Round the World on Short Wave

Notes of special value to short-wave enthusiasts are contributed weekly to the "Radio Record" by Mr. F. W. Sellens. This week, on account of pressure on space, we have been compelled to hold over much matter.—Editor.

The main feature of Mr. Sellens's log for the week was the reception on two mornings of special broadcasts from PCJJ by members of the Australian Olympic team:—"On Wednesday, July 25 PCJJ, at 5.30 a.m., was R1 and increased to R5 at 7.30 a.m., strength then decreased. At 7.36 a.m. a special transmission commenced, when the manager and special press correspondent for the Australian Olympic Games team spoke to listeners in Australia. I listened till nearly 8 a.m., when I had to leave. The manager spoke first. 'Hullo, Australia. I am now speaking from Hilversum. Sorry all the team are not here, on account of the altered hours of transmission they are unable to be present, because the studio is quite a distance from Amsterdam. They will speak to-morrow at the same time. Listen then for them.' Everybody was well in England; since being in Amsterdam things are not so good, etc. The training arrangements are not of the best. Headquarters are twenty miles away from Amsterdam and although we have a special bus, it seems a long way after being in Sydney, with every means of transport. Those who have not visited Amsterdam before are impressed with the long streets and wide canals. Everybody here uses bicycles for getting about. Everybody is in the best of spirits, smiling and cracking jokes all the time, so we are quite happy. The games start on Saturday. Individual members of the team are in top form. (He then mentioned various members by name, and what they were doing, etc.). Speech was nearly 100 per cent. readable; a shorthand writer would have been able to get it all.

On Thursday morning PCJJ was on again for the second special Olympic transmission. First heard at 7.20 at R 4-5, when gramophone records were being played. 7.40 a.m., the National Anthem was played. After stating that they had received advice from Australia that yesterday's transmission was excellent, a list of members of the team who were going to speak was read.

The first speaker, name not heard, started with: "Hullo, Australia. It seems remarkable that I, a member of the Australian Olympic team, looking out on the Dutch countryside, can yet be able to talk to dear old Australia, etc." Reception, though fairly good, was not quite up to the previous day.

Glossary of Wireless Terms

From week to week we give here a section of the glossary of wireless terms from the "Listener's Guide."

HENRY.—The unit of self-inductance, being that inductance which will so retard any change in the value of a current that it takes 1 second for 1 volt to raise the current in a circuit by 1 ampere. In tuning circuits the Henry is too big, and measurements are usually reckoned in terms of milli- or micro-henries.

HETERODYNE.—A system for the reception of continuous wave signals. The receiving circuit is artificially supplied with oscillations at a frequency slightly different from that of the incoming waves. The two series of oscillations alternately add and subtract as they come into, or go out of, step with one another. This produces pulsations of amplitude at an audible frequency, known as "beats." A similar effect can sometimes be observed if two adjacent notes on a piano are struck simultaneously.

HERTZIAN WAVES.—Electro-magnetic waves (the basis of radio transmission and reception), named after their discoverer, Professor Heinrich Hertz.

HIGH FREQUENCY (H.F.) OR RADIO FREQUENCY.—A term applied to alternations or waves which occur at frequencies too high for audibility; sometimes called "Radio Frequency." High frequency may be taken to include all frequencies above 10,000 per second.

HIGH FREQUENCY RESISTANCE.—The resistance which a conducting path offers to high frequency currents. Skin effect renders this higher than the resistance that would be offered by the same path to a continuous or low-frequency current.

Skin effect refers to the property of H.F. currents of flowing on the outer edges of a conductor and not penetrating to the core. The higher the frequency the less the penetration.

HIGH-TENSION (H.T.) OR "B" BATTERY.—The battery which supplies the current flowing from the plate to the filament in a radio valve. See B battery.

HOWL.—A symptom indicative of a state of oscillation in one or more valves at either high or low frequency. High frequency oscillation is usually indicated by a high-pitched whistle, whereas oscillation at low frequency causes a low-pitched, loud howl. A howl due to either high or low frequency causes is due to necessity for readjustment of controls or servicing of receiver.

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