

THE station at Port Darwin (Australia) is used not only to keep in touch with shipping off the coast, but to clear traffic from the Post Office inland radio station. When floods and storms occasionally demolish the land-lines in the Northern Territory, the telegraph traffic of that huge area is generally cleared by this radio station.

SIX hundred and eight broadcasting stations in U.S.A. now enjoy the privilege of the air. The Federal Radio Commission, in order to clear the ether, has ordered 162 of these to close down. Now the lawyers are on the scene, and at least 30 of the so-ordered transmitters will contest in the U.S.A. Courts the validity of the closure.

IT is amazing how a new song "catch on." Requests for "Ramona" to be put on the air come pouring in to the station. Were these to be acceded to, at least in the case of 2YA, "Ramona" in its various forms would comprise not only all the afternoon session but also a very large section of the evening's entertainment.

BROADCASTING in the three countries of Scandinavia is managed by single authorities, public or semi-public, and financed partly or wholly out of license yield. A distinct feature of Sweden, due to its geographical conformation and the layout of the population, is the profusion of small relay stations all connected to one or two main programme centres.

PLYMOUTH was the first station to bring the sound of the sea to listeners' homes. As early as the summer of 1925 a microphone was placed on the beach in Bovisana Bay, and the noises of the waves were broadcast from all stations. A remarkable feature of the transmission was that the sounds went to London and back to Plymouth before they were actually radiated from the Plymouth aerial.

A FAMOUS surgeon at one of the London hospitals said recently: "Wireless in hospitals is especially useful to a patient just before and shortly after an operation. Many patients have headphones on an hour or so before they are due at the operating theatre, and in all these cases we have noted an even pulse and a low temperature which are, of course, most valuable aids to a successful operation."

THE U.S.A. broadcast an eye-witness's account of New York's reception of the crew of the Bremen—from an aeroplane. The announcer occupied a commanding, but chilly and risky, position 2000-3000 feet up. The broadcasting station sent him instructions, by radio, of the ground to be covered, during a flight of 55 minutes. He did his eye-work through binoculars.

[Is this feasible for New Zealand race broadcasts?]

IN Russia, broadcasting took a form special to the conditions and institutions of the U.S.S.R. The most pronounced features of a widespread system, which is, of course, State controlled, are: (a) The systematic promotion of communal listening (loud-speaker, public address system) in village halls and open spaces; (b) the over-riding influence of the State with, as its corollary, the use of radio as an organ of propaganda; (c) the development of the newspaper bulletin into veritable spoken newspapers.

ENGLISH manufacturers are now beginning to get busy on new apparatus for the British Radio Exhibition, which is to be held in September. This exhibition marks the opening of the wireless "season"—the three following months are very busy ones for the manufacturers. One firm, who, during the rest of the year work a day shift only, in the autumn and winter run the factory 24 hours a day, and employ three times as many hands.

A MOST important project was launched a while ago by the B.B.C., who set about the assembly of a permanent orchestra of between sixty and seventy musicians. Neither trouble nor expense has been spared to secure the world's best available musicians. It is aimed to surpass everything of its kind. It is understood the annual cost will be £80,000. The orchestra is almost complete, but as yet a conductor has not been selected.

BY a well-arranged co-ordination of services of the two big Sydney stations, Australian listeners are supplied with continuous opportunity for reception from 7 a.m. till 11.30 p.m. on all week days. During the best listening hours both 2FC and 2BL are operating, while for the whole of a 16½-hour period there is no period of silence. On Sundays there is broadcasting by one or both stations from 10 a.m. to 10.30 p.m., with brief intervals at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

A CORRESPONDENT to the Racing Commissioner of 2FC asked him to announce over the air all the grey horses that were entered in the Melbourne Cup. The writer said his reason for asking was that he had had a dream in which he saw a grey horse win the Melbourne Cup. He stated that he had never before dreamt about horses, but he distinctly saw a grey win, and the dream was so vivid he felt justified in ascertaining the names of all the grey horses in the Melbourne Cup.

AT Rock Point, N.Y., there has just been erected what is said to be the most efficient type of beam transmitter yet installed. Outstanding features are its simplicity, and the efficiency with which it directs a pencil of radio waves toward distant receiving stations, resulting in economy of power and high speed transmission. From ordinary broadcasting stations, radio waves spread out in all directions, and most of the energy is wasted. The new system uses a system of auxiliary wires to serve as a reflector for the waves and focus them in a beam.

THERE is at least one case definitely established where life has been saved by listening to wireless programmes. An elderly man was in a very bad condition and his life was despaired of. In conversation with a nurse some days after his arrival in hospital he said that he determined to hear his home town carillon before he died, explaining that he had seen it announced as a future item. The event was a week ahead, and the doctors doubted whether his wish would be fulfilled. By sheer will power, however, he kept himself alive, and by the time the carillon was broadcast his condition had so changed for the better as to make his recovery certain. He was eventually discharged from the hospital in good health.

RADIO is ever being applied in some new fields some of which are truly amazing. One of the most recent applications is thought transference, which deals with a process that works with a specific band of electromagnetic waves. A specially designed radio set is used to detect the signals.

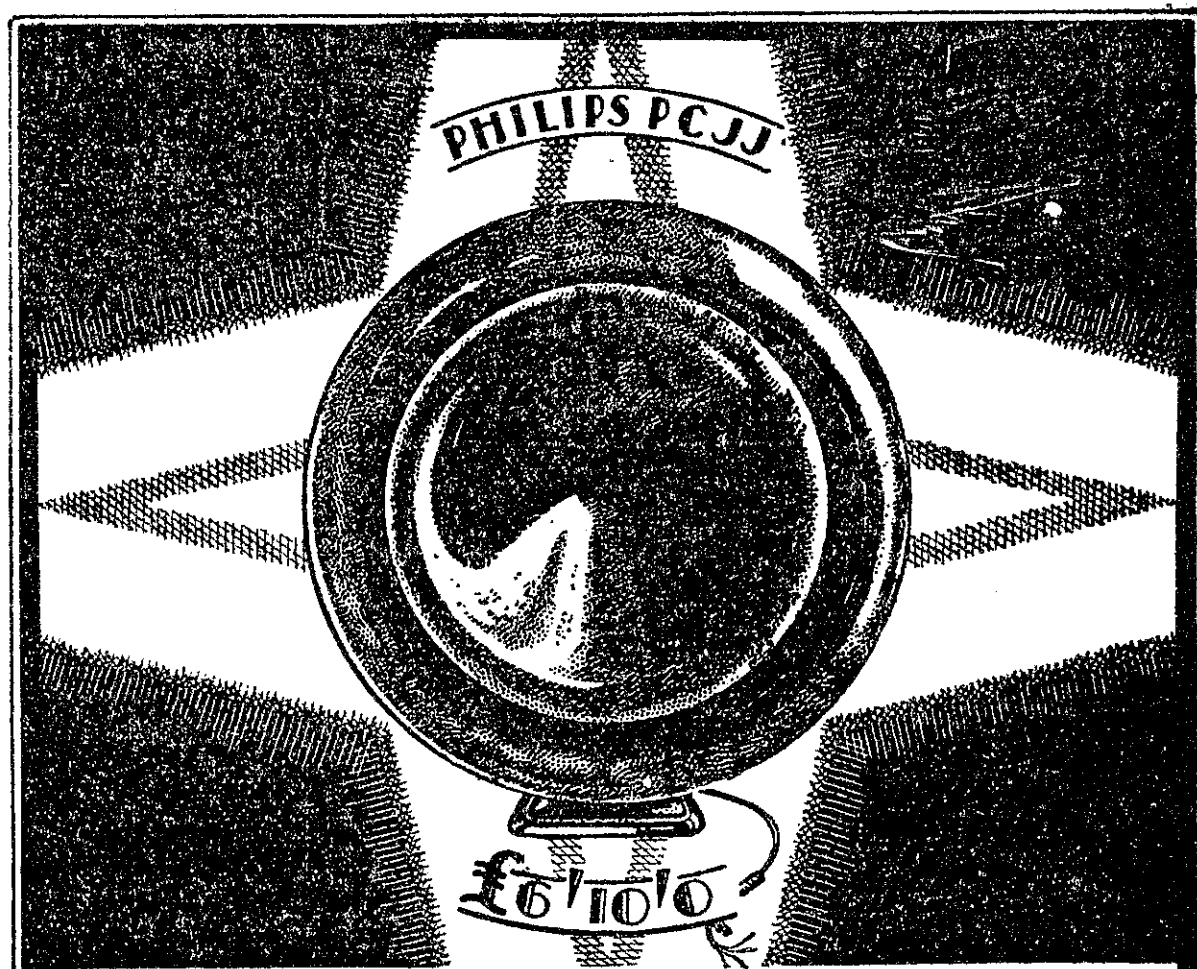
PLAYS are a regular feature of broadcasting in England, some of the more popular being:—"Hal, the Highwayman," "The Daughter of the Regiment," "Recalled to Life" (Dickens), and "Marjory." Most of these are better known extracts from well-known plays.

THERE are three broadcasting stations in North Africa—Radio Carthage in Tunis, Radio Casa Blanca in Morocco, and Algiers. Of these the only one of considerable power is the Tunis Station, which has 5 k.w. The success of the Algiers Station has led the French Government to decide upon replacing it by one of the most modern type and of greater power.

IN 1927 there were 16,000 amateur transmission stations operating in the United States. The number in the rest of the world is not available, but it is estimated at five or six thousand, principally in the British Empire, Sweden, Finland, France, Argentina, and Uruguay. In most other countries the laws are quite unfavourable to amateur radio.

BROADCASTING in Japan began regularly in the middle of 1925, the ground having been previously prepared with characteristic thoroughness. The system shows British influence, and is somewhat similar to that of Great Britain. JOAK, JOBK, JOCK, opened in July, 1925, have been amalgamated under the title of Broadcasting Corporation of Japan. The country has been divided into territorial broadcasting divisions, and the new corporation have installed a high-power station near Tokio, replacing the former JOAK. This is frequently heard in New Zealand.

STRANGE happenings are always taking place. Some are able to be explained, some remain "freaks." A local radio dealer experienced two of these radio "puzzlers" recently. 2YA had closed down and he was listening in to 3LO coming through at its usual volume, which, with his receiver was not very great. Without indication the volume suddenly increased until it equalled that of the local station. Following this the station maintained its volume without fading or distortion throughout the evening. This person is also the owner of an amplifier crystal set, fitted with a filament switch. On one occasion he was surprised to hear, although the circuit was broken, the signals from 2YA coming, somewhat faintly from the loud-speaker.



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