

Radio's Benefit

Appreciation in Hospital

THAT wireless programmes have a definite therapeutic value to hospital patients is the testimony given by the Medical Superintendent of the Wellington Hospital, Dr. H. B. Ewen, after a brief practical experience of the operation of the wireless installation in the Wellington Hospital. This experiment, as is generally known, has been carried out through the instrumentality of the Wellington Amateur Radio Society, which is now embarking upon a campaign to secure a further £700, in order to complete the equipment of all wards in the hospital with receiving apparatus. At a meeting of the executive of the Amateur Radio Society of Wellington, held last week, Dr. Ewen wrote as follows:—

"I understand that a further appeal is being made to the public to complete the wireless installation in the main buildings at the Wellington General Hospital. There are still nine wards to be connected up at an estimated cost of £700.

"The existing installation has given every satisfaction and the results have well warranted the expenditure. Wireless 'listening in' in a public hospital is far more than an entertainment. It is of definite therapeutic value in the treatment of disease. The influence of the mind over the body is well known, and anything which helps the patient to be cheerful and to lessen the tendency to worry over his condition definitely helps the body to overcome the disease. This is becoming daily more and more evident in the wards and many are the remarks of gratitude from the patients. The excellent programmes from 2YA are now well balanced to suit all tastes, and as the installation provides ear-phones for each patient, no patient is compelled to listen to any particular item if he does not wish to.

"I have no hesitation in recommending this further appeal to the generosity of the citizens of Wellington. Reports reach me from time to time from hospitals in other countries testifying to the great value of radio, and I not only heartily commend this effort to complete the installation in the main buildings, but I hope sufficient funds will be forthcoming to install a similar receiving set in the Ewart Hospital for patients suffering from tuberculosis."

In addition to the Medical Superintendent's testimony, the executive was informed by Dr. W. S. Robertson, a member of the staff of the hospital and also a member of the executive of the

"Beau Ideal"

Autographed Copies for Listeners

Mr. H. C. South, whose interesting talks on "Books—Grave and Gay" are familiar to New Zealand listeners, has arranged quite a novel competition for you all. His friend, Captain C. H. Peters, who does the book talks for 3LO, Melbourne, gave him the idea, and was good enough also to arrange for the prizes of the four autographed copies of P. C. Wren's latest work, "Beau Ideal." A new book inscribed with the author's signature is something well worth having. At any rate twelve thousand Australians evidently think so, for that was the number of entries 3LO received for their last competition. If readers will pardon the pun, this is a "novel" competition in more senses than one—there is no entry fee; a minimum of ef-

fort is called for on the part of competitors; the test of skill is a simple one in which everyone is capable of trying his or her hand; and the novels that are offered for prizes are given the novel distinction of carrying the author's autograph. All competitors have to do is to hand-print the book title "Beau Ideal" on a sheet of paper, on which must also be written the name and address of the competitor, and send it in an envelope addressed "Beau Ideal," c/o 2YA, Wellington. The four prizes will be awarded to the senders of the four entries deemed by the judges to be the best hand-printed. The competition closes on September 20 and the awards will be announced from Station 2YA on September 24.

Particularly popular among the male patients were the broadcast running descriptions of racing and other sporting events. There was intense disappointment when the Racing Conference debarred the broadcasters from entering the race-courses.

Ways and means of securing the further sum aimed at for the hospital installation were considered by the committee, and as a first step Messrs. Byron Brown and I. M. Levy were appointed a sub-committee to organise a broadcast concert to be given from 2YA, Wellington, under the auspices of the society. In this connection it is hoped to arrange that the performers' fees shall go in aid of the new hospital radio fund, for which Mr. R. Brown, secretary of the Hospital Board, is acting as secretary.

Radio Reception

Points for Listeners

THE Wellington Amateur Radio Society is embarking upon the praiseworthy policy of arranging for a series of lectures from recognised experts to be given at regular intervals to members and the general public. Following on the very successful and interesting explanation of valves de-

livered by Mr. W. M. Dawson, there will be given on the evening of Tuesday, September 11, in the Dominion Farmers' Institute Building, a lecture by Mr. J. G. R. McCarthy, of Mack's Radio, Limited, a lecture on radio reception, including short-wave work. Mr. McCarthy is a recognised expert of long standing. His radio experience extends to the early days of the art in Britain and America, and of later years to New Zealand. He has many outstanding performances to his credit, and being possessed of a breezy personality and the habit of plain speaking, may be relied upon to make his lecture entertaining and instructive. On a number of occasions Mr. McCarthy, by his skilful reception, has contributed to the successful rebroadcasting of overseas transmissions. Listeners who are interested in securing the very best possible results from their sets, and attaining a high standard in reception, are cordially invited to attend the lecture of the society on Tuesday week.

Following on Mr. McCarthy's lecture, it is hoped to arrange further meetings at intervals of approximately three weeks. In addition to the public lectures, a series of lectures will be given from 2YA by Mr. W. M. Dawson (under the auspices of the Radio Society) on subjects relating to wireless sets. Special attention will be given in these talks to the eradication of the howling valve nuisance. These lectures will be given at fortnightly intervals, and should commence at an early date.

Radio Royalties

Reduction in England

ATTENTION has been focused lately on the conditions in England regarding the sale of valves and valve sets. Up to the present every valve set sold has been subject to a royalty of 12s. 6d. per valve, payable to the Marconi Company. This has considerably raised the price of sets and made them beyond the reach of many listeners, who are thereby restricted to the use of the crystal.

The question of their reduction was introduced by the Loewe Radio Company (Germany) by an application to the Patent Office, London, for a revocation of the patent rights or for a special license to permit of their manufacture in England. They were prepared to pay royalties equal to that paid the Telefunken Company in Germany, which were not, however, as great as Marconis were collecting from English manufacturers.

It was claimed that wireless sets, equivalent to three-valve, could be produced in England for £1 10s. each and eventually at £1 5s. The wholesale price in Germany was £1 5s. and retail £1 19s. 6d. Under the existing system these sets could not be produced at less than £3 7s. 6d.

Tribunal Decides.

DURING the hearing of the application it was pointed out that the refusal of a reduction would prejudice the establishment of a new British industry, and that a commercial policy, excluding large sections of the public from the full enjoyment, was not justifiable.

In granting the license, subject to the applicants paying royalties of 10s. for each triple valve and 7s. 6d. for each double valve, the tribunal expressed the opinion that the monopoly rights were being abused.

THE decision is of momentous importance to the British radio trade. It has been followed by an application by the Brownie Wireless Company for the reduction of the royalties on valve holders, from 12s. 6d. to 10 per cent. on the wholesale selling price, subject to a minimum charge of 5s. on the first valve holder and 2s. 6d. on each additional holder. This means a reduction of approximately £2 10s. on a six-valve receiver and 7s. 6d. on a single valve outfit.

The Dominion is not immediately affected by these decisions, although they may have a very definite influence on the position relating to royalties.

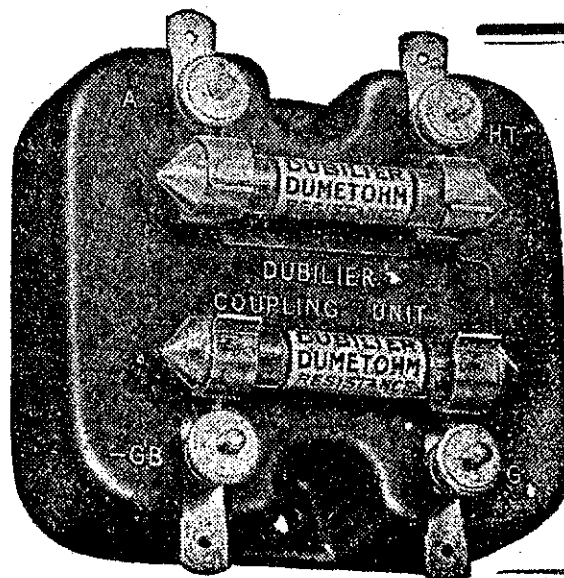
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