

# Wellington Radio Society

## General Meeting

### Instructive Lecture Mr. C. C. K. Fear

**H**EAVERY continuous rain militated against a numerous attendance at the general meeting of the Amateur Radio Society of Wellington at the Congregational Church schoolroom, Cambridge Terrace, on Tuesday evening, December 11. About two dozen were present, and the chair was occupied by Mr. Byron Brown, president.

A general discussion took place on the question of the talent heard from 2YA, Wellington. Various opinions were expressed, and while some urged that better talent would be regularly available if the Broadcasting Company increased its payments for performers.

It speaks well for the engineering abilities which make possible a relay over such a distance.

A telegram from Queenstown said:—Concert came through with wonderful clarity.

Milton.—The relay from Wanganui was a huge success. The concert was a fine performance, every item coming through in fine style. Let's hope for more relays of this nature.

Dunedin.—After last night's wonderful relay I must congratulate you on the splendid way everything came through from Wanganui. The concert was one of the best ever known over the air, and one would not have known it was coming 125 miles by land before entering the transmitter. Many people were heard this morning praising the excellent concert, so I am sure other such concerts would be very welcome. The programmes have reached a high standard at all stations and should be satisfying most, if not all, of the listeners.

#### Donations to Band Fund.

**T**HE Conductor (Captain G. Buckley) acknowledges with grateful thanks the following donations in response to 2YA's appeal over the air for funds for the purchase of new band instruments:—

	£	s.	d.
Tom and Polly, Te Tuhi ..	10	0	0
F. Dwyer, Stratford .....	5	0	0
F. Lomas, Wanganui .....	7	6	0
Three Ladies .....	5	0	0
Family, Castlecliff .....	10	0	0
H. H. Marris .....	10	0	0
A. Harris .....	1	0	0
"Bridge" School .....	5	9	0
C. H. Burton, Masterton ....	5	0	0
E. Watts, Kawhia .....	1	0	0
Two Residents, Mahoney St.	5	0	0
F. and L. Gunn, Whangarei	5	0	0
Barac, Wellington .....	5	0	0
E.C.H.L. ....	2	0	0
A Friend Radio .....	10	0	0
Trembone .....	10	0	0
Per H. V. Hazard, Castlecliff	9	0	0
Programmes .....	2	6	0
E. Lambert .....	1	1	0
Jones and Fowler .....	10	0	0
A. R. Farrell, Addington ..	1	0	0

Further donations have been promised which, when they come to hand, will almost double this amount.

others said that they were well satisfied with the programmes from 2YA. Speakers expressed great pleasure in listening to the very fine assortment of gramophone items put on the air by 2YA, in fact, they said, they much preferred them to the usual studio numbers. A trader said that the general-ity of his customers were well pleased with the quality of the programmes by 2YA. One listener advocated the inclusion of more educational items such as lectures on economics, but otherwise he had no fault to find with programmes.

Complaints were made that the transmission by 2YA, Wellington, varied very much in quality and volume. While transmission during one session may be excellent the transmission in the next one would be harsh and inclined to blast. A motion was carried that the general manager of the Radio Broadcasting Company be written to complaining about the quality of the transmission by 2YA, and requesting that the trouble be rectified.

**A** LECTURE, illustrated by black-board drawings, was then given by Mr. C. C. K. Fear, on the subject of aerials and earths, particularly in connection with their use with crystal sets. Mr. Fear strongly emphasised the advisability of employing long aerials, which should be as high as possible, for crystal sets. He suggested an aerial of about 140 feet in length, including the lead-in, and not less than 30 feet above all obstacles—fences, sheds, trees, etc. The nearest to an ideal aerial was a vertical wire attached to a very high mast, but this was seldom practicable. The next best was an aerial of the inverted "L" type. He advised listeners to use not less than two good insulators at each end of the aerial, and they should be so inserted that the actual aerial is not closer than three or four feet from each mast. He was greatly in favour of glass insulators, as opposed to the small "shell" type porcelain type. In bad weather, owing to the proximity of the wires which pass through the "shell" insulators, there was some leakage. There was also a certain amount of "condenser effect" in the case of "shell" insulators which also meant loss in signal strength. He advocated a good soldered joint where the junction took place between the lead-in and the aerial. The lead-in should also be kept three or four feet away from the side of the house until it entered the lead-in tube. The earth wire should be of heavy gauge wire, and as short and direct as possible. It should not be fastened to a gas-pipe, but to a water-pipe or a sheet of galvanised iron or kerosene tin buried in the ground, which should be kept well moistened. He preferred enamelled wire, as it lasted very much longer than plain wire. Though it used to be believed that aerial wire when corroded set up a resistance to radio-frequency currents it had now been definitely established by laboratory tests in the United States that there was no difference in the strength of reception when using a new wire aerial or an old one which was badly corroded. However, the corrosion had a tendency to render the wire brittle. Mr. Fear warned listeners that it was an infringement of the law to run an aerial over electric wires. There was also a potential danger to the listener in doing this as, in the event of his aerial falling on a live electric wire he may be severely shocked if not killed.

In mentioning risks from lightning, Mr. Fear said that a well-installed aerial was actually a protection against lightning. This had been proved by actual happenings. A lightning-arrestor, however, was essential, being required under the Underwriters' Association regulations. Mr. Fear gave details of how to instal the arrestor, and he said he preferred to see it located on the outside of the house.

Talking on the subject of crystals, Mr. Fear favoured galena in preference to all others, but there were other excellent crystals. He found carborundum splendid up to a limited range, but when the distance was extreme it was less sensitive than galena.

For coils to embody in crystal set he gave preference to silk-covered or enamelled wire, but cotton-covered wire was susceptible to becoming moist in wet weather. The diameter of the wire for these coils should not be less than 20 gauge or more than 24 gauge.

On the conclusion of his lecture Mr. Fear answered several interesting questions. On the motion of the chairman Mr. Fear was accorded a hearty vote of thanks with enthusiastic applause.

**A**T the request of the chairman, Mr. I. M. Levy, vice-president, on behalf of the society, presented the retiring honorary secretary, Mr. W. H. Taylor, with a handsome solid silver

cigarette case suitably inscribed as a memento of esteem and appreciation of his services. Mr. Levy explained that owing to his promotion in his business Mr. Taylor's duties in future would take him out of Wellington almost continuously, so that it would be quite impossible to continue his duties as honorary secretary of the society. While they warmly congratulated Mr. Taylor on his advancement they greatly regretted his resignation as honorary secretary, a position he had occupied with great ability, discretion and enterprise. It was through his efforts that the society had taken a new lease of life. In thanking the members for their presentation Mr. Taylor expressed appreciation of what Mr. Levy had said, and assured the members that he would continue to take a close interest in the doings of the society. He advised the society to continue its endeavours to secure more members and large attendances at its meetings. The newly-appointed honorary secretary, Mr. A. G. H. Laws, was then introduced to the meeting by Mr. Byron Brown. Mr. Laws said he would do his utmost to carry on the good work of his predecessor.

**W**HEN a man ceases to criticise the radio conditions in his locality, he has lost interest in radio. Then there is really something the matter with it.—"Radio."

**and NOW it's the PHILIPS B443**

**PENTHODE**

**A REMARKABLE POWER VALVE with 5 ELEMENTS**

**HERE is a miracle multi-element tube for your radio. It's the Philips PENTHODE. Possessing five elements the B443 is designed for audio amplification. In the power socket it will give tremendous volume. Used in a single audio stage in conjunction with a Philips transformer results are about equal to the usual two-tube amplifier.**

**There is no "trick" circuit, no need to alter the wiring of your present receiver, simply connect the terminal on the side to a high "B" Voltage.**

**ASK YOUR DEALER FOR A PAMPHLET.**

**PHILIPS**

**"MINIWATTS"**

8R19N

Advt. of Philip Lamps (N.Z.) Ltd. (Radio Dept.), Hope Gibbons Building, Courtenay Place, Wellington