

blinks the desk light near the announcer's microphone. And, of course, it is the technician who is in the position to have the last word in any argument, because on his panel are the remote controls of the unattended transmitter.

There are also other marvels: an air conditioning system with thermostatic temperature control, and additional steam radiator heating when necessary. Every room has a monitoring speaker, from which may be heard, if so desired, the programme from 2ZA. All record turntables are three speed (33 1/3, 45 and 78 r.p.m.), and the firm's records are safeguarded by a delightful device known as the viscous damped arm. The player arm, with the head holding the needle, can be safely let go inches above the record, and will sink gently down, instead of falling with a crash. The clue to this lies in the word viscous: the grease lubricating the vertical movement of the arm is so tacky that slow movement is inevitable.

This equipment took a little time and training before it became familiar. Wallace Smith, 2ZA's Senior Technician, discussed the move as it had affected him. His problem had been simply to sign off the air at 10.30 p.m. from one building and open transmission at 6.0 a.m. next day from another. The days were Monday, March 26, and Tuesday, March 27. Not much heavy equipment had to be moved; the new building had its own gear. A large tape recorder, weighing about 5 cwt. was trucked over early on Tuesday morning and plugged into its place in the new set-up. The Post Office had changed the station telephone connections on Monday night. On Monday morning one of Mr. Nixon's team took over operation of the control panel in the old building so that 2ZA's technicians could have two hours' coaching from Mr. Nixon in the new control room. There were more rehearsals between 10.30 p.m. and midnight on Monday, when a modulation test was made of the new equipment right through to the transmitter. At 6.0 a.m. on Tuesday, the new station was on the air.

For the Programmes Department, the big day was Saturday, March 24. E. A. Svenson, the Programme Organiser

had made his measurements and preparations. What remained to be done was the cartage of, say, 20,000 records. This took from 8.30 a.m. to 7.0 p.m. Professional movers took the furniture across, and for the first hour and a half they used the lift at the old building while the station staff carried bins of records down two floors by the stairway. There are also stairs up to the programme department in the new building, twenty-three of them.

Kay Rankin, who runs 2ZA's Women's Hour, and Pamela Rutland, the Shopping Reporter, sitting in their new carpeted room, the walls and ceiling of orchid pink, grey and turquoise, had something to say of the Saturday operations. Mrs. Rankin whipped up a large batch of scones and had them at the scene by morning tea time. The boys were flagging, she recalled. The stairs were taking their toll. However, morning tea and the use of the lift at the old building helped them along. The ladies attended to the moving problems of their own department, and in spite of one cupboard flying open in transit, were soon safely installed. By 5.0 p.m. the boys were staggering, the scones long finished, and another two hours' work in prospect. In all, the van they used to transport the records made 15 trips, but vans don't go up stairs.

Charles Carey, the Advertising Salesman, had no records in his office equipment, but he had deadlines to meet. He moved at noon on Friday, March 23, working as he went, and was ready for business and dealing with his first customer at 3.0 p.m.

K. W. Donaldson, 2ZA's Station Manager, better known in the Dunedin area where he started his radio career as Don Donaldson, has been at 2ZA since 1948. He managed to run a happy ship even in the old building, where he suffered with the rest in cramped conditions. Now he has space in his office, a pleasantly modernistic frontage to the building, and a view through his side windows of the centre of Palmerston North, the people moving nimbly and purposefully about their business, in which he, and 2ZA, take a full share.

(An article on Station 3XC Timaru will appear in "The Listener" of May 4.)



... INTO THE NEW: E. A. Svenson, Programme Organiser, helps move the 2ZA record library to its new quarters



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