

Broadcasting and Education.

Knowledge at the Fireside

Broadcast Lectures of the W.E.A.

WHEN one of London's streets was being repaved some time ago, a man noticed a nightwatchman sitting in his shelter with the earphones on. He stopped to speak, but the listener put up his hand, and said, "Shh! I'm listening to Desmond MacCarthy!" This is one of the amusing and significant stories related by a special committee set up by the British Broadcasting Company, that illustrate the wide appreciation of the educational lectures broadcasted in Britain. The committee, presided over by Sir Henry Hadow, asked whether broadcasting could so transform education to make it profitable and pleasurable to the mass of hard-working people who like to go home, smoke a pipe, and read a paper or play a game. There was little doubt that broadcasting had tremendous educational possibilities, and that already these possibilities were influencing the standards of cultural appreciation of the people. A member of the committee was talking recently to a farmer in a remote agricultural county, "There is one thing, I've noticed since this wireless came in," said the farmer, "the talk in the bars and round the fires of an evening is on vastly different subjects from what they used to talk about."

The committee proposed that the B.B.C. should associate itself with the work of a National Council for Broadcasting Adult Education. Such a committee would consider the desires of listeners-in of all interests. Broadcast-

ing education would fill many gaps in the existing adult education movement, and there was little danger that it would supplant other educational facilities, especially if the educational bodies took their share in developing it. As a result of the committee's report, since published under the title of "New Ventures in Broadcasting: A Study in Adult Education," an effort has been made to co-ordinate the educational activities by means of "Aids to Study Pamphlets," detailed programmes of "Talks and Lectures" and discussion groups.

IN New Zealand, the Otago Workers' Educational Association has delivered lecturettes since 1925, and now similar work is being done in the other centres.

Aids to Study.

AT first the British Broadcasting Company issued small pamphlets, which were supplementary to the lectures, and which contained summaries of the talks, reference to good books on the subject, questions for discussion, and pictures or diagrams. They provided both a guide to further reading and a permanent record of what had been said. These pamphlets are now incorporated in the "Radio Times." Through the pages of the "Radio Record," the Otago W.E.A. hopes in a similar way to make the lectures more interesting. In the issue before the lectures, which will be given every

Tuesday evening at 7.30 from 4YA, a summary of the lecture will be published, together with questions and books on the subject. Listeners-in are invited to send in written answers to the questions. These will be read carefully and returned with corrections and comments. The first series of four lectures will be given by Mr. Lloyd Ross, M.A., LL.B., on Drama, and will begin on April 23rd, with a lecture on "The People and the Play." Then will follow lectures on "Tragedy," "Comedy," and "Modern Social Drama." Notes on these lectures will be given in a later issue. As a suitable introduction to the talks, listeners could read the W.E.A. Correspondence Courses in "World History," "Pacific Problem," and "Modern Drama."

Correspondence and Discussion Groups.

"THE success of any talk can only be measured by the interest it arouses," says the detailed programme of "Talks and Lectures," issued by the B.B.C., and the purpose of the talks in this programme is to stimulate listeners to further study and discussion of the subject." Many, perhaps, will wish for further information on points raised by the speaker. Many will have criticisms. The Otago W.E.A. therefore is ready to receive correspondence and to answer questions. Letters should be addressed to the "Secretary, Workers' Educational Association, University of Otago, Dunedin," and should be marked "Radio Talks." In England, many listeners wishing to discuss the subjects of the talks have arranged to meet for this purpose, and either form a group to hear the talks through a loudspeaker, or listen in their own homes, and meet subsequently for discussion. The number of these "discussion" groups increases steadily. Should such groups be formed, the Otago W.E.A. is willing to work with them by meeting their wishes on the matter of subjects, and by issuing supplementary material. In any case, it is anxious to receive suggestions for its lectures. Listeners-in are reputed to know what they want and be willing to demand it. Here is their opportunity to make demands from a sympathetic audience. The W.E.A. is eager to assist in any way commensurate with its ideal of spreading the highest knowledge among the people. So let the suggestions, criticisms, complaints and demands flow in to the Secretary, University of Otago.

OTHER forms of static having exhausted their possibilities, seemingly, it is reported from Wiesbaden, Germany, that crackling noises and rumblings in radio reception are due to the action, electrical or radioactive, of the mineral water under that city, which have made it famous as a health resort; and that such disturbances are especially strong after sunset.

DENMARK has followed a new idea in broadcasting, taking the form of programmes addressed to dwellers in specific countries. The first of these transmissions given recently under the title of "Broadcast to England," was designed to interest listeners in the British Isles, and included English music and tales in English on Denmark. The second of the series was a "Broadcast to Germany," consisting solely of talks (in German) on Denmark as a "tourist-land."

DX Club

Concerning the Whalers.

IN this week's "Record" there are some inquiries in regard to stations, one just above 2YA's wave and the other in 4QG's, and both speaking in foreign language. The stations are the two factory ships of the Ross Seas whalers, the Sir James Clark Ross and C. A. Larsen. The Sir James Clark Ross transmitting just above 2YA, and is frequently heard calling the Larsen, and carrying out duplex telephony with it. The language is as a rule Norwegian, but just before leaving their base at Stewart Island for U.S.A. and Norway they were heard in English saying farewell to friends. Both the whalers have powerful transmitters, and here are heard at boisterous strength.—Allan Parcell (Invercargill).

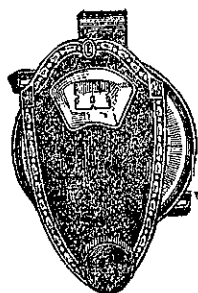
A Mysterious Station.

IN a recent issue of the "Radio Record" "Switch" was commenting on a strange station which is working near 4QG. We have found two strangers about there. One, as "Switch" said, is the whaler C. A. Larsen, but the other is a mystery. He was picked up last night (23rd), playing the latest foxtrot, but as 4QG had motor-cycle races on it was hard to hear, but this is what was heard of the call sign, "Hullo, Hullo, 50," and he then disappeared. Who is it? The whaler Sir James Clark Ross has been heard also. His wave-length is 430 metres, and calls LSXQ.—Mt. Bengor Radio Club (Ettrich).

New Americans.

IN answer to the query from Kellich (Mangamahu) regarding the station on 231 metres, I consider it to be KDYL, Salt Lake City 232.6 metres, or KTBI, Lost Angeles, 230.5 metres. It is probably KTBI that this listener heard, for he said it sounded like KGI, and this is very near to it. Mr. Ireland (Taradale) writes that he has never seen KOIN reported in the DX Club. On consulting my log, I logged this station on December 28, and since have received verification from them; 1000 watts, 319 metres. I logged them on a boxing contest at weak speaker strength. Re KGO, is on 379.5 metres. On Sunday, 24th, he was at full speaker strength, but with heavy fading. The station HPG's logged on 254 metres is 4ZL, relaying KGO. Hope this helps Mr. Ireland. Has Mr. Ireland heard 3RI lately, and have heard this station on short-wave testing on March 11. I have added two more new Yanks to my list in the last three nights—KXO, 249 metres, 100 watts, El Centro, California, on March 24. This, I consider, is not bad for a five-valve set. The other is KDYL, 232 metres, Salt Lake City, at 7.30 p.m., 1000 watts, at weak speaker strength. He signed off at 1 a.m., P.S.T., with time signals. Has any DX listener heard him? How many listeners heard 2XS transmitting on Wednesday, 20th, on 220 metres? This station came through at full speaker strength very clearly, steadily, without fading. The station heard on 2YA wave is C. A. Larsen. He came through here as loud as 2YA on Wednesday, 20th. I thought it was one of the Japs.

The Americans are coming through with great strength lately, so I hope to do some good logging.—S. Ellis (Okato).



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