

# "Uncle" and "Auntie" to Thousands

## A Hobby that Brings its Own Reward

A RADIO Aunt or Radio Uncle is a personage to be envied. They are a pleasure that few people are privileged to have, for it is not everyone who is suitable to be a radio uncle or aunt. The requisite gift in that direction may be classed among the talents, the use and development of which bring great enjoyment to the possessor. Every uncle and aunt says: "I just love the work," and it is always a wrench for an uncle or aunt to sever the invisible radio link which binds him or her to thousands of children. It is work which brings its own reward.

Judging from the amount of correspondence received, broadcasting would seem to be responsible for the reviving of the apparently lost art of letter writing, for many thousands of children are now writing regularly. These letters, full of the candour and confidences of childhood, are very interesting and are a great source of delight and satisfaction to the uncles and aunts who receive them.

### A Child's Candour.

A very young lady, with the precocity which denotes genius as a critical listener, wrote (exact copy) :-

"dear Cinderella I did not think much of —'s singing please see that he gets taught properly." Her mother felt impelled to add the following note :-

"I feel I must explain that my little girl's candid letter to you was entirely her own production, and was not prompted in any way either by her father or by me. I apologise to — for my daughter's candour, but being her father's daughter I suppose I shall have to get used to it. We feel that the letter was too good to suppress."

AS a young lady or a budding courtier who wrote to an aunt in this way :-

"I am sending you this peach because I think you are just as sweet. I love to listen to your lovely laugh,

and I think you are the loveliest of all the Aunts and Uncles."

This young correspondent tells the family history:

"I am ten years old and in standard four. I am the youngest of our family of six. I have two brothers and three sisters, my eldest brother is twenty-five; my eldest sister is twenty-two; my second eldest sister is eighteen; my third eldest sister is fifteen; my younger brother is thirteen and is in standard six."

### Too Old At Six Years!

JUST a few words to ask you if you will please let me join your Radio family. I am eight years old and my birthday is on December 29. I have three sisters, Bess, Jean, and May, and my brothers are Glen, Bob, and Walter. Walter is only six years old, but he says he is too old to join because he is going to grow whiskers. His birthday is on



"UNCLE LEO" OF IYA.  
(The Rev. Lionel B. Fletcher).



"UNCLE TOM" OF IYA.  
(Mr. T. T. Garland).

—Photo Tornquest.

February 2. He doesn't believe there is a Cinderella, and he says he will wait to see if this letter acts, and then he will write. Please tell me a name for our canary."

Post-haste, Walter writes: "I alter my mind about joining, it wasn't my fault that I didn't believe about you, I have had Margaret to play with me."

### Comparisons Are High Praise.

"To-night I was listening in and heard you sing about 'Dawn on the Farm.' I think it was, and also heard you say you never had people ring up and congratulate you on your singing. I believe your singing very nearly surpassed Cinderella's, and that says a lot, mind you, Uncle Tom. Please sing again soon. I am staying with my uncle, so that is how I am able to listen in. I am sorry to say that at my home we have no Radio set, because of 'circumstances.' You will understand, because you seem to know all about circumstances."

from. Yet it comes down at the "We have just returned from a farm at Kanooki, where we spent an enjoyable holiday. Every night my brother and I listened in to your bed-time stories over a beautiful valve set that they had there. When we arrived home last Monday we found that our Daddy had put one up for us, so we still can hear your interesting stories."

Sometimes the children put posers to the Uncles:

"What is the name of the seven stars, shaped like a saucepan, that usually appear in the sky every night?"

"According to science, the earth turns round on its axis at the rate of about twenty miles a minute. What about when a lark goes up in the sky and stays there about a quarter of an hour. Why, if it is true that the earth was turning round at that rate all the time when the bird comes down it would find itself hundreds of miles away from the place where it went up

same spot."

### A Mother's Request

"I WANT you to do a favour for me. It seems very cheeky to ask you, but the trouble is this: my eldest boy is rather a dreamer at school, and the consequence is that he is not as far as he should be; he has just gone into Standard 1. It is not as though he is a dull child; in fact, his work is no trouble at all if he likes to put his mind to it. The teacher has promised to put him into Standard 2 if he works hard, so I was wondering if you would give him a gentle little shake up, as he seems more impressed by anything a stranger says."

### Radio Means Happiness.

"WE have just installed a two-valve wireless set, and we never thought that so many happy and pleasant hours could be spent within the four rooms of our home. We feel we must love our Daddy and Mummy more, because of this new-found happiness."

Two lonely children express themselves eloquently regarding Radio:

"We have no one to play with us as the nearest house is three miles away. So the wireless is our big play fellow."

### Appreciation from Parents.

"WE must thank you for the pleasure and enjoyment which you have given to all the children—and also to a large number of adults."

"We wish to thank you very much for the happy time you give the children—we Mothers and Daddies enjoy it as much as the children."

"We live in a very lonely valley at the head of the Peninsula. Our nearest neighbour is miles away, so you will understand how very much we appreciate our wireless set. We value the children's sessions and song service very highly. We listen in to every word from 'Good evening, everybody,' to 'Good night,' and when the rain and wind howl around our mountain top, the announcer's voice is marvellously friendly and real."



"NOD" OF IYA.  
(Mr. Culford Bell).

—Photo Jauncey.

### SCRAMBLED SPEECH

#### WONDERFUL NEW DEVICE

#### A METHOD OF SECRECY.

The American Telephone and Telephone Company's new process for scrambling and unscrambling speech and music, which was demonstrated in Washington on February 24, was exhibited publicly in New York for the first time recently at the monthly meeting of the New York Electrical Society. The device promises to render speech by radio telephony unintelligible except to those who have a special apparatus. This secrecy may be introduced into radio telephonic communication.

Sounds which enter the scrambling system as hisses or whistles come out as hollow, leonine roars. That which enters as deep bass comes out shrill and

piercing. The whole scale of sound is turned upside down, so that low is high, medium low is medium high, while the exact middle of the register remains unchanged.

The apparatus, which was demonstrated by Sergius P. Grace, general commercial engineer of the Bell Telephone Laboratories, turns human speech inside out.

"Chicago," said Mr. Grace in his own voice at the transmitting end of the apparatus.

"Si-kay-be," roared the loudspeakers which amplified the twisted language.

Process is Reversed. The engineer then uttered the syllables "Play-a-teen crink-a-nape," and the device translated those random sounds into "telephone compar." Mr. Grace figured out on paper, with the aid of mathematics, that the name of his friend Bennett would be scrambled into doughnut. He spoke the word "Doughnut" and the loudspeaker shrieked "Bennett."

Sound waves of 5000 frequencies a second are about the highest that the ear can hear. These are scrambled to about fifty frequencies a second, the deepest audible tones. Frequencies of 4000 a second, still very high, are changed to about 1000 a second; 3000 a second to 2000 a second, while those which are 2500 a second remain unchanged.

It was explained that the sound waves actuated a current, as in ordinary telephoning. This current, modulated by the speech, entered an electrical system which was running at 5000 cycles a second. According to Mr. Grace, it would take algebra and calculus to explain how it is that the treble is turned into bass and the bass into treble and how all but the middle tones are thrown into reverse. As for the purpose was to keep transatlantic telephone speech in cipher as it crosses the ocean, Mr. Grace said:—

"No, that isn't it. The purpose was to find out if sound could be scrambled

and unscrambled this way and just how to do it. If the time comes when we want to use it in the transatlantic service or in any other way, we have it."

#### Tests Made Few Years Ago.

A few years ago the American Telephone and Telegraph Company carried on some experiments of this kind between Catalina Island and Los Angeles. At that time there was a hue and cry about the "radio trust," and it was predicted that the scrambling and unscrambling device would be used to modify broadcasting by sending scrambled programmes which would only be made intelligible to those who owned patent unscramblers. A telephone official was asked about this. He said:

"The company is not the least interested in that. I doubt if anything of the kind ever will come to pass. The public is too well broken in to broadcasting and getting it free. They would never stand for being compelled to buy the unscrambling sets."

Mr. Grace said that the instrument undoubtedly would have a military value as a method of communication which the enemy could not intercept. He said that the scrambling and unscrambling instruments could be regulated so that the enemy would not have one chance in a million of listening in successfully.

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