

Variety Entertainment.

WHAT is happening to the radio programmes? We get the best programmes during the day, when a wide variety of records is put over, but what of the thousands who can listen at night only? They have to put up with the trashiest of stuff that the stations see fit to inflict upon them. We get an overdose of the so-called concert orchestra, while the happy little combination forming Frank Crowther's orchestra only appears about once in two weeks. Further, what are the programme organisers doing with our Sunday fare? Each Sunday from 2 p.m. we have to grin and bear the dullest of records, and last Sunday (August 21) was the limit. We had 27 minutes of most difficult piano music. Hasn't 2YA realised yet that somebody else beside music-teachers pay their 30/- license fee? The same night we had more dreary music and singers. Must these singers give us the heaviest stuff they can find, and why don't they, too, submit their songs for approval to the programme organisers? It is about time that they too took pattern from the world's greatest singers, who do not always sing high class songs. Now band concerts from the various theatres are no longer broadcast, away goes our best entertainment of the week. Are there any listeners-in who can truthfully say they enjoyed last Sunday's output from 2YA? The bells! Are we to be always inflicted with these? Why old-time dances and variety entertainments from Australia and not from New Zealand? Is 2YA afraid it might get too gay? Oh, well, we can still get opera and plays from Australia, so there is some consolation.—F. Osborne (Wanganui).

Stumbling-Blocks.

WHEN a man is getting his announcer's ticket he should be put through a test in the pronunciation of some foreign titles. Some of the attempts at pronouncing which one hears should be compiled and recorded.

Among some of the howlers I have heard there seems to be a difference in opinion about words such as "Mignonne," "Bach," "d'Helmets," "Tauber."

There has been a growing tendency for all stations to give listeners "feast and famine" programmes. That is, for a time there is too much popular music and very little if any classics. Then the pendulum swings the other way, and we have a feast of classics and a famine of popular music.

I have heard of late of a great number of headaches due to listening to massed orchestras playing classics which sound like thunderstorms—e.g., a rhapsody in fifty different sharps and flats entitled "Blunt," by A. Cheapfleonasaw (pron. Sheppfleonasaw). This piece has not yet been written, and I hope it will never be.—"Nuff Sed."

"B" Stations.

I WAS surprised at the remarks made by "Wairoa" in your issue of the 26th instant concerning "B" stations and their programmes. He describes the programmes as "tripe" and "tosh." May I ask him if he has ever listened to 2ZW? "B" stations must be given a chance, and if "Wairoa" is dissatisfied let him turn over to the "A" stations. His opinion is without any justification, and his uncalled-for remark of "When we must depend on 'B' stations

For Services Rendered.

YOUR correspondent "Wairoa," in criticising the vocabulary of others, discloses the inadequacy of his own by his use of such vulgarisms as "tripe and tosh." I suggest that he remove the mote from his own eye first.

According to him, "B" stations are unnecessary; well, probably as far as he is concerned they are, but he must remember that it takes all types of people to compose this world, and I for one still consider that the service rendered by the "B" stations merits reward. He must also remember that here in Auckland at least the increase in popularity of radio during the last few years is directly due to the service of the despised "B" station.

He must recall also that there are many who are not at all interested

in either sports or racing, and for these an alternative programme is necessary. Undoubtedly he will suggest the old remedy, i.e., "There is no necessity to listen, they can switch off"; but is this what we pay 30/- a year for? It may also be of interest to him to note that here in Auckland "B" stations supply us with 7½ hours' service a day before 1YA comes on the air at all, and even when the extension of time comes into operation they will still be on the air 2½ hours before 1YA.

Again, would your correspondent consider that he had received a fair reward if, after building up radio to its present-day popularity, he was calmly informed that now he was not wanted and that somebody else would take over and run the whole concern? Although the board is to be commended for the start it has made, the least it could have done was to permit the

"N.Z. Radio Times"

September Issue

THIS issue of the "Radio Times" sets a high standard. For the first time two constructional articles have been given; both are of a.c. sets, one the "Link Three" and the other the "Kriesler Five." The "Link Three" is a three valve a.c. set using two screen-grid valves and a pentode output. It incorporates a band-pass filter which may be used with any set to improve the selectivity.

The "Kriesler Five" is the first of a series of kit sets which the "Radio Times" intends to describe.

The "Kriesler Five" comes to the home-constructor all ready to assemble, and with the instructions and the diagrams which have been given in the "Radio Times," he should find no difficulty in doing this. The "Kriesler Five" has four amplifying valves, including three screen-grids and a pentode, and it is a set which any set-constructor would be proud to own.

These two sets, it is confidently expected, will prove two of the most popular yet described in this magazine, and all those interested in construction are urged to secure a copy of the "Times" even if it is only to see the new ideas incorporated in both these circuits. If one wishes to remain in the technical field he must keep up to date, and one way of doing this is to study new circuits as they come out.

The constructor will also find several other articles of interest, particularly two pages of very useful tips and jottings, as well as some very elementary notes for the beginner.

The principles underlying a.c. construction are described in the concluding instalment of the "A.B.C. of the A.C. Set"—a series which has been running for the last five issues of the "Times." In this issue the writer describes some of the pitfalls into which those who are unacquainted with a.c. set construction usually fall. It also points out how a.c. construction is

really as simple as battery work, providing certain precautions are observed.

Readers will be very interested to read the accounts of the new valves—the 56, 57, and 58—valves which will be incorporated in future sets.

The general reader and the dx enthusiast will find an excellent article on radio conditions in America. This authentic report explains how the great American systems operate by split second methods, and how everything in that great broadcasting machine works with the greatest regularity and smoothness.

The "B" station described this month is the popular Manawatu station, 2ZT, which recently celebrated its eighth birthday.

The trade section contains some useful suggestions for dealers and servicemen, while there is an interesting account of the activities of the newly formed New Zealand Radio Institute. The Service Page is up to its usual high standard, and contains some cases of more than passing interest.

The "Radio Log" section contains a wealth of dx news. The reports from the various parts of New Zealand have this month dealt more with actual listening conditions and the stations heard rather than with the reports of meetings. There is an announcement concerning the president of the Dx Club—there is a surprise in this direction—and the completed list of members of the Dx Club. There is a brief description of the equipment and methods of the winner of the Dx Competition, Mr. Frank Barnett, and much other useful and interesting information to dxers.

This month's "Radio Times" has been enlarged by an extra eight pages. Those technically minded and dxers are urged to secure their copies with a minimum of delay, as supplies are limited.

sponsored programme, limiting, of course, the advertising to the name of the sponsor.

In conclusion I think that the membership of the newly formed "B" station clubs is sufficient reply to his remarks on the "noisy minority," especially when one takes into consideration the objection of many persons to the membership fee. I am exceedingly pleased to read that the worthy person is prepared for some amateurism in New Zealand local talent; undoubtedly there are amateurs, but much of our local talent is by no means inferior to many of the recorded artists. It grieves me, however, to note that the worthy person found the necessity to conceal his or her identity behind a nom-de-plume.—T. J. Lane (Auckland).

[The board has no control over the advertising question, which is dealt with solely by the Post and Telegraph Department.—Ed.]

"B" Stations.

I HAVE been an admirer and appreciative reader of your Static Section, but "Spark" has disappointed me this week in his paragraph re 2ZW. His last two sentences about charity are not worthy of a broad-minded writer. It is undoubted that 2ZW has done an immense amount of good in this line, but apart from the relative amounts of service rendered by 2ZW and other agencies, why not give credit where credit is due, or at least refrain from disparaging worthy endeavour?

"Spark" considers that sponsored programmes are too near the advertising mark. I fail to see any reasonable argument why "B" stations should not be allowed to advertise. The opposition to radio advertising does not lie with those who use radio—listeners—but with powerful outside advertising agencies and mediums.

How many of us would seriously object to limited advertising? Do we not put up with it from Australia's many "B's"? I'm certain most of us would prefer to listen to a little advertising than to be forced to listen to our four model YA stations because the "B" stations, from whom we do get good programmes, were forced to close down. My best wishes for success to the deputation led by Mr. P. Fraser, M.P., last week.—"Oigle" (Oamaru).

Broadcast Service.

IT seems that our "hard-to-please" listener "Fed Up" (Auckland) is very much against the Broadcasting Board and its programmes. I suggest that he makes or buys a short-wave set, if these programmes are not suitable. Nearly all the listeners in our district and others I have spoken to seem to be satisfied with the board and their programmes. The board is trying to suit the needs of the majority

Jensen
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