

reception from Australia, unless one sits up an hour later, but that was not the idea of summertime to lose the hour's sleep. But in winter time, when Aussie is available from 5 p.m. onwards with me, who wants to hear melodies from across the Tasman when as good, and often better, programmes are at hand in New Zealand. Aussie's and America's use in radio, to my mind, is to be able to swank to assembled friends and to compile a big log. I suggest you invite a p.c. referendum for and against summer-time of "Radio Record" subscribers, and I venture to predict a majority of replies will be in favour of continuance. The only fault I have to find with New Zealand radio, there is no music to lull me to sleep for my usual Sunday afternoon nap. Only this afternoon we were talking of that Sunday afternoon concert at Christchurch some months ago, when a friend wanted me to turn radio on.

Old Conditions Preferred.

W. P. Baker (Russell): Regarding the article in this week's "Radio Record" asking country listeners-in for their opinion regarding "Sidey" time—we certainly do not want a repetition of the present conditions. We miss a great deal in the way of news items and items of real interest to country listeners that are broadcast during the seven to eight evening session, and will gladly welcome the winter months for the return of the old conditions. Unless we stay up until about 11 o'clock we do not hear Australian stations, and for business people that is far too late to wait for a concert, no matter how good it may be. There are several owners of sets in this town who are not in favour of the present conditions. We greatly appreciate your "Radio Record," and wish the Broadcasting Company every success during the coming year.

SILENCE FOR SOS

BROADCASTING CEASES.

Radio broadcasters in the New York district were lauded recently by Commander A. V. Lamphier, District Communication Superintendent of the Third Naval District, for going off the air quickly when several SOS calls came from the sea in the previous few weeks, especially when the submarine S-4 sank.

"It is imperative that the broadcasting stations in the East sign off immediately when an SOS call is flashed, although some listeners apparently do not understand why they should be deprived of entertainment when the SOS is on the 600-meter wave, above the broadcast band," said Commander Lamphier. "It is obvious that the call from a vessel in distress may come a long distance and be very weak. In such a case it is necessary to have absolute silence so that what may be the last message from a partly disabled transmitter may be successfully intercepted. Again, it may be that the ship's aerial is partly carried away and the wave be so altered that it will be received on one of the wave lengths utilised by broadcasting stations; that is, between 200 and 550 metres."

IMMORTAL RADIO WAVES

"TOO FAR FETCHED."

Most radio men in New York declined to comment recently upon the prediction of experts of the British Marconi Company who were quoted in newspapers as saying that voices of famous men who have spoken over the radio were still wandering in the ether and might be picked up a hundred years hence. They said they considered it "too far fetched."

DE FOREST SPEAKS.

Dr. Lee de Forest, inventor of the radio valve, was willing, however, to discuss the theory. He said:

"Approximately one-fiftieth of the original power radiated from a radio station is available, after the signal passes twice around the globe, which is about as many times as a signal has encircled the earth and then had sufficient strength to be recorded. In one second the original signal strength is reduced to about one-thousandth of its original power."

"Theoretically," he continued, "the waves exist forever and circulate continuously around the earth, providing they do not escape through the 'radio roof,' or Heaviside layer; then even a Marconi engineer could not get them back."

In just the same way the waves on the ocean exist forever, but they are too small to be seen or detected. It follows that the splash made by Noah's ark when it slid off Mount Ararat is still in existence. It seems to me to be a bit preposterous for the Marconi engineers to say that radio waves may be detected even a few minutes after their utterance."

A broadcast listener, writing to the Melbourne "Argus," says: "The 'A' class broadcasting stations do not give us half enough good gramophone music. BLO has a beautiful instrument, which is seldom heard. BAR gives us more than BLO, but not enough. Why not eliminate mediocre local vocal music and give us the world's artists instead? The change would be appreciated." "Switch" has always thought that a good gramophone record is infinitely better than an item by a mediocre amateur.

GERMANY'S LATEST

WORLD'S GREATEST STATION.

Germany's new 120,000 watt broadcasting station, said to be the most powerful in the world, was opened for service on December 20. With an aerial current of twenty-two amperes, all parts of the globe should be able to hear the new Zeesen Station, which is operating on a wave length of 1250 metres, according to electrical engineers in Berlin.

The station is one of Germany's outstanding engineering feats of the year. The masts are nearly 700 feet high and support a five-strand aerial 920 feet long. The transmitters are three-phase, high frequency, and operate ten and twenty thousand watt valves. In the last phase there are six water-cooled valves of twenty thousand watts each, connected in parallel, giving a total of 120 thousand watts.

THE COOLING SYSTEM.

A cooling system with a surface of 300 square yards uses about 4000 gallons of water. In addition there is an air-cooling system with an exhaust of 50,000 cubic yards hourly.

Zeesen is connected with several other German broadcast stations by wire, enabling the same programme to be broadcast simultaneously without appreciable loss. Concerts and other programmes from Berlin are carried by wire a distance of fifteen miles to Zeesen.

SYSTEM OF EARTHING.

One feature which has given to the station special efficiency, engineers assert, is the system of earthing, which is obtained with a gigantic finely woven net of copper mesh buried forty feet under the surface.

Germany desired to possess the world's greatest broadcast station to permit Germans throughout the world to enjoy in their native tongue music and lectures, and in addition to obtain the interest of all the nations of the world in the fatherland.

RADIO'S BIRTHDAY

SEVEN WONDERFUL YEARS.

Radio broadcasting celebrated its seventh birthday in America on November 2, 1927. Before the armistice had celebrated its first anniversary station KDKA Pittsburgh was on the air with its first broadcast. If that same programme were broadcast to-day not a listener would endure more than a few seconds, yet it was great in its day. To-day there are more than 600 broadcasting stations in America and every civilized country in the world has its quota. It is estimated that there are approximately 7,000,000 receiving sets in America and this number will be enhanced by an output of almost 2,000,000 sets per year.

GREAT PROSPECTS.

In fourteen years it is predicted that a set will have been built for every home in America. Since the inception of this broadcasting station, less than a decade ago, radio has become an infant prodigy. There is every reason, from indications to believe that the radio business for this year, 1927-28, will be more than 600,000,000 dollars.

A child is supposed to reach the age of reason at seven. The radio child was among the cognoscanti long before this age was reached. From that crude programme from Pittsburgh, broadcast seven years ago, there is in America to-day the chain system tying up every quarter of the country and disseminating programmes that were not even thought would be possible. Considerable contrast is also evidenced by the set.

At the time of the first programme there were but amateur and roughly constructed sets and the reception was so indistinct that the morning papers were referred to to enlighten the listener.

Accuracy in the location of holes when drilling a panel can be considerably increased by the use of a centre punch in locating the holes. Use a very light tack hammer and a sharp centre punch. Only a slight tap is needed to form an impression at the exact centre of the location of a hole. This serves as a starting point for the twist drill, which is used later. Best results will be found if the centre punch is held in a vertical rather than a slanting position, since in the latter position there is a possibility of the point skidding and marring the surface of the panel. It is best to place the panel on a sheet of paper when laying out the location of holes, since there is a possibility of the panel becoming scratched if it is placed on a table top without any protective covering.

The tone quality of the average receiver may be improved to a very noticeable degree by the addition of an extra loudspeaker connected in series with the one being used. If only a cone speaker is used, the addition of a good type of horn speaker, connected in series with it, is advisable, and vice versa. The cone is usually an excellent reproducer of the lower frequency or bass notes. The use of a cone speaker alone does not always permit a full register of both high and low notes. With the addition of a horn type of speaker, which has the ability of reproducing the higher frequency notes to an excellent degree, a quality of music will be added which is sometimes lacking in the use of a cone type of speaker alone. To hook up the speakers in series, connect the black cord of one to the red cord of the other, and attach the remaining terminals to the normal loudspeaker terminals of the receiving set.

The Children's Corner

By "ARIEL"

CHILDREN'S SESSION AT 2YA

Lucky little Radioland! Again two new uncles at 2YA will entertain you on Monday. Such an hour of fun they have in store. They will be assisted by juvenile talent, who will provide songs, sketches, and duets.

Uncle Jasper's special hour on Tuesday. What tricks he has in the box for you all! Great fun. He has a merry little train of followers who love making Radioland laugh.

On Thursday you will have Uncle Sandy, who turns all things to rhyme. An excellent hour is assured with Uncle Sandy in the leading role. He, too, is well supported by his little nieces and nephews.

Uncle Ernest, always the children's friend, will gather a happy little circle around him for his hour on Friday.

Once again, Aunts Gwen and Dot will find general amusement for the kiddies. Listen-in, everyone, on Saturday.

WHO WOULD?

O if I had a caravan I'd roam from dawn till dark;
I'd sleep inside my gipsy house, then get up with the lark,
And gather sticks and make a fire to boil the breakfast tea;
O, if I had a caravan how jolly it would be!

I'd throw my shoes and socks away and never wear a hat,
I'd live on chunks of bread and cheese and lovely things like that,
I'd drive along the country lanes and never go to school—
Of course, I'd wash, a little bit, but always in a pool.

And when we came to towns I'd lean across my little door
And watch the tidy children there—they'd envy me, I'm sure,
For who'd wear hats or choose to have their hair all brushed and curled,
If they might own a caravan and ride across the world?

AUNTS & UNCLES

This poem about Uncles and Aunts was written by Uncle Tom, of 1YA.

There's Tiger Lea at the Zoo,
In his den he prances,
At 1YA there's a Leo too,
The Uncle of our fancies,
All the Radio Little Misses,
Send him lots and lots of kisses,
What a wondrous luck that his is,
Under the circumstances.

Uncle Nod looks very glum
Under the circumstances,
He's really lost his friend, Tom Thumb,
Of him there are no traces,
Is his name just "Nod" for keeps,
Or does he nod when e'er he sleeps,
For poor Tom Thumb he daily weeps—
Very sad circumstances!

Cinderella she's our Aunt,
Because of circumstances,
Do without her—no, we can't,
Under any circumstances.
At the Prince's party she was there,
For horses she had a nice pair,
If she saw one now she'd jump on a chair,
And squeal at circumstances.

So give three cheers, and one cheer more,
Under the circumstances,
For Radio poets all galore,
Rhyming circumstances,
For Radio poets all galore,
Rhyming circumstances:
A splendid try at making verse,
Some were funny, some were terse,
For trying sure they're none the worse,
Hurrah for circumstances!

This is the response it called forth from Zena and Shirley Roscoe, Edendale North.

Our Uncle Leo is a lark,
Under the circumstances,
He often like a dog does bark,
In telling circumstances.
His tales of Skipper boy and such,
Other tales we like so much—
Poor Skipper's death our hearts did touch,
Under the circumstances.

Now Uncle Tom he is a cod,
Not fishy circumstances:
We like him next to dear old Nod,
Under the circumstances.
His singing we like very well,
And stories that he us does tell:
He plays the whistles like a bell,
Such tuneful circumstances.

Dear Uncle Joe has gone away,
Sorry circumstances!
His writing was so bad they say,
Under the circumstances.
We hope he's not too far away,
And that he'll come again some day.
So Peter Pan can with us stay,
Upholding circumstances.

Cinderella I fancy that,
Under the circumstances,
She wears a silver dress and hat,
Over the circumstances.
With shoes of gold and stockings white,
Upon her head a star so bright,
While round her shines a golden light
To dazzle circumstances.

LISTENING TO TO-MORROW

England has been listening to Australia again, and this thought came to them as they listened on Monday's news on a Sunday night: "The first newspapers gave the news a week old. When the telegraph came the news was yesterday's. With the evening papers we took to-day's news home. Now wireless gives us to-morrow's news."

The world is surely moving.

HIS LAST SOS

A striking example of the difference wireless telephony has made to sailors is shown by the story of the French steamer Svbil.

This ship of 2838 tons was about 160 miles south of the Canaries when she was stricken with a terrible misfortune. One after another the crew went down with malignant coast fever. In a short time she was drifting helplessly without steam. The wireless operator sat in his chair sending out SOS calls till he collapsed in front of the apparatus.

Luckily his last call was picked up by the Spanish steam-trawler Louis, whose reply was heard just before the Svbil's wireless man went down.

The Louis hastened to the rescue, and found that only the captain and three men were still able to move. Volunteers went on board, and the plague-stricken ship was safely brought to Las Palmas.

But for wireless the Svbil might have drifted to shipwreck, and no one would have known why she disappeared.

THE NIGHT.

By Wilfrid Thorley.
I'm sorry when the sun is gone
From this good earth we play upon,
But that he lifts, as he goes by,
The curtain of the wide blue sky.

For then I see the pearl-stream run
In beauty fairer than the sun,
And shooting stars, as though God's tree
Shook with glad angels in their glee,

And all the boughs, with laughter blown,
Dropped blossom after blossom down.

JUMBLED ENGLISH TOWNS

These are some well-known English towns when they are straightened out. Can you find out what they are?

DEHIFSFLE
FILXAAH
NOCLNL
RADVONC
BEPLPAY
SENLAWC
HAXMWRB

Solution next week.

RIDDLES

Q. Why is a postage stamp a most unfortunate thing?

A. Though it sticks to its duties to the letter it gets its face disfigured, its head punched, and a good licking.

Q. To whom does the greatest man take off his hat?

A. To his hair-dresser.

Q. What are the most unfortunate ships?

A. Hardships.

Q. Why did the garden fence?

A. Because it saw the water butt.

Q. Why did the penny stamp?

A. Because the three-penny bit.

Q. When did the coal scuttle?

A. When it saw the chimney sweep.

LIMERICKS

RAINFOOF.

A contented old duck remarked,

"Quack,"

I'm supplied with an oil for my back.

So whenever there's rain

I've no cause to complain,

For I'm wearing a natural mac.

NIGHTMARE.

A tortoise who'd been hibernating
Complained "It was most irritating
That my dreams should all run
On a pastime I shun.

And shall never attempt—figure-skating!"

A SAD FATE.

Some sardines whose home was the sea

Swam about in a shoal—twenty-three.

Now they live in a tin

Where they can't move a fin,

For they're packed just as tight as can be!

JUST NONSENSE

No Improvement.

Lily: "I've just come from the beauty parlour."

Grace: "They were shut, I suppose." Charlie's mother went upstairs after he was in bed to kiss him "Good-night."

She found his eyes were closed and he had all the appearance of being asleep. Then in a drowsy tone and evidently in earnest he said:

"Guess, mamma, whether I'se asleep or awake."

Saving Time.

Mother: "Were you good at the party?"

Six-year-old: "Yes."

Mother: "You didn't ask twice for anything at the table?"

Six-year-old: "No, I didn't. I asked once, and they didn't hear me, so I helped myself."

A Shocking Mistake.

Emigration Agent: "Are you a mechanic?"

Indignant Emigrant: "No, I'm a Macphairson!"

Such Fine Legs Too!

Tommy (who has just been given a bulldog pup for a birthday present): "Oh, mother, do you think Toby ought to be so near the fire? Just look at his legs; it's warping them!"

Realm of Fancy.

"Now, Johnny," said the schoolmaster during an examination in geography, "what is the axis of the earth?"

"The axis of the earth," said Johnny proudly, "is an imaginary line which passes from one pole to the other, and on which the earth revolves."

"Very good," exclaimed the teacher. "Now, could you hang clothes on that line, Johnny?"

"Yes, sir," was the reply. "Indeed," said the examiner, a little disconcerted, "and what sort of clothes?"

In Miniature.

"Oh, mother, may I go to the fancy-dress ball to-morrow as a milkmaid?"

"No; you are too small."

"Then may I go as a condensed milkmaid?"

Not Such a Fool!

Indignant passenger in the train (shouting to Highland porter as the train moves off): "Hi, porter, you fool! Why isn't my luggage in the train?"

Porter (with suitcase in his hand): "What's the fule? Yer luggage isnae daft aa yersel. Ye're in th' wrang train!"

The "Moust"—Ache.

Mary: "Mummie, is 'moust' another word for 'tummy'?"

Mother: "There is no such word, darling."

Mary: "But I am always reading about people who have moust-aches."

Wood Turned Into Metal.

If a light wood is transposed, The letters put another way, A heavy metal is disclosed, Now, what's that metal? Can you say?

Answer: Lead (lead).

Those who have me not do not wish for me; those who have me do not wish to lose me; those who win me have me no longer—A lawsuit.

A Duet.

"I am told that you have twin baby brothers now," a lady said to a little boy. "Do they cry much?"

"They do!" said the boy in disgust. "Why, each one cries so loud that you can't hear the other!"

The Boy With the Donkey Cart.

"Hallo, my lad, would you like to drive me round the park in that?"

"Yes, but I don't think the harness would fit you!"

SOME TRICKS TO TRY

Here are a few tricks to amuse yourselves with when there's nothing else to do.

A MATCH TRICK.

This is called "The Hanging of a Highwayman," and all you need is a pocket knife and a box of matches. This is how it is done:—

Break off a third of a good strong wooden match, and from the larger piece left make the merry highwayman by splitting the broken end to make legs. The match-head, of course, is the victim's head. To make the gallows, bend another match to right angles the careful not to break it quite through and fix it in a hole which you must make in a matchbox. The matchbox itself is the platform.

Now stand the highwayman firmly on his feet under the gallows, and with another match light the two heads, which should be touching. These will fuse together, and after a while the gallows will straighten up, lifting the poor highwayman well into the air. This nearly always works well.

THE OBSTINATE CARD.

Take an ordinary visiting card and bend the two ends just a little and stand it on these two edges on a table. Now try to blow it completely over, and you will be surprised to find how difficult it is. The secret lies in blowing not at or under the card at all, but straight downwards on the table about eight inches away from the card. Try this and see.