

## AMATEURS MEET

## WELLINGTON RADIO SOCIETY

MR. BYRON BROWN presided over a meeting of the Wellington Amateur Radio Society at the Dominion Farmers' Institute last Tuesday night. There were present about fifty enthusiasts, including ladies, local dealers, and the Broadcasting Company's representative, Mr. Ball.

Following the usual formalities, the secretary, Mr. Taylor, read the correspondence. Letters were received from the Broadcasting Company, the Post and Telegraph Department, and the Hawke's Bay Amateur Radio Society.

## Blasting.

Particularly interesting among these was a letter from the company in reference to blasting at the microphone. The society, suspecting the microphones, had written asking if this were the case, and if so would steps be taken to prevent this annoyance.

In reply it was stated that the microphones were constant, and that blasting was uncommon, especially in the case of those used to broadcasting. With others not familiar with the microphone, blasting did occasionally occur.

This letter raised an interesting discussion, in which it was pointed out that blasting was by no means confined to the uninitiated. It was quite a common occurrence with some who had been a considerable time before the microphone. In reply, Mr. Ball stated that, although positions were carefully assigned beforehand, artists were liable

to shift unconsciously, and cause the unpleasant blasting effect.

## Sunday Night Concert.

In reply to the society's wish that the Sunday night concert be extended till 10 p.m., it was stated that when possible the concert would be prolonged, but a regular extension till this hour could not be guaranteed.

## Racing Ban Resented.

A MOTION was passed unanimously endorsing the attitude of the Hawke's Bay Radio Society towards the racing ban. The feeling of the meeting, was that, by curtailing the running description, itself a pleasure apart from anything else, the associations concerned were depriving the public of much anticipated enjoyment.

## Inspection of Sets.

Regarding regular house-to-house inspection the Department wrote stating that while doing everything possible to keep the air clear, it would not be practicable to carry out the society's suggestion. The expense would be great, and there would be no guarantee of the elimination of the trouble.

## Hospital Radio.

Mr. I. Levy gave an account of the work carried out by the committee in connection with the installation of radio at the hospital. With slightly more than £1000, collected within two years, the whole of the children's wards, the two nurses' quarters, and the superintendent's quarters had been fitted, while the new block had been wired. The power provided by the set was sufficient to drive every headphone in the hospital. Finally, a balance had been handed to the hospital to form the nucleus of funds to complete the installation.

If the public realised the great amount of good brought about by wireless in such an institution, they would have responded better. That music is a tonic was widely recognised, and no better tribute could be paid than a testimony from one who has known the joy of music when ill. In this direction, a former patient spoke highly of the value of radio to him when in the hospital. During many a monotonous and painful hour, he had been entertained and soothed by the music from the air.

## Receiving Valves.

THE remainder of the evening was devoted to an interesting and enlightening lecture on the properties of receiving valves. Mr. Dawson, the local technical expert of Philips Lamps, Ltd. (N.Z.), was the lecturer.

From a description of the fundamental elements in the normal valve, Mr. Dawson went on to deal with the function, introducing common terms and explaining how a knowledge of these enabled the listener to understand and appreciate the literature on the receiving valve.

The types of valves were fully dealt with, the speaker going on to say, and later demonstrated, how a valve in its wrong place, or out of step with the transformer, could cause distortion.

The demonstration was particularly interesting. Operating from gramophone pick-up, music, the frequencies of which approximately ranged from 40 to 3000, was put over a simple valve receiver and through several types of speakers. A noticeable feature about this demonstration was the effect secured by the full amplification of the base notes. The music, to use Mr.

## Auckland Notes

(By "Listener.")

THE main topic of radio conversation just now is the forthcoming "Mystery Night," which, if judged solely by the amount of enthusiasm it is creating among listeners, is well worth while as a novelty. This week's "Record," containing the long and varied programme to be submitted, has been eagerly scanned, and already the "guessers" have allotted quite a number of items to performers or to the studio gramophone. There will be keen competition for the valuable prize offered, and one may predict that within the range of 1YA no one will want to tune anything but our own station while the "mystery evening" is in progress.

THE screened grid valve has been occupying the interest of many home constructors in this district, with varying results, if one is to judge from many comments heard. On the whole, however, those who have tried it out well, and followed exactly the directions regarding shielding, are well satisfied with the results they are obtaining. A number of local dealers are manufacturing sets incorporating the latest valves, and for these they find a good demand. It is noticeable, too, that American manufacturers are beginning to place on the New Zealand market their latest sets which incorporate the wonderful "222."

THE company which was running vaudeville at the Embassy Theatre, having gone into liquidation, no more relays from that source are now forthcoming. Listeners regret the occurrence, for several most enjoyable items were procured through the courtesy of the proprietors of the Embassy. The "Majestic" management, though, are always ready to consider radio folk, recognising that in doing so their own theatre is benefiting. Consequently, from time to time we have excellent specialty turns relayed.

A COUPLE of years ago, if a station transmitted what the Americans call "canned music," there would be a general complaint from listeners under the mistaken idea that they were being defrauded of the legitimate expectations from the station. To-day this feeling has undergone a complete change. Regular use is made of records in evening sessions, and not a complaint is voiced. On the other hand, warmest appreciation is regularly expressed. Two factors contribute to this. One is that, with the latest methods of recording and reproduction, a good radio set gives a much better quality to a disc than does the

Brown's expression, possessed "tone and colour" so rarely reproduced by our sets. The speaker attributed this to the correct arrangement of the valves and transformers in his set.

AT the conclusion of the address, one felt that, at least, he knew what a set should do, and had some knowledge of where to seek the trouble.

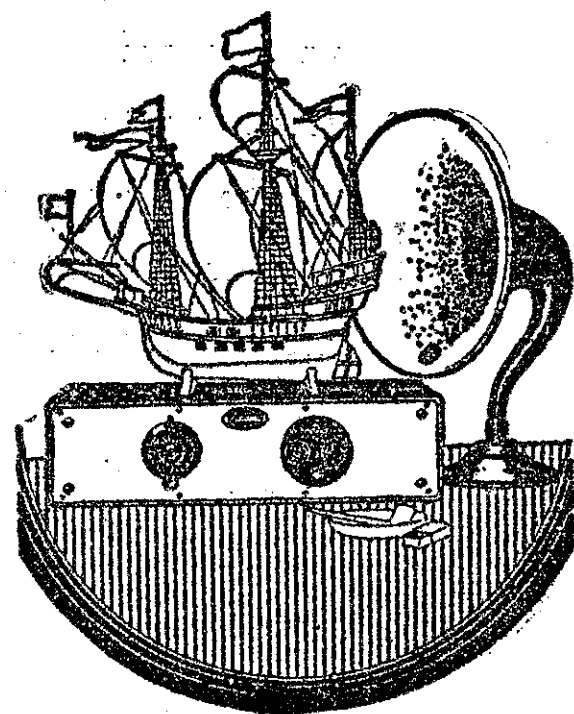
Mr. Dawson was accorded a very hearty vote of thanks for his lecture.

ordinary gramophone itself, and the listener suffers no disturbance through having to wind up, or change records. Another lies in the fact that the best and latest records are used in our studios, and they are presented frequently with explanatory remarks that make them the more appreciated. It was thought at one time that radio would kill the gramophone business; now it is recognised that radio is booming it.

THE short-wave broadcast from Sydney of the wedding of Toti dal Monte was received in the city at good strength on Thursday morning, but there was a disconcerting dynamo hum in the transmission that marred the clarity of the reception. At the beginning of the week the Australian stations were coming in with remarkable volume and distinctness, but conditions changed for the worse on Wednesday night, even Wellington being ruined by strident bursts of static.

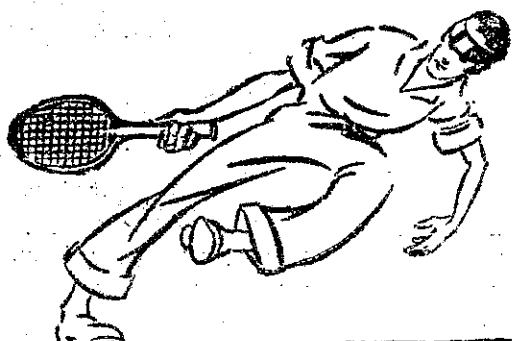
ATTENTION is now being focused upon the trans-Tasman flight, which is expected to eventuate next week-end (since delayed). The broadcasting of this achievement will give a big fillip to listening throughout the Dominion. The writer knows of five persons who have been led to take out licenses through the attraction which this feat in aviation will offer.

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