

THIS altered the writer's conception of D.X. work. Together with a large number of listeners, it had been considered that D.X. meant the poring over a dial for long hours with a pair of headphones glued to the ears. But this conception happily is wrong. Really, D.X. work is getting long-distance stations and enjoying them from the point of view of entertainment or instruction. To listen to these foreign stations broadens the mind and lets us see the other man's point of view, to hear the other man on the opposite side of the world, and for that alone D.X.-ing is really worth while.

The Beverage Aerial.

BUT perhaps the secret of our success that night lay in the type of aerial used. This type, known as the Beverage aerial, should appeal to country listeners who are not limited for space, as it is rather contrary to the usual conception of aerials. On being taken to the D.X. shack, the friend of the writer remarked that we would first erect the aerial—or one of the aerials, for there were two: one directional to the Australians and the other directional to the Americans. The wire which was to receive the Americans, and which did receive them in the manner already described, was the one which had to be erected. Collecting a great length of telephone wire, we commenced to run the aerial.

"How high do you intend the aerial to be?" was the question. "And what are you going to use as masts?"

"Oh, just a few feet above the cattle, and trees will do as masts."

This was unusual, surely, but it was to bring in results. Passing through a tree some 300 yards from the shack, the wire was carried another 300 yards to another tree. In the centre tree there were some insulators that had been used on a previous occasion, and use was made of these, but in the last tree, there was no sign of insulators.

"What about insulators? Surely they will be necessary?"

"Oh, no," remarked the D.X. man. "Just throw it up in the tree. It will be quite all right. The tree is quite dry."

It would have been better had time allowed of the proper connections to be made, but it worked, and worked well. This was not a real Beverage aerial, but was a rough-and-ready adaptation. The real Beverage aerial is as long as the longest wavelength to be received, that is, anywhere up to 600 yards, or even longer. The wire need not necessarily be stranded copper wire; in fact, in the case in point, the wire was merely telephone wire with unsoldered joints. Great height is not necessary; in fact, it is not advisable, for although the signal strength would be much stronger, the static would be almost deafening.

The distant end should be supported by insulators and kept clear of anything that would act as a conductor. The aerial at this end passes to the ground through a 600 ohm resistance (a potentiometer is quite suitable for the purpose), the receiver end is brought in in the usual method.

The aerial on which the Americans are to be received should run in a north-easterly direction, while that on which the Australians are to be received should run in a north-westerly direction. Unless these directions are observed, very much of the strength will be lost. The effect of direction was clearly demonstrated during the evening in question. A double pull switch was used so that the set could be connected to either aerial at will.

WENR, which was coming in so strongly on the north-east aerial could be hardly heard on the other aerial, that is, the one directional to Australia, while some of the Australian stations when collected from the American aerial, were hardly audible.

This was illustrated very forcibly by a user of this aerial. 2FC and an American station were operating both on the same wavelength, and without changing the dial, 2FC and the American station could be brought in at will by merely throwing over the switch from one aerial to another. Directional effect is almost essential if real D.X.-ing is to be entered upon, and the greatest of care must be exercised in erecting the aerial that will be most suitable for the station to be received.

The Receiver for D.X. Work.

A SUPER set is not essential. Any good set will be found quite useful in bringing in distant stations, providing a good aerial is used. The set used on the night to which the foregoing description applies, was a straight-out make, in which reaction was not used.

Distorted reception is not worth while, and the D.X. enthusiast who is getting these foreigners only in a distorted condition should look to his receivers, to his aerials, and his earthen.

A good suggestion for the man whose receiver will not quite give him a required volume from these stations is the employment of a power amplifier which will operate directly from the mains, and which can boost the stations up on to the speaker at quite comfortable strength. The screen-grid and pentode, too, are going to do much for D.X. reception, so that the forthcoming season should be a harvest for all D.X. men, and an urge is made to all listeners who have the facilities to obtain good aerials, and good earthen, to seek these D.X. stations. They are really worth while, and the real joy

of wireless is not known unless the man beyond the seas can be put on to your speaker in your own home.—

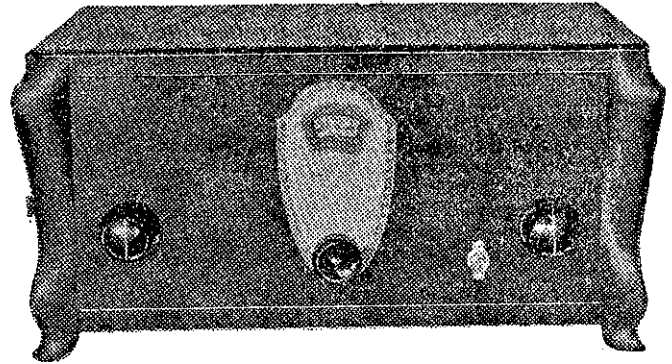
[Credit is due Mr. E. G. Shipley, Christchurch, for assistance in material for this article.—Ed.]

Fascinated by a Speaker

ONE of the most fascinating sights in radio (says London "Popular Wireless") is to watch a keen wireless enthusiast listening for the first time to a good moving-coil loudspeaker de-

monstration. Up to this time probably he has been quite content with his existing instrument—possibly he has modified the circuit slightly to get the best from it, and quite likely he is running two different loudspeakers, say a cone and a horn, together, to get the effect he desires. But once he has heard a good moving-coil instrument outfit, he realises the shortcomings of his present outfit, and how much he has deceived himself in imagining that the reproduction was really true to life

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MANGONUI,

January 26, 1929.

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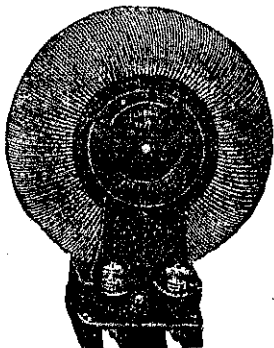
"On Short Wave I have done very little listening, but have had no difficulty in picking up the following: 5SW (London), PCJ (Amsterdam), 2XAF, 2XAD, W2XG (America), 2BG."

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