mr. de Mauny or Mr. Dixon as Mr. K. Johns has done. I am in agreement with the sentiments expressed by Chas. Smith, Karori. Classic and operatic music are types that appeal to the writer, and in a small place like this where no choir, orchestra, opera company or eminent soloists touch, there is only the wireless to bring to one's hearing the works of the masters. The orchestras of 2YA have been a great boon to me in that respect. In my opinion they have the responsibility of giving forth to the public the finest and noblest expressions of the mind as found by those who are pre-eminent in the world of music. In fact it is their duty to educate the public, not the public to educate them.

Any reasonable man can see that the programmes cater as far as possible for all tastes; it is surprising how the standard is maintained.

I was impressed by the generally low standard of music in New Zealand when just after the war I used to spend the evenings at the Cologne Opera House, and later at Covent Garden. The vaudeville shows were packed, and only what might be called a sprinkling of New Zealanders were to be seen at the opera houses.

The reception of the 2YA Orchestra appears to depend on locality. I was listening to "Orpheus in the Underworld," "Sylvan Scenes," "Tres Jolie," using a horn and large moving-coil speaker, the latter with a three-foot baffle, and standing out in the room. The reproduction was distinctly good, the "inners" were clean and precise, and the double basses had a clean, full tone. To my way of thinking the gradation of tone should be worked back from a strong *f*, giving a much softer level for *pp*. When *ff* and beyond are reached clarity suffers. A big responsibility rests on the monitoring, and it is not a job for boys.

Without being deemed inconsistent, might I put forward a suggestion for Mr. de Mauny's consideration, that of using the double bass for solo work, with piano or orchestral accompaniment. The plea may be put forward that they are not recognised solo instruments, but the performers on these instruments can be just as much artists as those on violins, flutes and cornets. They could play "slow melody" solos such as "On Heaven's Just Cause Re-lying," from Les Huguenots, also others of that type and class. Of course one does not expect "Lo Here the Gentle Lark," and that type of solo to be attempted on these instruments. Bass solos are given in choirs by men, and in

brass bands there are some wonderful exponents on the double basses, so why not solos in orchestras?

Classic music requires the use of the intellect, and for that reason does not appeal to many people. I trust that the orchestra will continue to develop and give still more pleasure to those of us who live in remote valleys and isolated districts.—A. E. Eliston (Reefton).

## The Case For B Stations.

**THE** letters of Mr. Fitzgerald and DX42W regarding B stations are to the point. Generally speaking, the B stations give the finest programmes—recordings, for the most part. These recordings of all kinds represent the best work of the world's leading artists, bands and orchestras. Hence the great popularity of the B broadcasts with the listening public. The present co-ordination of YA and B stations should not be interfered with, for I am sure that any action tending to close down the B stations will be resented by listeners generally. The B services are so good and are so widely enjoyed that many radio owners would not continue to pay fees in order to listen to the YA stations alone. From time to time we read of harsh criti-

cism of local talent, which, admittedly, is not generally up to, say, Australian standard. Still, the YA stations must use the best available talent in their centres—and they have an exacting public to cater for. Uniform pleasure and satisfaction all the time cannot be given by our group of YA stations; so our B stations have their place and the authorities controlling radio service in New Zealand will, I hope, wisely recognise this fact. The correct policy is co-operation between YA and the leading B stations.—K.H. (Auckland).

## Shortening the News Session.

**OUT** here, with a bi-weekly mail service, we depend largely on 2YA for up-to-date news, as also do many other country listeners. I view with alarm the gradual shortening of the news session. On some night each week recently this session has been shortened to 30 minutes, of which 8 minutes are taken up with shipping and weather. I hope this is not the beginning of a general shortening of this session, which I do not think is grudged by the city listeners. Also, I suggest that a fixed time be allotted for the weather report, and that all

shipping round the coasts be cut out. Who is interested in the arrival of the Kuku at Patea?

I hope "the powers that be" are considering the heterodyne trouble. Up here 2YA has a very loud howl from 16.30 to 18.00, due to WGN. At times it is hard to hear what Mr. Announcer is saying, and to listen to the Children's Session is usually futile. I hope that before the Rugby games in Australia are broadcast 2YA has had a 10 k.c. change.—DX12HE.

## "Lucia di Lammermoor."

**I** WISH to offer my congratulations to the YA stations on their relay of the opera "Lucia di Lammermoor." 1YA was not up to the standard of the other YA's, apparently due to transmission trouble. 3YA was a vast improvement, but 3HA, Hamilton, Victoria, was better. However, I realise this is the first attempt at relaying an opera, and I know a big improvement can and will be made.—Onehunga.

## Radio Servicemen's Exam.

**AS** you have so far not published any adverse comments on the last radio servicemen's exam., I should like to give my views on the subject, which I think I may fairly claim are held by all the candidates (in Auckland, at least), and a large number of others connected with the radio business.

1. In the first place, the examiners appear to have lost sight of the fact that this exam. is not for the purpose of conferring degrees, but merely to permit servicemen to perform simple repairs, involving as a rule nothing more intricate than the replacement of a transformer, choke, resistor, or other component.

Involved calculations concerning the amount of current at various points of a circuit, and other questions such as these, may be necessary for a set builder, but are totally outside the scope of a serviceman's work.

2. It is a universal practice, where the repair involved is anything more serious than the above, to send the set to the distributors, or agents, who usually have all the necessary testing gear, spares, and a complete knowledge of the weak points of that particular set.

This procedure is, I submit, far more satisfactory to all concerned than turning a customer's drawing room into a workshop.

3. Several questions read: "Describe fully—," "Describe in detail—." On some of these subjects books might have been written. The result was that some candidates who attempted to carry this out were unable to finish the paper.

4. Unless I am much mistaken, the term "free bias" is a slang term, and not to be found in technical works. It was not known to some candidates who were quite well up in their subject.

5. The professed object of this exam. is to protect the public. As it is now conducted, it is doing just the reverse, in that a dealer may now sell his sets and is prevented by law from servicing them. Radio may now become a profitable business after all.

6. The great majority of the candidates are boys round about the age of 20, who have served a few years with wireless dealers, and are very efficient indeed at practical work, but will never be able to pass exams. of the standard of the recent one, not having had a

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## Our Mail Bag

Rugby Talks by All Blacks  
New Series from 3YA

**SO** keen has been the interest evinced in the talks on Rugby experiences broadcast by Mr. Read Masters from Station 3YA that it has been decided to present a further series at the conclusion of Mr. Masters' talks; and to this end arrangements have been finalised for Mr. J. T. Burrows, M.A., to commence a series of six talks on Monday, July 18.

Jim Burrows represented Canterbury from 1923-30, represented New Zealand 'Varsity in 1925, appeared for the South Island versus North Island in 1925-27-29, represented New Zealand in the South African tour in 1928, and now holds the position of sole selector for Canterbury.

Mr. Burrows will appear at 9 p.m. each Monday, his subjects being as under:—

- July 18—1. "Rugby Difficulties in South Africa."
- July 25—2. "Some Unofficial Experiences of the All Blacks in South Africa."
- Aug. 1—3. "What the South Africans Taught Us."
- Aug. 8—4. "A Touring Team Between Matches."
- Aug. 15—5. "Sight-Seeing with the All Blacks in South Africa."
- Aug. 22—6. "An All Black's Impressions of South Africa."



J. T. Burrows.