

of the British Commonwealth of Nations shall be able to listen to another's programmes. (3) Interests that appeal to the individual; popular hobbies. (4) Music, where it is easy for the listener to concentrate, and for the lecture or exposition to be accompanied by illustration. (5) Literature, including the drama. The fine reading of fine poetry in England has greatly increased the popular appreciation of the essential elements of poetry. (6) Languages, English and foreign; the Germans have developed a very interesting and effective technique in teaching conversation. (7) Subjects capable of vivid descriptive treatment—lives, travel talks, historical sketches, science, health, farming practice and science. (8) Problems of business, citizenship, politics. The last class suggests a question:—Should controversial subjects be tabooed? Most certainly not. That would be to shut out what are among the most stimulating and important of matters. But great care must be used. Only men who are leaders of thought, and have a due sense of their responsibilities should speak on such subjects. All points of view, without exception, should be expounded. Then shall there be much profit to the nation "if listeners can acquire the habit of hearing with patience and equanimity, differing points of view expressed in an authoritative, reasonable, and fair-minded way." Debates are recommended as being effective and popular; the speakers are partisan, but that is understood; there is an atmosphere of fair play, and the public can listen with amused tolerance or sit in serious judgment.

#### Duty of the Listener.

**B**UT we are talking of really educative broadcast. If the listener is to get real benefit he must first make a definite mental effort to concentrate on the subject in hand or at his ear. Secondly, there should be within his reach aids to study in the shape of books, suggestions for discussions, etc. Publications must form an essential part of a programme of educational broadcast, and here one could say a great deal of the way in which public libraries in England co-operate with the B.B.C. Thirdly, since the contact of minds is an essential feature in education, the listener should form one of a group for discussion. These groups in England keep in touch with the lecturer of the studio by sending him questions and suggestions through their leader.

I hope I have said enough to show that there is a strong case for regarding wireless as a possible powerful factor in education peculiarly well adapted to play a very important part in adult education; that its potentialities in shaping national outlook and opinion, particularly in a country like ours, thinly populated and also far removed from the great intellectual centres of the world, should attract the attention and interest of the Government with a view to an investigation and assessment of these possibilities; and finally that to secure a full measure of advantage it will be necessary to devise with great care organisations, both local and national which will be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of regular and well-thought-out courses. Here the practice of the Old Country, though still in the experimental stage, would be of great value.

## Amateur Radio Society

### Address by Mr. Owen

**T**HE annual meeting of the Amateur Radio Society, Wellington, will be held in the Dominion Farmers' Institute Building on Monday, May 27, at 8 p.m. It is hoped that a large attendance of members and other listeners will be recorded. Following the discharge of the formal business, the late president of the society, Mr. J. H. Owen, will give an address on his experiences of broadcasting in other countries and a demonstration with a portable receiving set. Mr. Owen has just returned from an extended tour, and it is certain that his remarks will be of great interest to listeners.

Apart from this attraction, the society is desirous of the special support of listeners. It fulfils a very useful function to the cause of radio, and listeners will be consulting their own interests by giving it support.

**M**R. R. L. JONES writes:—I should like to make an appeal to listeners in the Wellington district to join the Wellington Amateur Radio Society and attend the next annual meeting. It is obvious to those who care to study the facts that district societies of listeners are essential if radio broadcasting is to progress on the right lines; for no matter what those in control of broadcasting may think and believe, due recognition to the requests of listeners must be given by those in authority over broadcasting. The work of the society is done voluntarily by a body of keen men—men who are actuated by the very best desires and ideals; and the close attention given to detail on behalf of listeners as a whole could not be amply paid for out of the small subscription; the latter being only sufficient to cover cost of meeting rooms, postage, and other petty expenses. The society depends upon subscriptions for its existence.

Apart from subscriptions and finance generally, comes the matter of attendance at meetings. It is very disconcerting to a president and his executive officers if meetings are not well attended. The least listeners can do is to attend the meetings, which are held approximately each month. It is no sinecure to run a society on small rations; and much worse to try and run a society if members do not roll up regularly; worst still, if the public won't even join the society. The society jumped from, roughly, 30 or so members about two years ago to somewhere in the vicinity of 300 or more members, and it should be ten times that number and more. Wellington is known as a city "hard to shift"; only an earthquake seems to liven people up. Let us hope that this stigma will be removed as far as radio listening is concerned. Whether a member or not, all listeners should attend the next meeting.

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## B.B.C. Decisions

### Much Public Comment

**S**OME of the decisions of the B.B.C. authorities are occasioning a good deal of comment in the British Press. Recently it was announced that the names of announcers would not be made public. Next it was decided that the names of dance tunes being broadcast should not be given. Following on this it was intimated that the names of actors in radio plays should not be announced to the public.

The reason behind these decisions is the desire to concentrate the attention of the listener upon the actual performance rather than upon the individuality of the announcer or the performer. The reason for withholding the names of dance tunes was the desire to avoid giving gratuitous advertisements to such tunes. The B.B.C. had been in the habit of broadcasting the public performances of such well-known bands as those maintained at the Hotel Cecil, the Savoy Hotel and the Kitcat Restaurant. The conductors of these bands developed the practice of announcing to the patrons assembled (and to the listeners) the name of the tune to be given, and it was felt that in some cases use was being made of this to attract attention to new dance numbers being placed before the public. Negotiations between the B.B.C. and the various bands for the avoidance of the habit proved unavailing, and eventually the practice of broadcasting these bands was abandoned.

The explanation of the ceasing to give the actor's name in the case of a broadcast of radio plays is that the object is to place emphasis on the play, and not on the player. It is desired that the actors should be disembodied from their own personalities and assume the roles of those they play.

These decisions have not proved acceptable to all listeners, and, as indicated, a good deal of correspondence of a diverse character has appeared in the British Press. Some actors, who are well known, who in the past have been appearing in wireless plays, take the view that the B.B.C.'s decision would probably affect the calibre of the actor taking part in radio plays. The publicity derivable from mention of the performer's name over the air was accepted by some actors as being part compensation for the relatively small fees paid by the B.B.C. for the performances. With that eliminated, it was felt that either the fees would have to be increased or a lower standard of acting accepted.

## Long Distance Relays

### Whangarei Offers Band Concert

**L**ONG-DISTANCE relays were carried out in the South Island last week by the Broadcasting Company, with very satisfactory results. Thanks to the efforts made by the officers of the Post and Telegraph Department, excellent telephone lines made suitable for broadcasting purposes were at the disposal of the YA stations.

Other proposed relays are Timaru on June 10 (Orchestral Society's concert) and a band concert from Whangarei. This will take place on a Sunday evening on a date to be arranged, provided a relay line is available.

## Comments of Listeners

### Quality of Programmes

**T**HE fact that we have received no further letters from listeners in response to our request for comments on the quality of programmes issued, may be taken, we think, as a definite indication that a general degree of satisfaction prevails with the efforts being put forth to cater for all tastes. One letter has come to hand couched in strong terms of condemnation of the Electrical Federation's move, which we dealt with a fortnight ago. This correspondent suggests that listeners would see through the reasons behind the move and expresses the opinion that the "forty thousand delighted listeners" do not grudge their payment for a whole year's splendid entertainment, education and pleasure. It gave him much pleasure to assert that so far as he was concerned as a voluntary critic of the company's service, his suggestions, requests and objections had been invariably attended to with every satisfaction to himself and those listeners in his district who had been good and candid enough to set out their opinions in regard to the services they had been receiving. He was pleased to be able to reiterate that the only complaint that he had ever had to make in any of his reports, had been the presence in his locality of owners of sets who through ignorance or cussedness create howling in other sets.

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