

## Power Interference.

ACCORDING to my friends, and from my own experience, 1YA is apparently losing power. 1ZR, with a modest 80 watts, comes through loudly and clearly. Power interference in my locality is also very bad. The tramline points are directly in front of my door, and the noise each tram makes is beyond description. As a tram approaches it creates a noise akin to that of frying sausages, and as the pole hits the "frog" on the wires, there is a loud report, followed closely by a series of hisses and crackles as the tram stops at the door. The compressed air pumps then contribute their share of the programme by obliging with more sausage noises, and the tram finally thunders away, leaving behind it a trail of crashes and audible sparks. So you can see a station needs to be coming in strongly to drown out this barrage, and this is where 1YA falls short, even though I am only one mile away and in a direct line with it. I have just been listening to the rebroadcast of the unveiling of the Anzac Memorial at Port Said, and, between the trams, it was excellent.—C. Russell (Auckland, Cl).

## Short-wave Relays.

BEING of English birth, I was particularly interested to listen-in to the Armistice broadcast, and last evening to the Port Said broadcast. My host had a loudspeaker arranged tuned direct to 2YA, and another working on his short-wave four-valve receiver, so that signals from 2YA were received simultaneously with those direct from the overseas short-wave transmitter. While the relay through 2YA of the Armistice service was passable it was not within 300 per cent. as clear or steady as from my friend's four-valve set. Last night the relay from Port Said was appalling through 2YA, yet we listened to practically every word direct.

Where does the fault lie? Surely the board with its tremendous income is able to find capable men and suitable apparatus to give us something better in the matter of these relays, if an amateur with a home-made set costing a few pounds can receive these overseas stations direct?—R. L. Williams (Palmerston North).

[As explained by our short-wave correspondent this week (p. 24), the signals re-broadcast by 2YA travelled from Port Said to Cairo by land line, then to England by radio, then to Rugby, whence they were re-broadcast, picked up by Sydney, again re-broadcast, and thence to 2YA. Considering this handling, the results were surprisingly good.—Ed.]

## 1YA's Recorded Programmes.

A FEW weeks ago a certain Christchurch gentleman stated that 3YA showed the lowest percentage of originality and artistry. I wish to claim that "honour" for 1YA. Whatever "Neutron" may say does not affect the fact that I am sure the majority of Auckland listeners pay 30/- a year not to listen to 1YA, but to the excellent B class stations, which, fortunately, have not come under the lethargic influence of board control. The Tuesday evening recorded programmes from 1YA, which could be very attractive, are the last word in feebleness—a dreary succession of poor so-called "popular" records of alleged humour, freak solos, etc. Any classical music which happens to find its way into this trash is

## Our Mail Bag

usually too backneyed to be worth listening to again. I suggest the programme organisers glance at a record catalogue and see the great variety of excellent musical recordings available.

Radio in other countries is looked upon as something of a public utility; here it is another Government department for the mulcting of listeners who have no wish to listen to the board's stations. I am perfectly well aware that the YA stations are at a disadvantage in having to compete with stations using records at every session, but that does not excuse them when they compete on even terms. Instead of forever patting themselves on the back, the board might find a more useful outlet for its energy and show us where our money goes. That last point is somewhat obscure at present.—W.M.B. (Auckland).

## "Highbrow" Music.

I ENDORSE "More Popular's" views concerning the proportion of popular music from the YA stations. Why the board issued the questionnaire puzzles me. It is not compiling its programmes from it. Fully 90 per cent. of the music put across each day is highbrow, but Sunday afternoon is worse still. About three minutes is all

I can stand. Easily the best items from 2YA are given by Frank Crowther's orchestra, but the numbers in between are generally terrible. I am glad to see that the Grand Opera Company will soon be leaving New Zealand. I notice also if any part of a programme is ever cut down it is always the dance hour that suffers.

I have been waiting some time for a letter to appear in the "Record" on the subject "Altair" brings up. I have noticed quite a few in the "Otago Daily Times" complaining about the poor microphone voices 4YA announcers have. Why the board put off Mr. Wrathall I can't say.—"Anti-Board" (Invercargill).

## Unreasonable Criticism.

PRACTICALLY every week there appear in your "Mailbag" columns letters from disgruntled listeners who are dissatisfied with the service provided. Personally, I think the board has achieved wonders since it took office, but, like all such bodies, it will always come in for much unseasonable criticism from "Fed-ups" and "Dissatisfied Listeners." We get interesting talks such as those of Major Lewis and Mr. Treadwell—and then come let-

ters complaining of "unpleasant spy stories" and "crime talks."

The "Quips from the Questionnaire" show clearly the contradictory opinions as to types of programmes, and those who take the attitude that "I pay my license fee and I must have more baggage, Hawaiian, or some other music, or less of this, that, or the other thing," must know the futility of expecting the board to be influenced by their letters. The programme organisers mix the types of music wonderfully well. 2YA is the best, and I listen to it most—especially in the dinner hour, when 4YA is inclined to be spasmodic and presents lengthy sections of classical, and then of light music. 3YA, when I tune to it, usually has an alarming percentage of Hawaiian music. (The "B" station on the air at that time has a transmission quality that is a disgrace to a radio firm, and the programmes consist of mouth organ or accordion solos, reels and vocal trios with Jew's harp or banjo accompaniment.) The "A" evening programmes are generally well selected. Your correspondent, W. K. Carter, cites one of particular merit—Wednesday, 9th, at 2YA. Even then someone complains repetition of records and of the concert orchestra, which gives some very fine performances. Then someone protests that the Sunday afternoon programmes are dull, and mentions specially "twenty-seven minutes of piano music." In my humble opinion, the Sunday music is ideal for the purpose, and piano is the most popular type of music presented. One more thing: surely the complaints about too many records and not enough "local talent" must come from artists (?) who cannot obtain broadcasting engagements. There is no comparison between the two types of entertainment.

Having taken to task several types of critic, may I quote a few slight weaknesses.

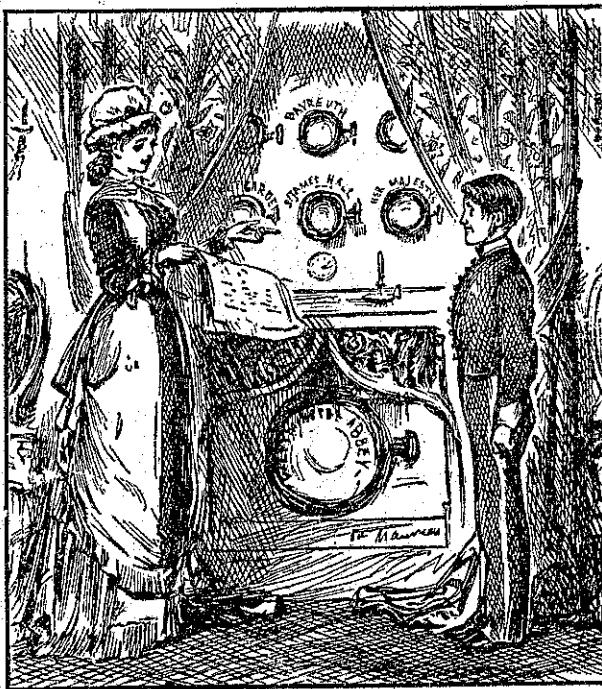
- (1) No service on Saturdays till 2 p.m.
  - (2) In winter no music on Saturday afternoons (4ZF, 4ZW and 4ZL have rectified this in Dunedin).
  - (3) The old trouble of the 7-8 p.m. lack of music.
  - (4) The carillon sounds terrible over the air.
  - (5) Although the amount of dance music is in the right proportion, it would be nice for those who like dance sessions if occasionally an 8-10 p.m. session could be arranged instead of having to wait till 9.30-11 p.m.
- In conclusion, may I, as one of the younger generation (not a jazz fiend!), make a request for the publication of the dance sessions. I have often sat through a whole session of mediocre dance music, hoping for something better; and other times, not bothering to listen-in, I have heard later from other listeners that excellent numbers were played.—"Vivace" (Dunedin).

## 2YA's Sporting Results Up-to-Date.

IN last week's "Record," S.A.S., Napier, complains of 2YA being behind the newspapers in announcing the latest cricket scores from Australia.

Now, sir, being a very keen cricket follower, I, too, am always looking for the "latest," and must say my experiences from 2YA are entirely opposite to those of S.A.S. Not once, S.A.S., when there has been news to broadcast has 2YA failed, both at 9 p.m. and at

## History Repeats Itself



Musical Mistress of House ("on hospitable thoughts intent").—"Now, recollect, Robert, at a Quarter to Nine turn on 'Voi che Sapete' from Covent Garden; at Ten let in the Stringed Quartette from St. James's Hall; and at Eleven turn the last Quartette from 'Rigolletto' full on. But mind you close one tap before opening the other!" Buttons.—"Yes Mum."

Even the tuning devices are all there, and the suggestion of the inclusion of a clock on the panel is one which might well be followed by manufacturers who study the appearance of their products.

This illustration appeared in "Punch's Almanack" for 1878, dated December 14, 1877. At the time the telephone was a novelty, and the illustration is an imaginative idea on the part of the artist of what might be expected of the telephone.

The picture is surprisingly applicable at the present time to wireless broadcasting, and particularly apt is the caution to "Buttons" to be sure to "close one tap before opening the other!" One might almost imagine that the artist had been privileged to peep into the future and gather his inspiration from one of the modern wireless sets.