

Answers to Correspondents

36W (Wellington).—2ZR is a new Nelson "B" station which is at present undergoing tests in Dunedin. See description of this station in DX Topics. We will endeavour to have your verification translated.

B. W. (Stratford).—Do you know whether KDKA and WSKAR operate on different frequencies? It is apparent from your letter that, despite the information contained in verifications received by other dxers there is only one transmitter. If the difference in power is the only difference then the two stations cannot count as two verifications. We are sorry we have had to give so many varied decisions on this matter, but the information received concerning these two stations has been definitely conflicting. For the benefit of other dxers, B.W. (Stratford) received a letter from KDKA stating that that station has an experimental license which permits it at certain hours to broadcast experimentally on a much higher power. The stations are identical, and the call WSKAR is used only on experimental programmes.

G.B. (Clive).—Both sets are of excellent quality, and have good reputations for dx. If you will tell us the model of your set and the way in which the dial is graduated, we could explain the various readings. In one model of your type of set the dial of the shortwave reads backwards; in other words, the maximum dial setting is the minimum condenser setting. Certainly, we would be pleased to welcome your wife into the club.

Identification Wanted

Station heard between 6.30 and 7 a.m. on 1110 k.c. (270 m.), on June 14-16 inclusive. Items heard on 15th were "Over the Waves," "Will You Dance the Polka?" followed by a humorous item, and two piano solos. Static was very bad on all three mornings.—125.00. (Seacliffe).

Station heard between 5.10 and 6.20 p.m. on June 20 on 725 k.c. (414 m.). Call sign was "XEF" or "XEX."—H.M. Havelock North).

Station on about 1400 k.c. (214 m.) heard at 8 p.m. on June 21. Speech was foreign, and sounded Japanese. Songs and music were heard. 3GL comes in on 86, and the stranger on 85.—F.E.L. (Auckland).

Station heard Sunday mornings on W.W.'s frequency, 720 k.c. (428.3 m.). He generally plays dance music, and closes down at 3 a.m., N.Z. time.—20T.

Station heard at 10.30 p.m. on June 14 playing "Bring Back My Bonny to Me" on 775 k.c. (387 m.). Announcement sounded like "XEF, Del Rio, Texas." Also station heard at 10 p.m. on 16th on 595 k.c. (504 m.). A man was speaking in a foreign language which sounded like Spanish.—J.L. (Wellington).

Stations Identified

37W (Karori).—Station heard was 37R, Greymouth, on 366m. (820 k.c.). Address is: Grey Radio Society, Bright Street, Cobden, Greymouth.—"Six-valve" (Christchurch).

140A (Onehunga).—American on 570 k.c. is KMTB, Hollywood (their EKKO stamp is one of the best). Stations on 780 k.c. are KTM, Los Angeles, and KELW, Burbank. KELW usually broadcasts after KTM signs off, but it has been reported recently that KTM has been heard as late as 10 p.m. Station heterodyning 1YA is KHJ, Los Angeles. 4RK, Rockhampton, also causes trouble with 1YA. 6Mc. (Christchurch).

DX Topics

DX Jottings.

WHEN writing to WENR I enclosed an International coupon, and they returned this along with their verification. Has any other dxer experienced this? Latest verifications are: KDKA, KSTP, and KFL. The last-named sent an ekko

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stamp, and a personal letter from the Richmond reporter.—B.W. (Stratford).

Heterodyne Interference.

HAS any dxer received daylight verification of 2GB? I wrote him, and received a card, but there was no mention of daylight reception. KTAB on 560 k.c. (535 m.) were coming in well on June 14, while on the same night KDYL and KFAO were up to R7 at 6.20 p.m. Heterodyne interference is very bad on 1280-1230 k.c., especially the 4BK, 2ZB and KDYL combination, whose efforts leave

him in the afternoon at 3.30 p.m. at R6 to 7, QSA 5.

These hams work at all hours. At 10.30 p.m. last Saturday week I heard WATM at Tennessee coming in like a local, calling CQ, DX. Evidently he is anxious to work Australians and New Zealand amateurs on phone, so, New Zealand hams, here is your chance for a little dx.

WZXAD, 19.56 metres, were well heard on their early morning transmission last Saturday week. I heard them at 1.30 p.m., and also later relaying the Lucky Strike programme. They went off the air suddenly without making any announcement. It was evidently a test programme. NRH, the little Central American station, has not been heard this last month. Has any New Zealand listener heard him since May 15? I know it was his intention to rebuild the station and put in 100 per cent. modulation. —A. P. Morrison (Wellington).

Particulars of 2ZR.

THE following report from the Nelson "Evening Mail" contains details of 2ZR, Nelson's new "B" class station, which is now testing in Dunedin. 2ZR was heard here at R8 at 12.30 a.m. on June 23, when they announced that they were on their final test:—

"2ZR, Nelson, testing in Dunedin," is the radio call listeners in various parts of New Zealand have been hearing almost every night after 11 o'clock for the last week. The call has aroused general interest, and many are anxious to learn the explanation of a Nelson call-sign being used in Dunedin. The solution to the problem is not difficult to find, as recently the Post and Telegraph Department issued to Mr. N. Braithwaite, of Dunedin, a license to operate a radio station in Nelson, and this outfit is being assembled, tested, and adjusted in Dunedin, before being brought to this town.

"A young Dunedin man, Mr. L. Bates, is responsible for the construction of the transmitter, which has an output power of 50 watts, and is carefully wired with 50 amp. copper strips instead of the usual copper wire. It is a most compact job housed in a light oak casing, which occupies the smallest space possible.

"A speech amplifier is built in rack formation, using its own power supply, and is of the very latest design. Special instruments have been fitted to maintain constant balance of speech and music, while a mixing panel is provided to accommodate two condenser microphones, one Western Electric carbon microphone, and the gramophone pick-up amplifiers. A special condenser microphone has been constructed in Dunedin, and it is considered by experts to be the best of its kind in operation in the Dominion. Twin turntables of the latest synchronous type have been purchased for the playing of records. It is interesting to note that these motors cannot alter their speed, there being no governors or regulators, so that all records must be played at the same rate.

"Two electric pick-ups are in position beside the motors, and a special fading device enables the operator to fade one record out at the same time bringing the music from another disc in, all in the one operation. A special relay amplifier has been assembled for relay work. In order to overcome microphonic noises in this instrument, automobile valves have been inserted, with the result that the roughest handling of this component will fail to reproduce the slightest extraneous noise.



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