

Radio Round the World

THE prefix "micro" means "million," so one microfarad is a millionth part of a farad, and one microhenry is a millionth part of a henry, etc.

THE B.B.C. sets listeners a good example in the matter of overhauling aerials; in no station is the aerial permitted to be up longer than six months without being overhauled for the removal of dirt, etc.

A MISSING dance partner, wooden legs, false teeth and attache cases by the score are among the things which the B.B.C. has at some time or other been asked to trace.

A COMMENTARY on the recent shooting match at Bisley, England, for the King's Prize was broadcast by Captain E. H. Robinson, a former King's Prizeman (1923).

BROADCASTING in Ceylon is confined to Colombo, where a station of 1.75 K.W. broadcasts regular programmes on a wavelength of 800 metres.

THE Japanese listener pays a license fee of 2s. a month to the Broadcasting Association; in addition the Government levies an annual charge of 2s. for expenses.

IN China, Shanghai and Hong-Kong have a broadcasting station each, the former under American auspices, having a power of 500 watts, and the latter 1.5 K.W.

SWEDEN heads the world in respect of the number of licenses issued, viz., 57.8 per thousand inhabitants. Two additional high-power stations are to be constructed, one 50 k.w.

FIVE-MINUTE appeals on Sundays from the B.B.C. stations realised over £40,000 in 1927.

NO fewer than 800 stations in America, excluding amateurs, are operating on the broadcast band.

THE first concert broadcast in English waters took place in 1907, when speech by wireless was considered almost an impossibility.

THE episode of the meeting between Lucie Manette and her father after his release from the Bastille, from "The Tale of Two Cities," formed the basis of a play recently broadcast from Cardiff.

THE song of the nightingale can now be regarded as an annual event to European listeners. Continental people look forward to this broadcast from the Surrey woods almost as keenly as do British listeners.

THE Cincinatti station, WLW, goes up to 50 kilowatts on the 17th of this month. It should be quite easily receivable in the Dominion, as are the Pacific Coast stations, which are at present being heard at good loudspeaker strength here.

THE Berlin Conservatory of Music has installed a radio receiver and transmitter for test purposes. Students can thus be trained in the art of broadcasting over the radio. A check-up can be made upon the students' microphone technique and faults corrected.

SOME time ago the Adelaide station 5CL caused consternation amongst some listeners by broadcasting an imaginary "Invasion of Australia," while in England 2LO almost caused a panic by a too-vivid account of an imaginary national disaster.

THE British Broadcasting Corporation's report for 1927 shows a total income for the year of £901,600, of which £800,900 was received for licenses. The sum of £490,000 was spent on programmes.

EVIDENCE that the popularity of radio is growing is evidenced in England, where the number of licenses issued in 1927 was 217,000 greater than those issued in 1926. They now total 2,395,174.

A N enterprising company has set up the "Ceylon Radio Times," and has produced a very fine paper of fifty-four pages. One note indicates what broadcasting in the East is "up against." "My keen listeners are unable to understand the Sinhalese and Tamil musical programmes."

A N Auckland daily paper makes the following comment: "Quite marked is the increase in the number of gramophone records in use in local programmes of late. The interspersing of the world's best, as obtainable from the records, is doing much for the improvement of local entertainment, for the judicious use of the gramophone is commendable. This use can, of course, be overdone."

A CRISIS has arisen in the wireless trade in Czecho-Slovakia. During March licenses decreased by 45,000, while dealers' licenses increased by twenty-six. Demands are being made on the Government to alter the law relating to wireless in a more liberal sense.

3LO recently broadcast music for an old-time dance night. The announcer mentioned, ere the programme commenced, that 230 clubs and other bodies had arranged to hold radio dances to the music supplied.

THE B.B.C. and Broadcasting Bureau of Sweden, each made an appeal to its listeners-in for criticism. From the Irish Free State came 39 letters; from the Swedish listeners, 140,000. The Swedes have evidently taken broadcasting seriously.

A CHRISTCHURCH short-wave amateur has established a unique record. With 100 watts input transmitter and a three-valve receiver he has established two-way communication with 36 different countries, including Siam and the Newfoundland station. In all, over 700 stations have answered his call.

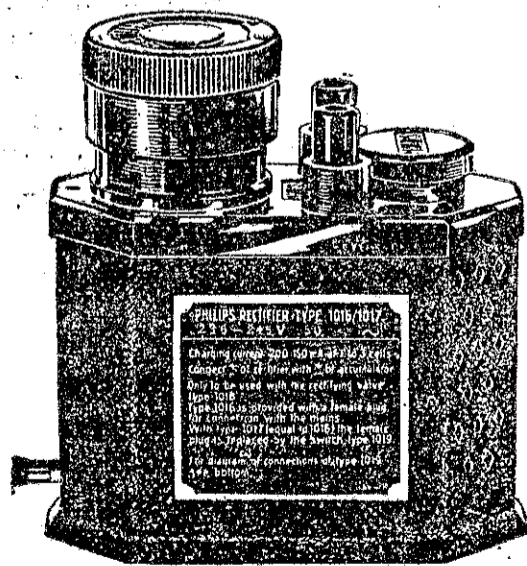
A WIRELESS station is maintained at Willis Island, about 300 miles north-east of Townsville (Australia) solely to give warning of tropical disturbances to the Commonwealth Meteorological Bureaux at Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane. The messages sent out from this station also contain timely and valuable information to ships at sea in the areas likely to be affected.

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