

Use of Radio in Education

The Broadcasting Company's Plan Covers Great Possibilities

WHILE the provision of recreation and entertainment has been, still is, and will continue to be, one of the main functions of broadcasting, the informative aspect will grow rapidly in importance. The means of communicating by what is known as radio broadcasting is such a wonderful thing that it is rapidly becoming so important a part of national and international life that, unless its place is taken by some new invention, it is likely to become one of the most powerful forces in the modern world in regard to both recreation and entertainment as well as in the dissemination of information.

There is a growing tendency among adults to look to the Broadcasting Company as the purveyor of news and information on a variety of subjects. In this respect a great deal is done by the company, but it is realised that there is as yet a vast untouched field in the

realm of education for adults as well as for children.

In respect to children, the juvenile sessions at the various stations are a judicious mixture of entertainment and education, but the amount that is done in this direction only serves to suggest what could be done in other ways if broadcasting were more fully utilised in education, especially for children.

THE Broadcasting Company has long realised that the same principle which makes the entertainment aspect of its service so greatly valued applies with equal force to the educational aspect—the voice of a great artist at the microphone in the studio can be heard by thousands of people. Literally, the people cannot come hundreds of miles to the studio to hear the artist, so the artist's voice is taken to them.

It would therefore appear that this principle might be applied in regard to the teaching of school children, especially of those in the country districts, where it is not to be expected that the pupils have the same opportunities for learning as those in the city schools have.

There are some subjects which could be admirably handled by expert lecturers speaking from the broadcasting stations, co-operating with whom would be the teachers in the individual schools. The idea is not a new one, but as it would be a revolutionary one and cause the remodelling of the whole school system in New Zealand, there is a natural hesitancy on the part of the authorities to embark upon it. That the authorities are interested it is almost unnecessary to say. The fact that a test was made from 2YA last December is sufficient proof. There are, of course, difficulties in the way, one of the principal being the cost of equipping the schools with receiving sets.

The Broadcasting Company is energetically pushing the proposal. It has advanced a proposition by which each of its four stations will broadcast a lecture or lesson of half an hour four days each week, from 2.30 till 3 p.m.

There is little need to dwell on the advantages which would result from the broadcasting of such lessons. The small schools throughout the country, from the city suburbs to the far back-blocks, would be able to have delivered to them by the best tutors available some of the same lessons as are given to the pupils of the largest and best city schools. The provision of daily lectures of this nature would give opportunities to country children which are now available only to the pupils of the city schools. The country school pupils, many of whom might be the foremost scholars in the Dominion if they had the opportunity, are entitled to all the educational aids it is possible for the Government to give them.

2YA's Quality

Who is Right?

BELOW are given conflicting views from scattered listeners regarding their reception of 2YA.

I with others consider it high time 2YA was "put on the air." If, as you state in a footnote on page 24, "Radio Record, 31/8/28, that the rated power of 5 kilowatts is being fully maintained, that is proof that the station is a failure. I can name an 80-watt station in Dunedin that will produce results in this locality that compare favourably with 2YA. Several of us enthusiasts here have tried all means we know to make sure our sets are not at fault, and were not "overloading the set," and our experience is similar. Given good conditions, with the aerial disconnected, main Aussie and 1YA and 3YA are no trouble, but 2YA is often impossible. The programmes have improved by leaps and bounds, and if the improvements are maintained we have no grouse coming. I've no brick to throw, but it is a nuisance to think that good programmes are being put on the air by 2YA and only a few close localities are able to enjoy them.—Claude P. Grey (Shannon).

Defence from H.B.

I READ with disgust letters from Hawke's Bay listeners re the bad reception of 2YA. All I can say is that these hard-to-please people should look to their sets before blaming the station. It's all very well saying that 1YA, 3YA, and 4YA come in clearer than 2YA. I would suggest trying less B battery on such a high-powered station as 2YA. I am the owner of a five-valve set, and 2YA comes rolling in as clear as a bell, practically every time they are on the air, and, furthermore, if any Napier listener wishes to prove this I invite him to come to my house any time he wishes and hear for himself. As to the programmes by the N.Z.R.B.C., all I can say is that I and others are more than satisfied.—H. R. Herford, 10 Bower Street, Napier.

Crystal Control Condemned.

WELLINGTON station has not been improved since the introduction of crystal control. Fading is more frequent and prolonged. 2YA never used to go dead out with me, but it will sometimes do so now. I have not noticed any difficulty in tuning—my machine has always been difficult to handle, and it is no worse. Volume is not noticeably different. I have always been in difficulties trying to cut 2YA down to a reasonable volume, and the same difficulty persists. Despite opinions to the contrary from H.B., I have always found 2YA clear and pure in timbre when the air was clear—no distortion, no mush. I can put out the highest or lowest note at concert hall volume and as clear as a bell.—J.C.P. (Cromwell).

Reception in Dunedin.

I WOULD like to answer Mr. D. E. Booth's letter in this week's issue of the "Radio Record" concerning reception of 2YA here. I find that since 2YA has been put on crystal control the dials of my set must be tuned exactly to the centre of the wave before you get clarity, and then you get volume and clarity in plenty. The fading

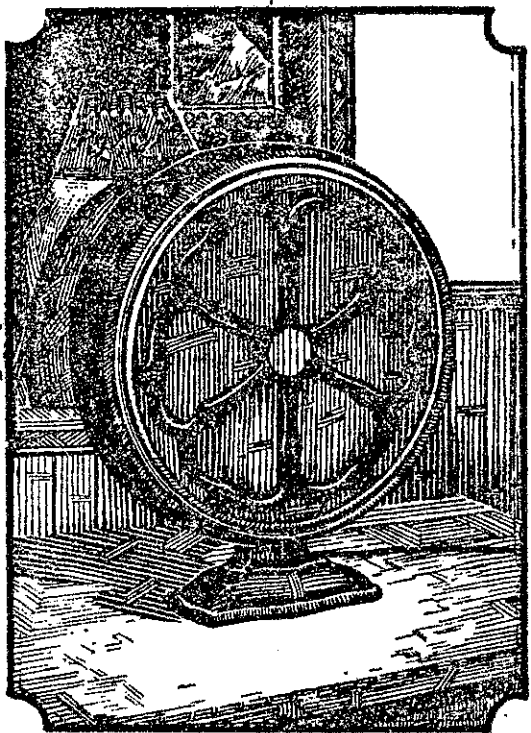
is still very noticeable at times, but otherwise reception is good. I am up on the hills of this city, so may be in a more favourable position.—J. A. Williamson.

Another Re-Broadcast

ANOTHER successful re-broadcast took place last Sunday evening when crystal set users in Christchurch heard for the first time a re-broadcast of 1YA, and thoroughly enjoyed the half-hour of concert provided by the Auckland Municipal Band under Mr. Christopher Smith. The re-broadcast is notable from the fact that the wavelengths of 1YA and 3YA are so close together, yet 3YA was able to make an excellent re-broadcast, the novelty of which, as well as the splendid music provided by the Auckland band, appealed to all listeners. The Auckland station was picked up at the home of Mr. J. M. Bingham, the chief engineer of the broadcasting company, and relayed to the studio.

DX is simply an abbreviation standing for long distance. In this way "a good DX receiver" means one which has a good long distance range, and similarly, "DX reception" is the reception of signals, music, or speech, from long distances away.

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