

**The Eternal Night****Down at Antarctic**

(From R. Leslie Jones, Lyall Bay.)

**"WE think of you during your Eternal Night."**

These words, uttered on Saturday night, June 1, with dramatic force by Announcer James Wallington from broadcast station WGY, Schenectady, New York, meant much to Commander Byrd and his gallant men now located at "Little America" in the Antarctic, and also the thousands who had the opportunity of listening to the splendid musical programme broadcast by WGY (790 kilo-cycles) and allied stations 2XAF (9530 K.C.) and 2XAD (15,340 K.C.).

The Checkers Cab Company provided a fine programme; some bright orchestral items included, a feature being "King of the South Pole," specially dedicated to Commander Byrd, and sung by a lady. Loud applause in the studio greeted this and each other item. "Sweet Rosie O'Grady" was another item much enjoyed.

Interspersed in the programme were a few short talks by personal friends of Commander Byrd's party. A budget of messages were read out to members of the expedition, both at the "Frozen South" and also abroad the City of New York and Ellinor Bolling, now lying at Dunedin waiting for the ice to break up at the polar regions.

Some of the messages caused not a little laughter, and some of the others created perhaps a little pathos. A large variety of subjects was touched upon, from "The Baby's Progress" to "The Tenth Anniversary of a Wedding," and a message "From mother, father, and grandmother" to their brave son many miles away, helped listeners to visualise a lifelike picture of the men down south, and their parents, relatives, and friends at home listening in at 2 a.m. in the morning (American time), a warm summer morning in New York; a message indicating that a small share of the colder atmosphere of the Antarctic would be very acceptable in New York at the present time.

The radio engineer of the U.S. Army Signal Corps spoke to the radio engineer at "Little America," offering congratulations for the magnificent radio work being performed at the Antarctic.

Mr. Russell Owen, the "New York Times" official correspondent with the expedition, was heartily congratulated for his splendid articles which have been appearing in the Press throughout the world.

**Icebergs****Lecture from 4YA**

UNDER the auspices of the Otago W.E.A., Dr. Tochen, of the University of Otago, will deliver a lecture from 4YA on Tuesday, June 18, at 7.30.

No one will deny that icebergs are a menace to shipping. Since the world was shocked by the dreadful Titanic disaster there have been several minor accidents due to the same cause. We are inclined in New Zealand to underestimate the danger, since our shipping rarely enters the iceberg zones. In a recent cable message, however, one of these rare cases was reported—a boat en route from Cape Town to Auckland sighted a large iceberg when a few days out from South Africa. The danger has been diminished to some extent by improved steamship design embodying the use of many water-tight compartments, but naturally a removal of the cause of danger would be a more thorough and satisfactory solution to the problem. Besides this, the composition and structure of these large masses of ice and their life history have attracted the attention of several notable scientists. For these and other reasons the "life and habits" of icebergs have been closely investigated and more especially since the war methods for locating and for destroying them have been studied principally in Canada, whose shipping has

Further humour was added when a message from a friend in America to one of the Byrd party, stated that pedestrians in a city in U.S.A. were compelled to respect the red and green traffic signals, and follow vehicular traffic; much fun being caused when (sage) being quick on the track of the someone pushed a pedestrian off the kerb on to the roadway against the red signal, the "cop" (stated the messenger).

Miss Sylvia Kennedy (Miss Schenectady), recently selected as "Miss New York State," spoke from the studio to Commander Byrd and party; and at 4.45 p.m. (New Zealand time) the entertaining announcer, James Wallington, speaking from WGY, said: "We have now come to the end of our programme; it is hard to say good-night; we think of you during your eternal night."

The programme from New York was received on short-wave throughout, on the loudspeaker, and was perfectly clear and steady.

been seriously embarrassed by their prevalence.

Icebergs are "born" towards the late summer round the edges of the huge ice-sheets surrounding the polar continents. It may be recalled that Commander Byrd's boat, the City of New York, was carried away once when a huge block of the ice-sheet broke away from the parent body. The subsequent history of the icebergs depends largely on the ocean currents and prevailing winds. Their occurrence is most frequently observed in the North Atlantic, where the steamers have for safety during the winter months to adopt a more southerly course than the direct one followed the rest of the year. Icebergs are deceptive as to size, for as most people know the greater part of them is submerged. Not a few would be surprised to know that only about one-tenth of the volume is visible. (The exact proportion can be reckoned from the relation that 100 cubic feet of water expand on freezing to form 109 cubic feet of ice.) The problem of locating icebergs is not so difficult as that of destroying them. In fact this latter problem has taxed the ingenuity of engineers and physicists very considerably, but it is now maintained that a reliable and practical method has been discovered and it is with this method that the lecture on June 18 will chiefly deal. It is manifestly impossible to destroy icebergs until they are located and the obvious but not the easiest or safest method of doing this is to keep a bright look-out for them in the regions where they are most dangerous. This method rather overlooks the danger to the small craft doing the scouting, which have to be specially constructed like the Russian Government's ice-breakers, and the prevalence of fogs in these particular regions. The distance of the visual horizon is, in any case, strictly limited by the height of the observer above the sea level. Another method which suggests itself is to use some physical property of the iceberg to enable you to detect it from a distance, for instance its low temperature, which is, of course, 0 degrees Centigrade, or its solidity. Actually both these properties have been utilised, but it is the solidity together with a means of producing and recording suitable sound waves which has led to the best method of location. With this the lecturer will also deal.

**Well-known European Conductor Talks on Broadcasting**

THE conductor of the Pavlova Orchestra, Elfrém Kurtz, paid a surprise visit to the studios of the New South Wales Broadcasting Company Limited during the week, and expressed himself in enthusiastic terms of the up-to-date studios from which 2FO programmes are transmitted, and also the standard of music in New South Wales. Mr. Kurtz has been intimately associated with the Stuttgart Broadcasting station for the past five years. He is the musical director, and is chiefly concerned with conducting orchestral performances, many of which are broadcast from the principal theatres.

It was interesting to learn that listeners in Germany pay at the rate of 2s. per month, English money, for their license, which agrees with the 2s. a year paid by Australian listeners.

The Postal Department in Germany deduct one-twentieth, or a little over 1s. a year for administration or collection. In Australia the departmental deduction is 1s. per listener's license. The transmission side in Germany can be run more cheaply than is the case here, and with royalties and copyrights on a lower scale there is a bigger percentage left for actual programme presentation.

Mr. Kurtz described how the public performances of his symphony orchestra are broadcast. An orchestra of 85 members plays from the stage of the theatre, one microphone is suspended (the height of the dress-circle) halfway between the front row of the dress-circle and the proscenium, and the second microphone suspended very high up and directly on top of the orchestra.

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