

Overseas News.

THE case for the "B" class station is still a subject for much discussion. Now that the B.B. will give financial assistance to some, we trust that steps will be taken to help the others, especially those in the cities, to obtain some means of assistance. I think advertising to a degree should be permitted in some cases; such as 1ZR, 2ZW, 8ZO and 4ZL, for example. These stations have given the listener a comprehensive service, and, supposing that advertising items limited to 1 to 2 minutes between musical items, say, every 15 minutes, were permitted, the general listener would, I am sure, give such a suggestion his approval. Could this not be put to the vote of the license payer?

As one who much appreciated the "News Bulletin" from 2ZW, I think that the regulations appertaining to the overseas news by radio should be modified.

Our Mail Bag

doing great work and every child who helps does a lot for the other children's little play-hour. The remarks are entirely unjustified. To be rude at all is a mistake; to be rude publicly without justification to ladies and gentlemen doing the work 2YA's staff are doing is unpardonable. Add the cowardly cloak of a non-de-plume and find a word to express it, for I cannot. I remain a full-time listener to 2YA's children's hour.—John Drewitt, A.M.I.E.E., A.M.I.Mar.E., Eng. Lt.-Cr. R.N. (S.R.).

"The Flowers are Not for You to Pick."

WHY such a boost for "The Flowers are Not for You to Pick," which is boosted in no less than three places in this week's "Record"? You say, "The standard of broadcasting would be much improved if we had more of the class of this play." With all respect to you, thank goodness you do not have the arranging of the YA programmes. They are bad enough now, and as a mere listener who pays his 30/- a year for the YA stations, all I can say is thank God for the B stations. Now I quite realise it is truly remarkable how opinions differ individually, and I would not have bothered to write to you, but in this instance the opinions of quite a number of radio friends who happened to tune in to Wellington that night, and listen to as much as they could bear of the play, together with the opinion of this household, is that the play in question, for want of a bet-

ter word, is absolute "tripe." Not one opinion but your own have I heard to the contrary, which compels me to write and challenge your criticism.—H. Vern (Auckland).

The Ether.

IN the "Radio Record," July 22, I notice a paragraph on page 7, column 3, relating to the house flag of the B.B.C. Part of the paragraph reads: "The planet Pluto is not represented on the flag, possibly because it may be thought by the College of Arms that the ether does not extend that far." It appears to me that there is a great deal of controversy as to whether there is such a medium as ether. Steinmetz said, "There are no ether waves." He also pointed out that the conception of the ether is one of those hypotheses made in an attempt to explain some scientific difficulty, and held it to be merely conservatism which has kept science from abandoning the ethereal hypothesis. Einstein also disbelieves that an ethereal medium exists. Taking into consideration what is printed about the ether as regards Pluto leads one to believe that the ether does exist. Can you or any of the numerous perusers of the "Radio Record" explain which of the two theories is correct? Does the propagation of radio waves depend upon the ether, or are they only an electromagnetic phenomenon?—Fred. J. Martin (Waipawa).

[Electro magnetic strains can be set up irrespective of whether the bodies

causing the strain are in a vacuum or not. These strains must be in something, and this something is held to be the ether.—Ed.]

Re Short-wave News.

I THINK it is a great pity that the Government has issued orders that short-wave news received by B stations cannot be broadcast. I think that listeners will disagree with such regulations, as I do not see harm in the procedure. The sooner the authorities take steps to make tramway authorities and others eliminate as far as possible r.f. disturbance the better for persons residing near or in Rintoul Street vicinity. Every possible means has been used by myself to overcome this interference, but without result.—R.B. (Wellington South).



Madame Annette Chapman

who recently made a successful debut before a Dunedin audience at Dr. Galway's organ recital, studied for three years at the Royal Conservatorium of Music, Leipzig, under the famous Professor Marie Hedmondt. Madame Chapman has a charming personality and a cultured, rich, mezzo voice, and should be a valuable acquisition to the musical circles of Dunedin. With Miss Kao Oliver, pianiste, she will present a half-hour recital from 4YA on Wednesday, August 10.

fied. Are the YA's also to cease giving sporting and other results from overseas? Clearly this step is retrogressive.

A "breakfast session"—well done, 2ZW. It takes the B class to show what the listener wants. No wonder Captain Eckerly, in his talk on broadcasting in Australia, said to the people of Australia, "Hang on to your B class stations." I think that can apply here.—All Wave (Wellington).

4T "On the Mat."

DX4T's remarks on the 2YA's children's hour do not meet with my approval, or that of any listeners to whom I have spoken. The staff are

Festival of Drama

Trophies For New Zealand Talent

THE aims and objective of the British Drama League, of which a New Zealand branch has just been established, were explained to listeners by Miss Elizabeth Blake on Monday evening. Miss Blake is an enthusiast for the drama, and recently visited England for the purpose of making closer contact with the British Drama League and taking part in one of their summer festivals.

In England a great deal of popular support has been accorded the League in its objective of assisting the development of the art of the theatre and promoting a right relation between drama and the life of the community, and especially of raising the standard of production in amateur societies by affording them the opportunity of receiving criticism from an impartial adjudicator, and of testing their work before the public. In New Zealand it is planned to promote a national festival in the near future. Teams will consist wholly of amateurs, and must be drawn from bona fide amateur organisations. Areas are being established throughout the country, and in each area an individual festival will be held, following which the winners in each area will take part in a national festival.

With a view to encouraging the performance of original plays at these festivals, the "N.Z. Dairy Exporter" and the "Radio Record" are giving two trophies. The first will be known as the "Dairy Exporter" Trophy, and will be awarded for the best one-act play written by a New Zealand author and produced during the festival.

The second will be known as the "Radio Record" Trophy, and will be awarded for the best play by a New Zealand author whose plays have hitherto been unpublished.

The trophies will be competed for annually, winners retaining permanent replicas.

A general invitation is being given to those who have produced suitable MSS. to send them to the judge at 18 Selwyn Terrace, Wellington, not later than September 15.

The awards in connection with these trophies will be made by the British Drama League (New Zealand Branch).



Miss Joan Laird,

2ZW's new lady announcer, Miss Laird, who possesses a delightful soprano voice which broadcasts well, is well-known in Auckland musical circles and to IYA listeners generally. When in London she was one of 250 chosen out of 6000 to form the British Broadcasting National Choir. As "Auntie Joan" she conducts the 2ZW Children's Session on Wednesdays, and is already very popular with the younger folk. A feature of her children's hour last Wednesday was her talk about "Cocky," a bird of great sagacity and vocal powers, who is to broadcast shortly. Judging by the sheaf of correspondence Aunt Joan has received concerning him, this broadcast is eagerly looked forward to by some hundreds of little listeners.

—Crown Studios, photo.