

Wireless Lessons in English Schools.**Report of Kent Education Committee.**

THE day when the equipment of all rural elementary schools will include a wireless receiver is brought a step nearer by the publication under the auspices of the British Broadcasting Corporation of the Kent Education Committee's report on an investigation undertaken during 1927 to ascertain the value of educational broadcasting in schools. Educationists throughout the country have followed the Kent experiment with keen interest. Those education authorities who have been waiting for guidance before adopting broadcasting as a normal adjunct to the school curriculum will find in this report definite conclusions as regards its utility from an unbiased and authoritative source.

For the purpose of the inquiry, to the cost of which a sum of £300 was contributed by the Carnegie Trustees, wireless receiving sets were installed in 62 elementary schools of all types, large and small, in town and country, in Kent. The inquiry was launched in January, 1927, and throughout the year children of both sexes listened

regularly to the broadcast lectures with the co-operation of their teachers.

Upon the evidence of teachers obtained by means of questionnaires, the report concludes that the broadcast lesson imparted a knowledge of facts, stimulated interest in ways which could be definitely observed, created impressions as durable as those produced by ordinary lessons, did not encourage inattention, were particularly stimulating to clever children, supplied views and information which the teachers themselves could not have supplied, gave fresh ideas for lessons and interested parents in some of the work that the children did in school.

The suggestion that the loudspeaker can in any sense replace the teacher is firmly refuted, and it is reported that successful broadcast lessons depend upon close co-operation between the wireless lecturer and the teacher. A concerted plan of action must be worked out by the wireless lecturer and put into effect both in the studio and in the classroom. The report also disproves the theory that broadcasting encourages inactivity on the part of the pupil. It is found that some subjects lend themselves more readily than others to treatment at the microphone. For example, the investigators found that music was suitable, by reason of the opportunities that it afforded for illustration; French, so that the voice of a Frenchman might be heard; geography, so that travellers could speak personally of their experiences; and history, because a specialist having first-hand knowledge of the subject could supply a vivid background to history text-books, much as the traveller provides a vivid background to the Atlas.

On the technical side it is reported that a certain type of small valve receiver is suitable for use in the classroom, and that consistently clear reception can be obtained where arrangements are made for the regular overhauling of the set and charging of the batteries.

There can be no doubt that wireless has its place in our schools. The smaller country school with its two or three teachers has much to gain from the introduction of a new voice, a new vocabulary and a fresh range of experience and the broadcasting of national events must bring a new civic consciousness into the classroom. This much is evident and the report, which is the result of an impartial and scientific investigation, indicates the place which wireless should occupy in the school curriculum.

Dr. E. Salter Davies, Director of Education for Kent, says in a foreword to the report:—

"Every Monday afternoon at half-past two the Director-General of the British Broadcasting Corporation, after the manner of the well-known French Minister of Education, can take out his watch and say: 'At this moment 70,000 children are taking a wireless history lesson; music on Tuesday, English on Wednesday, and so on throughout the week.' Two years ago he would not have claimed 20,000 pupils. Two years hence he may be dealing with 200,000. In ten years, who can say how many boys and girls will have come under his influence?"

2YA Does Not Fade.**Clear Reception in Australia.**

An interesting letter conveying testimony that 2YA's transmission is not responsible for local fading experienced in some parts of the Dominion, comes from Australia. Writing from Harbord, New South Wales, a correspondent to headquarters of the "R.B.C." says:—

"A splendid feature I wish to specially congratulate you on, that there is no fading with your station. I switch you on and leave the set, and you keep the same volume without touching the controls. Trusting you keep up your good work, I beg to remain,—G.C."

One of the many appreciative letters received reads as follows. It comes from a listener at Cambridge, Wai-kato:—

"May I be allowed to congratulate you on the programme broadcast from the King George Theatre, Lower Hutt, last evening. The reception on my instrument, which is a five-valve electric model, was almost perfect, static was singularly scarce, and the fading was almost negligible.

"We hear quite a lot about the quality of programmes submitted to us in New Zealand, but I am well satisfied that the Wellington station particularly puts on as good a programme as any Australian station, and while you are prepared to give us such quality performances as the one last night, I am sure no one has need to complain.

"May I congratulate your orchestra on the choice of pieces and also the execution of same. Also may I add a word of praise for the Broadcasting Company, who have provided us with so much this last week or two. The Eucharistic Congress in Australia, the home-coming of Tom Heeney, the flight of the Southern Cross and its subsequent following functions, have all been highly interesting, and shows that the New Zealand Broadcasting Company are alive to all that is going.

"Wishing you all success for the future."

Sunburnt**Curious Effect of Long Duty on 2YA Operators.**

ONE would hardly expect that an all-night vigil would result in a sunburnt complexion. The reverse is usually the case. But it happened so with the 2YA operators who were on duty during the trans-Tasman flight.

The two operators were in the radio room for a long spell, during which time the set was running. The effects of sunburning were first noticed when one of the operators washed his face next morning. He then looked at his companion and saw that his face was noticeably reddish brown.

There was no doubt about it—the two operators were well sunburnt.

By the way, has anyone ever seen a bald-headed radio operator?

Sporting Fixtures.

ONE of the final broadcasts for the Rugby football season will be that on Saturday, September 29, when 4YA will describe the match Otago v. South Canterbury.

A UNIQUE ceremony was recently broadcast from the Warsaw (Poland) station. A large number of clergymen, bishops, ministers, prominent people and pilgrims, gathered at a tiny provincial town, on the occasion of the reintroduction of the image of the Holy Virgin into the local basilica. The image has a fascinating story, being connected with an early Pope from whom it passed to a pious Polish magnate. It was installed in the basilica in question in 1627. On the annexation of Poland to Russia, it was removed and hidden, to be unearthed and reinstalled a few weeks ago. The ceremony faithfully broadcast was of national interest to the Poles as it marked the supremacy of Catholicism once again.

INSTEAD of emptying the churches, wireless, in London, is said to be having the opposite effect.

Get your new batteries now, and save money.

**Startling Prices for "RELIABLE"**

(British Made)

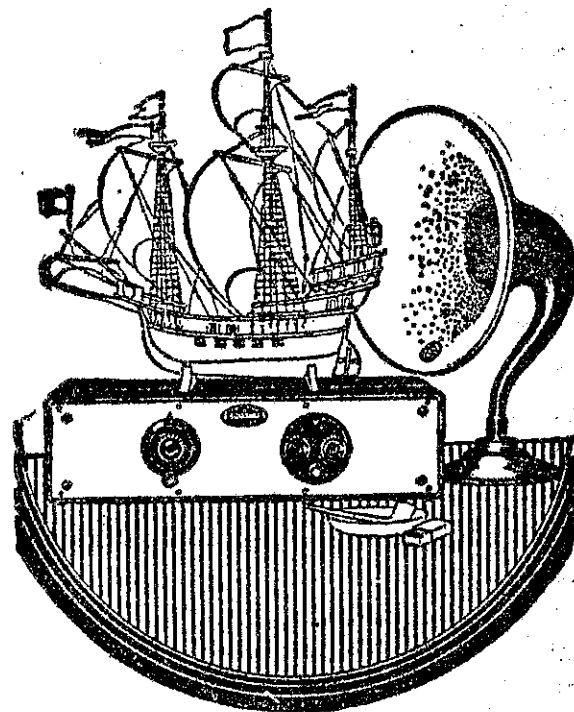
RADIO BATTERIES

DIRECT SHIPMENT.—Fresh Stocks just arrived. Tested and Guaranteed Full Voltage before despatch. Limited stocks, so order quickly. Remember!

22½ Volts	7/6	45 Volts heavy duty	18/6
45 Volts Standard Size	14/-	No. 6--1½ Volts (Lots of 3)	5/6
C-4½ Volts	2/6		

Freight or postage paid anywhere in N.Z. Post Order and Remittance TO-DAY to—

Dominion Radio Co.
Customs St. E. - - - Auckland.

ATWATER KENT RADIO

IF PRICE interests you—we can place the famous ATWATER KENT RECEIVER and Radio Speaker in your home at a cost that will bear any comparisons. And the low price includes all the ATWATER KENT features—tone, simplicity, reliability and the rest—that everybody wants. Come in and listen.

Distributors,
C. & A. ODLIN & CO., LTD.,
WELLINGTON.
New Zealand