Congratulations

A Pleasant Function

AT the conclusion of the day's activities on Tuesday, September 6, the staff of the New Zealand branch of Messrs. Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia), Ltd., assembled at a social function to extend congratulations to Mr. W. L. Harrison, the recently-appointed South Island engineer for the Broadcasting Board.

Mr. G. W. Robertson, New Zealand manager for A.W.A., presided, and in addition to the members of the A.W.A. staff there were also present representatives from various organisations who had been associated with Mr. Harrison during his radio career.

In a felicitous speech, Mr. Robertson referred to the high technical qualifications of Mr. Harrison and expressed the opinion that the Board had been fortunate in securing the services of two such highly-qualified radio engineers as Mr. Harrison and Mr. J. R. Smith. In his opinion radio would make tremendous advances during the next few years and those who were associated with the New Zealand broadcasting system would have great opportunities for advancement.

Mr. Robertson also referred to the fact that the Board's staff now included Mr. L. E. Strachan who, with Mr. Harrison, had been largely responsible for the success of station 2ZW, and expressed the opinion that both these appointees would play a worthy part in the future development of broadcasting in the Dominion.

Other toasts honoured were "The Post and Telegraph Department," "Radio Station 2ZW," "Mr. Heigh-ho" (Mr. L. E. Strachan), and "Messrs. A.W.A., Ltd."

Fun With Figures

Another Broadcast By Sphinx

HAVE pencil and paper ready for 9 o'clock on Saturday evening next, September 17, when "The Sphinx" will be at 2YA again with a further budget of numerical novelties.

Following his last talk "The Sphinx" received a large mail from all parts of the Dominion expressing interest in the subject of "Numerology," and those who hear his second talk, on Saturday next, will be mystified at the amazing results which can be achieved by a simple analysis of figure values and their application to everyday affairs.

Learning to Tune

Innovation at Olympia

AT the British Radio Olympia no fewer than 108 of the 300 stands had facilities with which to show novices how to tune-in without oscillating. In addition a large number of small listening rooms were installed to demonstrate this art more fully. A further section provided a display of devices evolved during the year for the elimination of electrical interference.

Radio Monopoly

American Public Exploited

FOLLOWING upon the revelation that the National Broadcasting Company of the U.S.A. was intent upon increasing its monopoly by the purchase of the comparatively small station K.P.O. (with a permit to increase its power to 50 kilowatts), together with that station's assigned wavelength, the American Radio Audience League, has been formed. The price that the N.B.C. has contracted to pay for K.P.O. is six hundred thousand dollars, which is a fabulous sum for a station intrinsically worth only the merest fraction of that amount. This deal has drawn attention to the exploitation of the listener in particular, and the public in general. In a memorial addressed jointly to the Senate, the House, and the Federal Radio Commission, the fact that the public is being exploited in the interests of big business has been strongly emphasised. A circular letter to listeners says:—

(1) "While the price of receiving sets has fallen low, the broadcasting business, though similarly over expended, has waxed fat on its free monopolies of access to several billion dollars' worth of receiving apparatus, paid for by the public—an open door to most of American's purchasing power."

(2) "With the broadcast channels now apparently free from the "private property" threat, the way seems open to make them public resources, in fact, as well as in theory—to conserve their tremendous value, and use it to finance real uninterrupted public service on the air."

(3) "If that value were collected by the Government as a tax, little if any of it would ever be expended for the broadcasting that the public wants to hear, and the receiver industry needs."

(4) "Both the collecting and the expanding would therefore be better done by the most competent discoverable licensees, acting as local "business agents for the radio audience." Who should they be? Write your own ticket. Hardly anyone would be worse qualified for such responsibilities than men with "over-expanded" transmitters on their hands which can be kept profitable only by a corresponding over-expansion of air advertising."

"Practically everybody else stands to gain by such a clean-up. Notice that it does not mean jazz lovers of their "hot music," not advertisers of their audience, nor "networks" of their outlets, nor broadcasters of their transmitting properties. What it does mean is giving everybody who has anything to sell a free field to sell it in; programme recording, wire transmission radio transmissions, channel occupancy —the last-named items to be managed and marketed by licensed agents for its rightful owners—the audience."

1YA's Frequency Altered

With the object of avoiding heterodyning with overseas broadcasting stations, 1YA's frequency has been altered from 902 kilocycles to 820 kilocycles as from September 8.

W.E.A. Half-hours

From 2YA

A NEW series of talks on New Zealand fishes and fishing will be broadcast by Mr. W. J. Phillipps, F.L.S.

Thursday, September 15: I. Sharks, Rays and Lampreys.

Thursday, September 22: II. Freshwater Fishes.

Thursday, September 29: III. Marine Fishes.

Thursday, October 6: IV. Uses of Fishes.

ANOTHER new series, "English Literature Since the War," will be broadcast by Mr. W. E. Leicester.

Saturday, September 17: I. General Tendencies.

Saturday, September 24: II. The Detective Novel.

Saturday, October 1: III. The Satirical Novel.

Saturday, October 8: IV. Humour.

The Golden Age of British Music

No. 3—Henry Purcell (from 1YA, Wednesday, September 21, at 7.30 p.m., by Mr. Owen Jensen, L.A.B.).—The glorious achievements of the Elizabethan era were followed as might be expected by an age of comparative decadence. By the time Charles I had come to the throne the madrigal had lost its popularity and the charming freshness of the early keyboard music was beginning to lose its hold on a public already somewhat sophisticated. The restoration of the Stuart House to the throne led to the importation of foreign influences, and with Italy the centre of musical interest English composers were content to imitate their Continental masters.

There was a casting about for new forms, experiments in opera—a certain pioneering by the more serious-minded composers who looked for a prophet to lead them.

He came in the person of Henry Purcell, who was born in 1658—a true genius the like of whom has not been born in England. Upon his tombstone in Westminster Abbey there is written this inscription, a sincere tribute to the finest flower of English music:

"Here lyes Henry Purcell, esq., who left this life and is gone to that blessed place where alone his harmony can be exceeded."

The Beverage Aerial on Shortwave

I HAVE an 8-valve broadcast set, and with it I use a S.W. converter. A Beverage aerial about 800 feet long runs round my paddock, and I use this with an L aerial. I find that on shortwave the Beverage is as good as, and sometimes better than, the ordinary aerial. For bringing in American amateur stations it is hard to beat, although after testing for a period I find it gets stations better at night than during the day. I have logged about 320 broadcast and shortwave stations with my Beverage, so that I can recommend your readers to try it. Both my neighbour and myself find the Beverage better without the 750 ohms resistance to earth.—J. Crosdale (Takaka).

Literary Competitions

Entries Close Shortly

READERS are reminded that entries for the Literary Competitions close with the Editor of the "Record" on Saturday next, September 17.

Entries should be addressed:

"Competition,"
C/o "Radio Record,"
Wellington.

Ernest Lewis from 2YA

Popular Radio Personality

THE many hundreds of listeners who used to look forward each week to the radio talks given by Mr. Ernest Lewis will be pleased to learn that arrangements have been made for him to speak from 2YA at 9.2 p.m. on Friday, September 16.

Mr. Lewis is one of the outstanding radio personalities in New Zealand, and can always be relied upon to say something unusual—and usually provocative.

In many respects he is reminiscent of G. B. Shaw, and like his great prototype he is a past master in the art of using the verbal rapier.

When he appears before 2YA's microphone he will not be speaking on motors, "traffic cops," or Wellington's trams, but will break fresh ground with a travelogue on Holland, a country which he knows intimately, having lived there for some considerable time.

Topical Notes

RECENTLY "Skipper," of the 1YA children's sessions, made an appeal to his small listeners for funds to install two radio sets in the isolation ward at the Auckland Hospital. Donations came in so quickly that "Skipper" was able to close his fund at the time he appointed.

Early Morning Relay by 2YA

AT approximately 9 a.m. on the morning of Monday, September 19, 2YA will come on the air to relay from the wharf sheds a description of the arrival of the Australian and New Zealand Ottawa Delegations, the New Zealand Olympic team and the Australian Cricket Team.