

# NEWS FOR THE CHILDREN

## Letters of Felix and Spot

### Felix to Uncle Ernest.

Dear Uncle Ernest.—I am Felix, Uncle Jasper's radio pet, and I want to know if my dear Aunt Dot is ever coming back again!! Since Aunt Dot went away, no one ever sends me a message. No one ever talks of dear Uncle Jasper, or of old Spot. Oh! It is lonely. In his last letter to me Spot says he just longs for 2YA. Dear Uncle Ernest, do you not think it would be nice to send Uncle Jasper and Mr. Spot a good-night message sometimes? If you agree to send the message, next time I write to Spot, I will tell him to listen in on Friday nights. I also want to ask you if Uncle Jasper's name and Spot's name have been entered in the 2YA birthday book? Please tell me. I want to send them both a greeting over the air. Felix, their big puss, must not forget.... I will listen in for your message Friday night—FELIX.

P.S.: Perhaps you will be cross, because a black puss calls you "Uncle," but I am a nice polite cat, dear Uncle Ernest.

### Felix to Spot

Dear Spot.—I am sitting by the fire with your nice letter in front of me. So you, too, can write, little doggie? Oh, I am glad. You say we are good friends, and yet you did not send me an invitation to the masked ball given at 2YA the night you left Wellington—in a van. It was my place to lead the Grand March with dear Aunt Dot in her pretty Pierrette costume. I had practised walking on my hind legs for one whole week; my little red satin mask was just ready to put on—but no radio fairy was sent for me. I just sat home and cried. I cheered up when I heard you and baby Felix fighting during the Grand March.—You wanted him to jazz with you to the tune of Colonel Bogey, and because pussy marched in a sedate and cat-like manner, you

(Continued on column 5)

## A TIME-SAVING DEVICE

BY means of a truly amazing adaptation of human inventiveness to the needs of hundreds of representatives at a great cosmopolitan gathering, delegates at the International Labour Conference, which will open at Geneva in two or three weeks' time, will be able to hear the speeches, each in his own tongue, at the very moment of delivery. How this is to be accomplished cannot be described here in detail; but we gather that there will be an interpreter for each of the nationalities represented, that he will translate simultaneously with the speaker's utterance—a less difficult feat, apparently, than one would think—each interpreter using a microphone specially adapted to the tone of his voice; and that amplifiers and distributing circuits will convey the words to listeners at the different tables who, with headpieces adjusted, will be able to watch the orator while hearing his words in a familiar language. Experiments and rehearsals have been carried on for some time, and when this method is universally adopted for all international gatherings, the proceedings will not only be "speeded up," but attendance at such meetings will be far more pleasurable than formerly. To be obliged to listen to a long address in an unknown tongue, and then to hear it laboriously delivered again in a language which many of those present may be supposed to know, but which may equally be "Greek" to some listeners, is a wearisome ordeal for all concerned.

## S.O.S

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## Children's Sessions for Next Week

### AT 1YA.

TUESDAY, JULY 17—Uncle George in charge assisted by cousins in recitations and flute solos. Letters and birthday greetings.

WEDNESDAY—A verse sent in by one of our little cousins, about Uncle Tom's night:  
Hurrah for Wednesday night,  
When the studio is all alight,  
Then the children flock to recite,  
And others listen in that night,  
And to their delight  
They hear old Uncle Tom.

THURSDAY—All aboard for a journey—where? Wait and see, or rather hear. But Peter Pan, Cinderella and Uncle Vernon will be passengers so there is sure to be some fun. Also listen to their adventures in the fire station.

FRIDAY—Nod is here and with him little cousins with songs and sketches. Greetings and stories for all.

SATURDAY—Cinderella and her band of little ones will amuse you with piano pieces and dialogues, jokes, catches and puzzles. A happy hour for all.

SUNDAY—Children's Song Service conducted by Uncle Leo, assisted by cousins from Howe Street Brethren Sunday School.

### AT 2YA.

MONDAY, JULY 16—The first birthday of 2YA—just a year old. There will be a birthday party, and the aunts and uncles of 2YA will be there, not forgetting our dear friend, Mr. An-

nouncer. We couldn't have a party without him, could we, children? Another dear friend who loves little girls and boys and fairies—Joye Taylor—has written the words and music of our birthday song. So be sure you all listen in to 2YA's jolly birthday party.

TUESDAY—Big Brother Jack and Uncle Stewart will take us all in the radio train, because it is Tuesday night. So all be ready just at six o'clock—and who do you think will be there, too? Why, the clever pupils of Mrs. Thomas. What fun to have songs and stories on the train!

THURSDAY—Aunt Gwen will greet you this evening, children, with some of her many stories. Cousin Nessie will please you with her pianoforte solos—cousin Rosina will sing two dear little songs—cousin Zac and his steel guitar you always enjoy, and last, but not least, is little Kathleen who is coming to recite to you for the first time.

FRIDAY—Uncle Ernest, of course—Why? Because it is Friday, and away we go for a trip to far distant lands in the radio airplane. Cousins Mavis and Queenie are coming, too, and will sing a duet. Cousin Zena will sing "Violets," and two dear little pupils of Miss Mavis Halliday will recite.

SATURDAY—Uncle Toby and Aunt Gwen to greet you this evening. They will tell stories, sing a song of good-night cheer, and who else do you think will be there? Why, the clever little pupils of Mrs. Martyn Williams.

SUNDAY—Uncle Ernest will conduct the children's service, assisted by children from the Church of Christ, Petone.

### AT 3YA.

MONDAY, JULY 16—"Scatterjoy" has a varied programme for tonight. She will tell of the queer uncomfortable clothes boys and girls in olden days had to wear. For the children having parties there will be news of some jolly party games. Scatterjoy will tell you also how flowers attract the little insects. Stories for the tiny tots, and cousin Audrey will sing and recite.

WEDNESDAY—Mother Hubbard and Uncle Peter, with their droll stories and jokes—Cousin Ken is bringing his banjo, and cousin Molly will entertain you all with her piano playing.

THURSDAY—"Chuckie" and Aunt Pat and a lovely group of Little Maori folk will keep you happy and merry for this bedtime hour. Songs by cousins Pungatai and Atawhai—Listen in to-night for a real treat.

FRIDAY—Big Brother and Peterkin, and the Captain, and a crew of jolly boys from the Marist Brothers' School—all on deck to-night. So there will be heaps doing.

SATURDAY—Uncle Sam and Aunt May in their usual form—delighting you all with wondrous stories and music.

SUNDAY—Uncle David in charge to-night at the Children's Song service. The hymns will be sung by scholars from the Linwood Congregational Sunday School.

## "THE EDISON EFFECT"

### ACTION INSIDE A BULB.

IT is many years ago since Edison made his now famous experiment of surrounding one of the limbs of an electric filament lamp with a metal cylinder, which led to the discovery that electrical charges were given out from the filament and could be received by the surrounding cylinder.

This is known as the "Edison effect," and it was this same effect which led Fleming to the invention of the 2-electrode valve which was, of course, the forerunner of the 3-electrode or amplifying valve developed by Dr. de Forest.

In an electric filament lamp, especially of the old-fashioned carbon filament type, there is another phenomenon taking place, which consists in the gradual disintegration of the filament and the liberation of particles of the filament substance, these particles depositing themselves upon the interior surface of the glass bulb. It is in consequence of this latter effect that the well-known blackening is produced, which was much more noticeable with carbon filament lamps than it is with the present-day metal filament type.

The disintegration of incandescent filaments does not in itself account for the electrical emission, and although some of the actual material particles detached from the filament may be electrically charged, and may therefore help to carry the emission current, the latter is carried mainly by electrons sent out from the filament.

In proper circumstances, the actual disintegration of the filament may be made exceedingly small, so as to be negligible; but the electronic emission may at the same time be quite large, and it is, indeed, one of the aims of electric lamp manufacturers to reduce the disintegration of the filament to a minimum, whilst it is the aim of radio valve manufacturers to reduce the disintegration and at the same time to increase the electronic emission.

## TO TEST A CIRCUIT

In hooking up a home-built radio set for the first time it sometimes happens that the circuit fails to work. Often as not the trouble is not in the hookup used or in the workmanship and skill with which you have assembled the receiver, but lies in a faulty piece of apparatus, a burned out or open transformer, or in other defective parts.

Before trying your set out on the air it is a good plan to test out every piece of apparatus and every connection with a test lamp and battery to make sure that all connections are perfect and all apparatus in good condition.

To test, connect a one and one half volt dry cell or flashlight cell to a small one and one half volt flashlight bulb. The two ends are for testing apparatus and connections for open circuits. The bulb will light up whenever the circuit between the two wires is complete.

## SHIP'S BAND AT 1YA

ONE of the happiest evenings the children have enjoyed at 1YA lately was provided by the band from the Northumberland. They gave many bright and popular numbers, and were greatly appreciated, as was shown by the number of telephone rings and letters since received from the children. We send our best thanks to this merry band, and are looking forward to their return to Auckland, when they will again entertain the radio family with their cheery music.

## THE BATTERY STOPPERS

### MUST HAVE A HOLE.

Amateurs generally fail to realise the importance of the wet battery stopper to the well-being of the battery, and the loss of such an article usually occasions little regret on account of the fact that it is replaced forthwith by a cork of similar dimensions.

However, a good accumulator stopper will be found to have a tiny hole or vent running through it; the object of which is to equalise the atmospheric pressure within and without the accumulator, and also to provide for the escape of any small traces of gases which may be produced while the accumulator is in use. Furthermore, the small hole in the accumulator stopper allows the escape of gases when the accumulator is being charged, but, at the same time, it prevents the escape of acid spray. It is, however, always better to unscrew the cap and let it rest on top of the hole while charging is in progress, to relieve the pressure of gas.

If, therefore, an accumulator stopper is lost and a cork is used to replace it, the cork should have a small hole drilled through it. A hole of this type can readily be produced in the cork by burning through it with a red-hot knitting-needle.

## CLEAN THE CONDENSERS

Particles of dust lodged on the plates of a variable condenser will greatly add to the losses already existing in the condenser. Clean your condenser plates frequently if you do not have an air-tight covering for your instrument. Even if the lid of your cabinet has been tightly closed you will likely find that considerable dust has accumulated on the plates.

The reason that dust causes a leakage when it lodges on the plates of a condenser can be explained simply. The charge of electricity that has accumulated on the condenser plates will attempt to leak off from any sharp point of the metal or from a particle of dust that has lodged on the surface. If the two sides of the condenser terminated in needle points it would be rather difficult to make the condenser hold a charge. It would leak off from the sharp points.

A cheap and efficient cleaner can be made for your condenser by tying the ends of an ordinary pipe cleaner to the end of a lead pencil or a stick of wood.

## THE MIGHTY ATOM

### AN AMAZING DEMONSTRATION.

The atomic theory, encompassing as it does the electronic theory, is of particular interest to radio listeners, as the operation of a receiving set is attributed by scientists to the assistance due to the movement of positive and negative electrons embodied in atoms. An American Associated Press message from Cambridge, Mass., dated March 10, states: "Science has invented the means to count atoms and molecules with greater accuracy than the population of a great city can be counted."

Dr. Miles Sherrill, professor of theoretical chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, so demonstrated at a lecture last night. By means of a motion picture and an ultra-microscope, he showed the molecular motion of gold particles in a colloidal solution.

"It is possible," he said, "to determine the number of molecules in one-gramme molecular weight of a substance which is equal to the number of atoms in one gramme atomic weight of any element. This number is six hundred and six and two-tenths sextillion."

### Radium Paint Noisy.

Sherrill also demonstrated the Geiger counter, an ultra-sensitive instrument designed to detect existence of electrons. The instrument was connected with an electric amplifying apparatus and when an object coated with a radium paint such as is used in wrist watches was held near it, a series of sharp raps was heard.

"These raps," the lecturer said, "are not from the spirit world, but nevertheless from another world, namely, the world locked up within the atom."

A RECENT issue of the New York "Times" says:—"Gene Tunney, heavy-weight champion of the world, upset radio precedent pleasantly last night by making a smooth and able speech with a poetical quotation and calm diction. Heretofore the broadcast utterances of noted boxers have been brief and breathless, containing swift messages to listening relatives. Mr. Tunney, speaking before WJZ's microphone at the tenth anniversary celebration of the Institute for the Crippled and Disabled, became a clear-tongued, thoroughly poised radio voice, talking to a definite purpose with nice results."

## WHAT'S RIGHT IN RADIO?

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trod on his toes. The noise you both made in your anger became so great, that Mr. Announcer had to call in the "Laughing Policeman."—Oh! how I purred!!! Whilst Uncle Jasper was curtsying gracefully to Aunt Dot in the minuet, Mother Hubbard saw you slip quietly to the supper room and lap up most of the cream. My friend, Puss-in-Boots, told me that at supper time you did not offer your arm to your partner, baby Felix; you just rushed off all alone to supper and ate up everything. Little Jack Horner gave some of his Christmas pie to Felix for supper; but the pie did not agree with Felix, and Aunt Dot had to send him to the lighthouse for sea air and a fish diet. Now that you are a President you will have to study etiquette—poor old Spot—I wish Uncle Jasper had not met that beautiful and clever Persian puss! Still I would like his photo in my boudoir. Oh! Spot, because I asked Uncle Jasper to correct my English did he think me a foreigner?—and of course a Persian? Will Uncle Jasper be disappointed to hear I am not Persian? Alas! I cannot have my portrait taken just now because there are two pieces out of my right ear, and my left cheek is slightly swollen, the result of war with my chief enemy, Mickey, the cat living next door. Tell Uncle Jasper that the first Tuesday after his departure, Aunt Dot was so sad that, to cheer her up, big Brother Jack had to crown her Queen of the May. Oh Spot! a great big savage dog named Buster is trying to take your place at 2YA. He sings bass, not tenor like you.

My congratulations to you Mr. President Spot. Please answer all my questions next time you write to Uncle Jasper's all black—FELIX.

### Spot to Felix

Dear Felix.—Thank you for your long and interesting letter. Oh! I'm so excited Felix. Let me whisper in your ear. We are coming back to Wellington. Gee! my hair is all tingling with excitement. Just to speak to the girls and boys of radioland—and you, Felix. May I call on you? I'll promise to behave like a gentleman. Good-bye for a little while.—Loud barks.—SPOT.

## TOO MUCH VOLUME

### REASONABLE LIMITATIONS.

AN interesting point is raised in considering the relationship between volume and distortion from a wireless loudspeaker. It is, of course, well known that the tendency for the sound from a speaker to be distorted in the ordinary sense of the word increases as the volume is increased. It is possible, however, so to design equipment that technically undistorted speech or music can be produced in sufficient volume to be heard clearly in the open air several miles from the loudspeaker. If the frequency and timbre of every one of the composite sounds of the total output from the loudspeaker are correct, and if every one of these sounds is proportioned accurately to the others, the reproduction will be, from a purely technical viewpoint, undistorted. It is doubtful, however, whether an amplified volume of sound greatly in excess of the natural volume of that sound can ever be regarded as undistorted in a wider and more practical sense. Its very intensity constitutes a form of distortion probably more serious and more distressing than the forms of distortion with which listeners are most familiar. The point is one to which listeners would do well to pay attention. It is generally wise to operate the loudspeaker a little below the natural volume of the sound being reproduced. In special cases the sound may be magnified by a reasonable amount above the natural level. If, however, the lighter and more delicate notes of a violin or flute are magnified to blare forth from the speaker with all the volume of a trumpet, the reproduction can never be regarded as undistorted, no matter how faithfully the process of mere magnification may have been performed.

USING an English transmitting valve, a Johannesburg experimenter established wireless communication with a Californian station in daylight, thus setting up a South African record for amateur transmitters.