

# STATIC

by  
"SPARK"

CONDITIONS were quite good for the first Rugby Test—Australia v. New Zealand, and 2ME acted like a lady. Every word of the description was heard, although clearness was not 100 per cent. Had the land line between the Sydney Cricket Ground and the transmitter been as good as any of the lines between the receiver and the studio, of any one of the four YA stations, then every word would have been readable. Everyone must have enjoyed the narration of one of the most exciting and fastest Test matches ever played. Announcers are often too impersonal. Not so the one who described this match, and his Australian bias added piquancy to the story. In repeating the result of the scoring upon conclusion of the broadcast, the 2YA announcer led me to think that he had lost a wager—he gave it out so sorrowfully.

LISTENERS to KFI on Thursday night heard the all-night sitting of the Democrats' Presidential Convention relayed from Chicago. I have not been in the States since the enactment of the Eighteenth Amendment, but have often wondered if it had affected the national pastime of chewing tobacco and, in the words of W. S. Gilbert, scattering its juice abroad. Apparently it has not, for I heard one delegate admonish another for spitting where he should not. Among the speakers was Governor Walker, of New York, who cast one full vote for Al Smith, but I'm not sure that it was he who cast the exhortation. About 10.30 p.m. the announcer said the sun was just rising, and to my reckoning that makes the "Radio Record" DX clock just right.

I WAS glad to renew acquaintance with Mr. and Mrs. Lockhart, with Mr. Will Yates as interlocutor in the very bright and humorous show that was broadcast from 2YA. Mr. Yates picked the eyes out of the "International" programmes of last year, but all will hope that he does not resurrect the two "hoboes" for a future programme. The Lockharts were good company—all the others were either insipid or insane.

THE handiest little publication for all those who reach out into the blue for their broadcast entertainment is the "New Zealand Radio Call Book," now on sale. This little book which can be conveniently carried in the coat pocket, contains a fund of information relative to nearly 1000 broadcasting stations—including the N.Z. amateur transmitters, the N.Z. kings have been wise and cultured,

Australian, Japanese, Chinese, French Indo-China, Hong Kong, Siam, South Africa, North American, South American, European broadcast and shortwave stations that can be heard in New Zealand, are all catalogued with requisite information, and you had better get your copy early. They will go like hot cakes!

I AM glad that Mr. E. C. Hands has been appointed permanently General Manager of the Broadcasting Board, for I know of no one more enthusiastic for radio. Listeners already know how much his zeal has improved the service, and may rest assured that further improvements will not be long deferred. Mr. Hands has brought to broadcasting in New Zealand that sympathy for civic service which long service in public institutions alone can engender, and the appointment will have the approval of every listener.

I WAS interested in Dr. Guy H. Scholefield's comments upon the Siamese bloodless revolution, as knowing Siam and its people, a detached view was welcome. I believe a legislative government has a better prospect of succeeding in Siam than in most Asiatic countries, mainly because of the small size, and the community of interests. The inhabitants are a tractable and lovable people, and although despotic monarchy has been firm, it has not been harsh. There has been, too, an absence of corruption which characterises the Asiatic more than the American. The

and have attached to their courts as advisors many unassuming Europeans with insight and sympathy. A friend of mine, a Norwegian, and a man of great learning, was official pianist to the court of the old king, and he has often remarked to me that the Siamese, to his mind, approached the Nordic nearer than any other Asiatic. All who know the Siamese will wish them joy of their new plaything—politics—and hope they have not bought a white elephant.

THE chief handicap of out-of-the-way Empire broadcasting stations is lack of revenue, and a resort has therefore had to be made to gramophone records. The gramophone companies are not very well disposed to the extensive use of recordings, and in some quarters definite prohibition has been threatened. Even without the disability of limited income there is the lack of new artists to contend with, and it is in this respect that Colonial Programmes Ltd. hope eventually to distribute to the larger Dominions. The company intends to record good programmes in England and every phase of broadcasting that we now expect from the stations is receiving attention—plays, vaudeville shows, concerts, book reviews, descriptions of national events—are to be recorded for distribution. Contracts have been signed by most of the colonies already, and many world famous artists are co-operating. Performers who demand enormous fees for evening engagements are quite modest in their demands for

## The Week's Best Par.

FIVE SHILLINGS this week goes to "Amazon," Palmerston North, for this humorous paragraph:—

The Irish are credited with the gift of unconscious humour, but what of the Maori?

I visited Wiri in his where where he had installed an antiquated battery set.

"Where did you get that?" I inquired, pointing to the ancient model.

"From my father," he said. "He got the big electric model now. I wish he give me that one. Never mind, I get it yet, he NOT LIVE ALL HIS LIFE."

You know a humorous incident relating to radio—write it down and send it to "Spark," Box 1032, Wellington. Perhaps it may appear on this page. It is worth 5/- if it does.

day recordings, and a number have entered into the spirit of the venture to give the exiled British a respite through radio from the dismal American commercialised film.

TO achieve an illusion of continuity a cue-sheet is provided with the recordings that need more than one disc, and so that recordings may be suitable for localisation opportunity is afforded with the cue to superimpose a station's call sign on a soft background of music. The possibilities of production are unlimited, the very best performers have been secured by Colonial Programmes Ltd., and with the cost being shared by so many Colonial stations it is hoped that the recordings will therefore be comparatively cheap. Further to the enterprise of this company the B.B.C. is interesting itself in a scheme for merging various companies involved in recording into a sort of concessionaire combine, and as it becomes more generally recognised that reception from the new Empire station will be variable, listeners in the dominions and colonies will be increasingly glad to hear an admixture of recorded British programmes. In Australia it is asserted that £100,000 of broadcasting revenue has been paid into the consolidated fund. If this amount exists to-day, and there appears reason to doubt it, one section of the listeners intends to insist that a portion is devoted to some permanent building, as upon the lines adopted by the B.B.C.

MANY listeners in New Zealand will remember Mr. Malcolm Frost who was in this country some two or three years ago on a world voyage in the interests of radio programmes. Mr. Frost, although only a young man, had produced many plays for the B.B.C. before departure on his tour. Upon arrival in New York the National Broadcasting Company suspended their scheduled programmes for a nation-wide hook-up for Mr. Frost, and the introduction of an English innovation in the States was received with great appreciation. Mr. Frost is now the controlling figure in the new organisation known as Colonial Programmes Ltd., who supplied the recording "The Life and Work of Sir Walter Scott," by Mr. John Buchan, M.P., which was broadcast from 2YA. That this item was enjoyed by all I have no doubt, and further recordings from Colonial Programmes Studio will be awaited with interest.

DESPITE the introduction of sponsored programmes in broadcast-