

The New Zealand Radio Record

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WELLINGTON, FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1929.

THE very general appreciation expressed by a wide circle of listeners of the presidential address given to the British Medical Association by Dr. J. S. Elliott as broadcast by 2YA emphasises the appeal that solid matter of high quality makes to the public and the service that broadcasting can render in this field as opportunity offers. While in the past the Press has rendered very fine service by reporting either in full or in great part, addresses of the nature of that given by Dr. Elliott, that service is not so full or so widespread as can now be given by radio to the extensive circle of listeners enjoying the service to-day. While it is true that possibly the entertainment aspect of radio makes the greatest appeal in point of numbers, it is also true, we think, that there is an unsatisfied demand on the part of the public for participation by means of radio in events of such a character. On this very point a few sentences from a recent issue of "World Radio" are worth quoting. That journal says: "It is an interesting reflection that the growth of broadcasting must have resulted in a vast and rather sudden spread of knowledge, not to say education. Each year anniversaries or centenaries occur. Before the advent of broadcasting, in relatively few was an interest in the subject of such anniversaries awakened. The newspapers and reviews duly recorded and commented upon them to a greater or lesser extent. Those who were interested were able thus to supplement their knowledge. To-day there is little excuse for ignorance of the lives and works of the masters of literature and music; the broadcasting programmes bring them into the greatest prominence . . ."

As with anniversaries, so with current knowledge. The popular view of the medical profession and its splendid service to humanity has been immeasurably widened by Dr. Elliott's address, and we feel on safe ground in expressing the hope that, provided other professions have at their head men capable of the same luminous grasp of their subject and outstanding capacity for expression, as displayed by the doctor, selected addresses from the proceedings of other conferences and assemblies, might be broadcast from time to time.

ON Sunday, local short-wave enthusiasts were treated to the most remarkable re-broadcast on record: Messages from Commander Byrd's Antarctic expedition were picked up with such clarity in America as to invite their re-broadcast. This being done, the re-broadcast was received, not only in New Zealand, but in the Antarctic itself, the source of origin. This is a remarkable attainment but comes merely as the coping stone, as it were, of the wonderful performance being enjoyed almost daily of reading full despatches of the doings of the Byrd Party. Taken now as a matter of course, this, in all that it signifies, is in reality one of the most wonderful events of the age.

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2YB at Work

New Musical Society

Experiment in Wellington Symphony Orchestra for Wellington

STATION 2YB was put into experimental operation in conjunction with 2YA for the first time on the afternoon of Tuesday, February 19, and has continued in operation at each session since. It is working on 268 metres, and is giving, according to early reports that have been received, very general satisfaction in the Wellington city area. A number of listeners have communicated with the station by telephone and commented upon the sweet tone of the station. This is as was expected, because it is generally understood that the reason for the sweetness of the low-powered stations as compared with the high-powered stations, is in the very fact that they are low-powered, and reception does not overtax the valves employed for reception. If it is found by Wellington listeners that reception at 2YB, as compared with reception at 2YA, is superior, then it is clear proof that their ordinary method of reception at 2YA is such as to overtax the valves. Adjustment should, therefore, be carried out, in order to make improvement. This is a matter for a technical expert, but any reputable dealer would be able to make the adjustment quite satisfactorily and quickly. We will be interested to have detailed reports from listeners in various localities as to the comparative strengths and sweetness of reception of the two stations.

IN connection with this test, a telegraph inquiry was addressed to Mr. E. J. L. Payne, president of the New Plymouth Radio Society, asking for a report on the comparative reception of 2YB and 2YA. This inquiry produced an interesting letter, which records a position of definite interest to radio listeners. When 2YB was tested in Christchurch it was heard in New Plymouth with remarkable clarity and tone, definite praise being given to the plant. When the same plant is operated from Wellington on a wavelength very close to that on which the Christchurch test was made, the results so far as reception in New Plymouth are concerned, are disappointing. This is what Mr. Payne kindly reports:—

In response to your telegram, I could not myself identify 2YB on Thursday evening, despite repeated and painstaking searching, including even a change in receivers. To-day, repeated inquiries failed to disclose anyone who had received the lower-wave transmission. To-night I did find it—by using earphones on six valves! Even then it was barely audible when located at 9 p.m. The comparison with the Christchurch test was marked. 2YA itself on 420 metres was weaker than usual, both last night and to-night. 1YA too loud with receiver at maximum, as usual.

This is certainly something of a radio puzzle, but would seem to indicate very clearly that there is some factor between Wellington and New Plymouth in either the nature of the intervening land, or the particular distance, which affects reception. It would be interesting to have reports from other country listeners on this test.

On Monday evening, after the usual transmission, 2YB was operated for a short time with a view to securing

Broadcasting Arranged For

A NEW musical society, to be known as "The Wellington Symphony Orchestra (Incorporated)," has been formed in Wellington.

The objects of the society are "to foster and encourage orchestral music, and to inaugurate and hold from time to time orchestral performances in the city of Wellington, or elsewhere as the executive council shall think fit, and generally to foster, encourage, and advance the art of music, and the study of orchestral playing."

This is stated to be the first symphony orchestra to be formed in New Zealand. The membership stands at one hundred and fifty, three hundred being the objective.

The president (the Hon. R. A. Wright), in a few remarks regarding the aims of the society, said that it should not be difficult to impress music-lovers with the great necessity for a symphony orchestra. They had been charged by musicians from overseas with not being musical. Such a statement, he considered, was not true, for New Zealanders really were musical; but the art needed developing. Another factor in the orchestra's favour was that its concerts would be broadcast, thus giving all New Zealand the benefit of its musical offerings.

It was decided to accept and place on record the offer of the Radio Broadcasting Company to allow the orchestra the use of their studio and piano, and to allow the 2YA orchestra to supplement the symphony orchestra.

Mr. de Mauny said that he hoped to arrange his programmes on the lines of those symphony concerts presented in London. He outlined various items that he hoped to present, and stated that the proposed dates set aside for the concerts were May 2, August 1, and October 31. At the first concert it was his intention to present Tschai-kowsky's "Pathetic Symphony," the "Casse Noisette" suite, the "Italian Caprice," the famous "1812" overture, and the Tschai-kowsky "Variation for 'Cello." The solo would be played by Mr. Claude Tanner.

Boxing

Big Attraction for 4YA

On the evening of Saturday, March 2, the Otago Boxing Association is staging a contest between McDonald and McInnes... The bout will commence at 9 o'clock approximately. Mr. Harry Dwyer will be the announcer for 4YA.

special reports from crystal users as to its range of effective reception. Details of this test will also be of definite interest.