

HELP THE SICK

RADIO FOR HOSPITALS

THE WELLINGTON MOVEMENTS.

The Wellington Radio Society's Hospital Radio Fund has not received the support from the public that the cause merits. A persistent campaign over a period of fifteen months has yielded only about \$1000.

The fund is for the purpose of equipping the Wellington General Hospital with a powerful broadcast receiving set from which wires are to run to the bed of each of the 600 patients. Headphones are to be allotted to each patient so that listening-in can be enjoyed without disturbing those who are not in a condition, or are disinclined, to listen to broadcast entertainment. In London, alone, there are many scores of hospitals so equipped, and in several foreign countries the hospitals are also furnished with broadcast receiving equipment.

MORE MONEY NEEDED.

It is a subject for regret that the Wellington citizens have failed to give due support to the Wellington Hospital Radio Fund. A sum of nearly \$2000 is required to equip the hospital throughout, and only half that sum has been subscribed. The curative effects of broadcast listening upon hospital patients has been endorsed by eminent medical practitioners throughout the world. It is now well established that mental influence plays an important part in the curative process of the human body.

RADIO AS A CURE.

Hospital patients are prone to worry over their plight, and in brooding over their misfortune retard their progress towards recovery. Reading in bed soon fatigues a patient, and without anything to occupy the mind the patient is subject to depressing thoughts. Broadcast listening offers a most valuable diversion to the patient without the slightest bodily fatigue. The patient rests comfortably in bed with the headphones on, and the mind

OUR PHOTOS.

We are indebted to Mr. S. P. Andrew for the majority of the photographs of Ministers and performers in last issue and this issue.

is soothed with vocal and instrumental music and the interest is engaged with news of the great big world or by attractive lectures.

HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES FAVOURABLE.

Dr. Wilson, medical superintendent of the Wellington Hospital, is an enthusiastic advocate, for the installation, and is a member of the hospital radio fund committee. The members of the Wellington Hospital Board are also in favour of the scheme, but owing to the heavy tax on the board's financial resources the board has found it impossible to grant any donation towards the fund. The hospital radio fund committee applied to the T. G. Macarthy Trust for a charitable grant, but the application was rejected recently.

INSTALLATION TO PROCEED.

The probabilities are that the fund committee will now instal as much of the broadcast equipment as the money in hand will permit so that as many patients as possible can receive pleasure and interest from radio without any further delay.

The committee are inclined to believe that when the wonderful effect of broadcast listening upon the patients in the Wellington Hospital is known, the public will respond more freely with donations to the fund.

The active members of the hospital radio funds committee comprise Messrs. W. Stuart Wilson (chairman), J. H. Owen (president of the Wellington Radio Society), W. J. Roche (hon. treasurer of the society), and Ivan M. Levv (vice-president of the society, and hon. secretary of the fund). These gentlemen have met once and even frequently twice a week during the past fifteen months to carry on the campaign for funds. Their humanitarian purpose deserves the heartiest support.

SEEING BY RADIO

John L. Baird, television inventor of England, has closed his experimental transmitter and is building a much larger station with a four-kilowatt output at Purley in Surrey.

The first work at the new station will be experimental, but Mr. Baird is hopeful that actual television programmes will be presented to the public ere long, according to reports from London. Alterations in the apparatus have overcome the necessity of using two wavelengths, and now the pictures can be sent out on one wave.

Receiving outposts are being installed at Dublin, Belfast, Liverpool, and Manchester with the object of testing television over long distances. Hitherto the longest distance over which television transmissions have been received is 130 miles.

RADIO FARM SERVICE

EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA

While the total number of listening-in sets in New Zealand is about 20,000, mostly in the towns, it comes as a startling comparison to learn that in the United States no fewer than 1,252,126 farms are equipped with radio receiving sets. The increase to May was remarkable, being 120 per cent. in less than two years. It is quite evident that American farmers are fully alive to the advantages of a radio broadcasting service. With a view to ascertaining the needs of farmers and their ideas for improving the service a questionnaire was sent to 10,000 radio owners.

An analysis of the replies shows that American farmers, by nearly two to one, prefer radio talk to music and a very strong dislike for jazz is expressed. In music they want old-time tunes and classical music. Aside from educational farm programmes, weather and market reports, political talks are evidently popular and more current news programmes are in demand.

Farmers are not using the radio merely for entertainment. The day's work is now planned according to the weather forecasts sent out by the weather bureau and received by radio much more quickly than was formerly possible. Market reports are eagerly followed and numbers of farmers report definite savings in dollars and cents as a result of this service.

Not only that, but hundreds of the reports from farmers cite instances where the educational programmes prepared by the radio service and broadcast through nearly 100 commercial and State College stations, have been promptly applied to the immediate advantage of the individual radio user.

Many stockmen report larger and more profitable pig crops as a result of the adoption of better practices outlined by radio. Others claim that information from these radio programmes has enabled them to get their poultry

An enthusiastic listener-in, whose home, fortunately, occupies an elevated site at Island Bay, Wellington, takes a delight in demonstrating to his friends the fact that broadcast sound reaches the distant listener actually before it is heard in the immediate vicinity of its origin. This fact, it will be remembered, was stressed by the Right Hon. J. G. Coates, Prime Minister, in his speech on the occasion of the opening of 2YA. The Island Bay man's demonstration is simple, but convincing. He leaves the window open when the chimes of the Post Office clock are to peal forth. "Time after time," he says, "my friends have been astonished to hear the distant stroke of the clock after it has been much more clearly heard per medium of my loudspeaker."

projects on a sound financial basis. Still others report thriftier livestock and improved marketing practices as a direct result of their recent radio schooling. More cotton on fewer acres, better food in the home, and more eggs from the chickens are listed among the benefits received.

These farm listeners, however, have very definite ideas about how they want the programmes presented. In reply to one question, "Do you prefer lectures to be given by an announcer, who can be clearly understood, rather than by the authorities themselves?" the answers were more than four to one in favour of the trained announcer. Asked to indicate how they preferred farm information presented, 3148 farmers voted for some form of dialogue style, as against 1497 who indicated a preference for the straight lecture form.

Among the suggestions for improving service were: Select speakers with good broadcasting voices; train broadcasters on delivery; make talks short and to the point; schedule talks often enough and regularly enough for folks to get the habit of listening; inject enough atmosphere or entertainment into educational programmes to avoid their becoming dull; and prepare talks in simple and every-day terms.

Practically all phases of farm life were touched on. Among the radio programmes requested were those dealing with: the most economical way of preparing hogs for market, clover as a soil builder; improvement of country roads; the control of insects and rodents; marketing pork, beef and grain; feeding the dairy cow; spraying and orchard care; treating fence posts; raising colts; making charcoal; the production and harvesting of lucerne hay; utilisation of soft timber for farm buildings; general farm management; the farm labour problem; and fox farming. One farmer asked for information on whether to sell or not to sell the farm.

As the result of the lectures there has been a great demand for literature mentioned in the addresses.

ACROSS THE PACIFIC

Though of only 500 watts, 1YA is frequently heard in Canada and in America. One correspondent expresses his impressions in the following manner:—

"I have often thought that your announcers little knew who or how many were listening to you. I am probably 8000 or 9000 miles away from you, living on a farm engaged in raising wheat on the great prairies 185 miles east of Calgary, Alberta, which is my nearest city by rail."

WAVE-LENGTH QUESTION

UNDER 500 METRES BEST

Interest has recently been caused by a revival of the discussion on the choice of the most suitable wave-lengths for conducting broadcasting services, and the use of wave-lengths of between 1000 and 2000 metres (says the Melbourne "Argus") is once more being advocated. The subject is so many-sided that the sharp differences of opinion which have occurred on the matter can be readily understood, but the weight of opinion seems to justify the action of the Australian broadcasting authorities who have abandoned the long waves for waves between 200 metres and 500 metres. There is no doubt that in some respects long wave-lengths for broadcasting are eminently suited to Australian conditions.

Long-Wave Advantages.

Their chief advantage over shorter waves is that they are less subject to absorption, and hence travel further in the daylight than a short wave of equal initial power. This in itself is an obvious advantage, and there is no doubt that many parts of Australia not now served in the daytime would get a good service if the existing "A" class stations were replaced by long-wave stations of equal power and efficiency. A further advantage of the long waves is that they are not so subject to fading and distortion arising from fading as

are short waves. It is well known, for instance, that when 3LO was on its long wave the areas in Gippsland, where fading and distortion are now so bad, then had a perfect service.

Serious Disadvantages.

But against these advantages of the long wave, there are serious disadvantages of more than equal weight. In the first place, an extremely large aerial system is needed at the transmitter of an effective long wave station. Experts consider that one of the reasons that transmissions from Australian stations when they were on a long wave were unsatisfactory was that the aerials were far too small. A large aerial involves the use of extremely expensive high masts and a large allotment of ground, enormously increasing the cost of the station. There is, moreover, a tendency for distortion to occur as the wave length used for broadcasting is increased. Although there is no technical reason for believing that signals on a wave of 1700 metres should be much more subject to distortion than signals on 400 metres, there is no doubt that the quality of the transmissions from 3LO since the wave length was reduced has been much improved.

Short Wave Advantages.

Although the daylight range of a long wave station is greater than that of a short wave station, the night range and night signal strength at a distance of the short wave station, subject, of course, to fading, is far superior to that of a long wave station, and more-over interference from static is never so serious on short waves as it is on long

waves. The other advantages of the short wave service are mainly economic ones, chief among them being that wave lengths between 200 metres and 500 metres have been adopted as standard for broadcasting, and the development of receivers for broadcast reception has been confined to equipment designed to work most efficiently on the standard wave-lengths.

In New Zealand there are so many thousands of receiving sets in use which are not constructed to tune to the long wave-lengths that any change to a longer wave-length than, say, 500 metres, would not be considered by the authorities.

BROADCAST STATIONS

THE PRESENT WAVELENGTHS.

Following are the principal New Zealand and Australian broadcast stations, with their wavelengths:—

7ZL, Hobart	535 metres
3AR, Melbourne	484 "
4YA, Dunedin	463 "
2FC, Sydney	442 "
2YA, Wellington	420 "
5CL, Adelaide	395 "
4QG, Brisbane	385 "
3LO, Melbourne	371 "
2BL, Sydney	353 "
1YA, Auckland	339 "
2GB, Sydney	316 "
3YA, Christchurch	306 "
2UT, Sydney	293 "
2KY, Sydney	280 "

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