

Short-wave Broadcasting.

IN last week's "Record" a query was put forward by "Scinde," Napier, concerning the entertainment to be had from distant stations on short-wave. Now the answer given to this very important question would lead one to think that while the programmes are occasionally "worth their salt" they are nothing to be compared with those on broadcast.

To this statement I am sure the authorities on short-wave have regarded with disgust its denouncement of not only the programmes received from distant stations but also the progress in the last few years, during which time we have had "entertainment" which has not only been varied but unique in the ears of its listeners.

We, as short-wave listeners, are accustomed to hearing the programmes of foreign countries, which include announcements in English, so that these programmes become far more popular than those we hear from elsewhere.

Take, for instance, the week-end international short-wave programmes broadcast from VK2ME, Sydney, "a local on short-waves." This station provides for its listeners the very best of selected recordings, of a varied nature, and occasionally relays from the studios are carried out. Perhaps the best known of these was the opera broadcast recently, not to forget the All Blacks' games, which were made possible for us to hear through the facilities of this short-wave station.

Any experienced short-waver can vouch for the entertainment we have on short-wave, and could at the same time prove to "Scinde" that short-wave programmes are really and truly "worth their salt."—NZ16W (Wellington).

Questionnaire Results.

HEARTY congratulations to the Controlling Board on the result of the Questionnaire, particularly as regards the number of listeners to the YA stations. The figures are illuminating, and go to show the "inspired" origin of much of the adverse criticism published in your columns and in the dailies. Personally, I have every faith in the Board and its management, and consider that only biased writers can deny the great all-round improvement manifested in recent months. In any case, what is proof of a satisfactory service? Seems to me that only the license figures tell the true story, and according to those you recently published all records have been broken since January, when the Board took over—"Fair Deal" (Wellington).

Unfair Criticism.

THE figures extracted from questionnaires are convincing, and cause me to wonder what some of your "die-hard" critics will say to cover themselves. I have all along been of the opinion that the YA service was deservedly popular, and that many critics were actuated by ulterior motives. That I was right is clearly shown by the figures published in your last issue.—Satisfied (Wellington).

Value of the Board.

THE result of the plebiscite taken by the "Radio Record" is interesting for several reasons, but, to me, chiefly because it gives the lie direct to those who have striven to discredit the new control by stating their stations were not listened to. So much propaganda has been put over that it has become nauseating, and listeners will now be

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in a position to appreciate its worth. A moment's reflection will indicate reasons for the "anti-Board" attitude of a few correspondents. For example, I recently heard an artist who has not been broadcast at the Board's station for months criticising the management bitterly for not giving him more frequent engagements. As a matter of fact, he is a poor artist, and apparently the Board is aware of that fact; yet no one could convince him of it. He indicated his intention of "exposing" the management, the General Manager in particular, through the newspapers. No doubt there are many similar cases, for it is evident that the services of a

lot of inferior performers have been dispensed with, so that some of the propaganda is accounted for. Then there are the private interests connected with "B" stations to consider. Some of these people are fighting for subsidies, and think that wholesale condemnation of the YA service is a means to that end. The figures revealed by the plebiscite are convincing, and show up the propagandist in his true colours. While I am not pleased by all the items broadcast by the Y's, I think they are doing good work, and that a vast improvement has been shown.—"Impartial" (Wellington).

Naomi Whalley to Sing from 2YA One of N.Z.'s Premier Artists

Few New Zealand singers have achieved such widespread success in various types of vocal music as Naomi Whalley, who will be heard from 2YA on Saturday, September 17, and Sunday, September 18.

Miss Whalley is the possessor of an unusually matured soprano voice, of pure and mellow timbre, with a very even scale. She hails from Palmerston North, where she has pursued an intensive course of training under Mr. W. Watters.

Unlike many singers, Miss Whalley has a Catholic taste in music, and is equally at home in grand opera, oratorio, ballads or the light popular songs of the day.

She has appeared in various parts of the Dominion in concert and oratorio work, and the critics have been unanimous in classing her as one of the finest soprano soloists yet heard in the Dominion.

In light opera and musical comedy Miss Whalley has a record of which any amateur may be proud. She has had a number of parts any musical comedy actress would delight to play, and some roles that she has made very attractive by her charming voice and equally charming



personality, including Nan ("A Country Girl"), Lady Betty ("Our Miss Gibbs"), Peggy Sabine ("The Cingalee"), Nancy Staunton ("The Toreador"), Molly Seymour ("The Geisha"), Angela Gilfain ("The Toreador"), Serpolette ("Les Cloches de Corneville"), Sally ("Miss Hook of Holland"), Sylvia Dale ("High Jinks"), Grace Douglas ("Going Up") and Sombra ("The Arcadians").

Miss Whalley's numbers from 2YA on Saturday will be:—

"Over the Dreamland Sea" (Phillips).

"The Little Damosel" (Novello).

"Call'er Herrin'."

"Barney O'Hea."

"Nightingale of June" (Sanderson).

"Pale Moon" (Logan).

During Sunday evening's programme from 2YA Miss Whalley will sing:—

"A Spirit Flower" (Campbell-Tipton).

"Break o' Day" (Sanderson).

"Flight of Ages" (Bevan).

"In the Gloaming" (Harrison).

Let Us Be Reasonable.

LISTENERS are still criticising B stations, so evidently there exist in our midst some who, "Give them the world, and they will complain." With a promise of coverage, increased power, longer hours, no silent days, and race meeting relays, the Broadcasting Board deserves some appreciation and encouragement. A fair criticism will always meet with consideration, but excesses should not be encouraged; just think of those who appreciate that which you condemn. To prevent monotony, which also irritates some listeners, why should the board not be prevailed upon to change the "Good-night" melody weekly?

In conclusion, I ask "Wairoa" to restrain his feelings, and refrain from describing B station programmes as "tripe" and "tosh." No doubt "Wairoa" has been only too glad to listen to B stations from time to time, and should the A stations close down for a month (merely a supposition) would he not gain enjoyment from B station programmes?—Chas. Hles (Christchurch).

Literary Competition.

I HAVE been a radio listener for the past five years, but never have I enjoyed anything so much as the literary competition just concluded. The material was particularly well chosen, and its presentation left nothing to be desired. I wish to thank the Radio Board for affording such enjoyable entertainment in so able a manner.—J. Gentles (Wellington).

An Appreciation.

AT a time when the radio authorities are being assailed with so much criticism in regard to programmes, I feel bound to express the appreciation of this household to the wonderful programmes being broadcast on Wednesday nights. Last Wednesday in particular was most enjoyable. Firstly, there was a section of the literary competition, admirably done, and, secondly, two hours of first-class recordings. I can honestly say we have never heard a better programme.—"Gramophone" (Wellington).

Broadcast Networks

THE growth of broadcasting networks in the U.S.A. has been phenomenal. The N.B.C. was formed in 1926 and the C.B.S. a year later. Each organisation now controls about 100 stations which are situated in 43 of the 48 States, and in the district of Columbia, Canada, and Hawaii. With the exception of the latter all transmitters are inter-connected by wire links. Some recent nation-wide relays have been the noise from a Hawaiian volcano, dance music from the Leviathan in mid-Atlantic, and a programme from a speeding train in Manchuria.

Radio Election Campaign

IT is contended in broadcast circles that radio will be the instrument deciding the election of the President of the U.S.A. this year. The leading candidates of the two big parties will conduct most of their campaigns by radio, and as each will probably personally hear the other, the campaign will probably be upon debating lines.