

Competitions for Constructors

[In connection with Wellington Radio Exhibition, Town Hall, July 25-27, constructional and literary competitions under the auspices of the Wellington Amateur Radio Society.]

TO permit constructors displaying their capacity and demonstrating the simplicity and attractiveness of radio, the following competitions have been arranged in connection with the forthcoming Radio Exhibition.

1.—BEST AMATEUR HOME-MADE CRYSTAL SET.

(Under 18.) Entrance Fee 1s. 6d. 1st Prize, £1 1s.; 2nd Prize 10s. 6d.

Points.—(1) Signal Strength; (2) Selectivity; (3) Neatness and Construction.

2.—BEST AMATEUR HOME-MADE NOVELTY SET (Capable of Local Reception).

Entrance Fee 1s. 6d. 1st Prize, £1 1s.; 2nd Prize, 10s. 6d. (In a cigarette case, pocket set, etc.)

3.—BEST HOME-MADE VALVE RECEIVING SET.

Entrance Fee 2s. 1st Prize, £2 2s.; 2nd Prize, £1 1s.

Points for Judging.—(1) Tone and Quality; (2) Selectivity (for 4); (3) Volume; (4) Layout, Wiring, Construction; (5) Simplicity of Operation; (6) Economy.

4.—ESSAY: "POSSIBILITIES OF RADIO." (Not necessarily Technical).

(Limit, 1,500 words). Entrance Fee 1s. 1st Prize, £2 2s.; 2nd Prize, £1 1s.

Entries for Essay to be sent, with 1s. postal note attached, to "Essay," c/o "Radio Record," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington. Closing date July 17, 1929.

CONDITIONS:

1.—Entries for competitions 1 to 3 (inclusive) will close on WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1929, and must be delivered, accompanied by the necessary fee, at the Studio of 2YA, between the hours of 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. on that evening.

2.—The Wellington Amateur Radio Society, who are conducting this competition on behalf of the Radio Exhibition Committee, will take care of exhibits, but cannot take any responsibility, with the exception of the loss by fire or theft, which will be covered by insurance, and entry must be made strictly on that understanding.

3.—The Society will not be responsible for any damage to sets during the judging, but it will take all precautions possible to prevent such happening.

4.—Every competitor must ticket each valve with the "A" and "B" voltage to be applied. "A," "B," and "C" batteries will be provided by the Society.

5.—If, in the opinion of the judge, the quality of the exhibit or exhibits in any one section is not of sufficient merit to warrant the first or any prize given, the Society reserves to itself the right to allocate the first or any other prize as the judge may direct.

6.—The judge's decision shall in all cases be accepted as final, subject to the conditions of entry being fulfilled. Any appeal concerning a breach of said conditions must be made during the period of the Exhibition.

7.—The Society to have the right to show the selected exhibits in each section at the Radio Exhibition.

8.—After the Judge's decision has been made, delivery must be taken of all unsuccessful entries on Wednesday, July 24, from the 2YA Studio, between the hours of 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., or as otherwise arranged. Exhibits required for the show will be delivered to owners from the show between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. on July 27, or between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Monday, July 29.

9.—It shall be a condition of entry that each exhibit shall be home built and constructed without any assistance or supervision by any person connected with the radio trade.

Are you a member of the Wellington Amateur Radio Society? If not, join now. Subscription, 5s. per annum.

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Origin of Radio Terms

(Continued from page 13.)

close companion, the Rev. W. Wheelwell, who apparently knew his Greek. The word electric was first used by Dr. William Gilbert, the physician to Queen Elizabeth, in the general sense we use it now, although the Greek word for amber is electron, and relates to the golden, sunlike colour of the stone which played such an important part in the rise of electricity. The first work to use the word "electricity" was written by Robert Boyle, and published at Oxford in 1675.

Just where magnet comes from is hard to discover. There are many interesting tales, the most repeated being its derivation from a poem written by one Nicander, a couple of centuries B.C. It concerns a shepherd named Magnes, who, in wandering around, found the ferrule of his staff suddenly adhering to a stone subsequently called after him the Magnes stone, or magnet. This is the first intimation that shepherds were accustomed to have their staves ferruled in the manner of modern canes, and sounds rather fishy.

Fully as interesting as any of our modern terms is the word "rheostat." This is the last survivor of a terminology which at one time was quite common. Electric meters, particularly galvanometers, which were about the only metres used, were called rheometers. The whole group of rheo words came from the fact that in Greek that word means "flow," and so galvanometers were "flowmetres" and variable resistances for keeping the flow steady became rheostats.

The Personal Touch.

MOST of the early terms were derived from names of people, as the list above shows. Much descriptive language came from the same source. An electric battery was a "galvanic" cell, the name coming from poor old Galvani, who certainly deserves something in his honour, and now we speak of galvanometers to commemorate this great Italian.

Radio Round the World

IT is interesting to learn that station KDKA has for some time past been rebroadcasting British time signals from 2LO by means of short waves. This forms part of regular tests which are being conducted upon short waves between the two countries. KDKA, Pittsburg, often rebroadcasts the chimes of Big Ben. The Chief Broadcasting Engineer of the Westinghouse Company at Pittsburg is Mr. C. W. Horn, who has been prominently associated with broadcasting and particularly with short-wave experimental work for some time past.

IT is anticipated that one of the first relay stations to be built by the Australian Commonwealth Government under the National Broadcasting Service will be in the Newcastle district, where there is a population of over 200,000 people who will come directly under the influence of radio. Newcastle at the present time suffers from certain disabilities in respect to its reception of programmes from Sydney. The night programmes are affected to a certain extent by distortion, and it is

to the relay station that listeners in that district look for relief. It may be anticipated that within twelve months of the establishment of a relay station in the Newcastle district, 20,000 new licenses will go towards swelling the total for New South Wales.

WIRELESS licenses in force in Australia at the end of May were as follows:—

	In force.	Month's totals.
New South Wales ..	98,550	1,673 †
Victoria	143,344	49 ‡
Queensland	24,681	54 ‡
South Australia ...	23,573	387 †
Western Australia..	3,790	32 †
Tasmania	4,604	137 †
	298,551	2,234
† Increase.	‡ Decrease.	

THREE years ago the percentage of crystal sets operating in New South Wales was about 70 per cent. The reduction from 70 per cent. to 25 per cent., its present proportion, has been effected by slow and easy stages. In Victoria, however, the large percentage to-day of crystal set receivers, estimated at 60 per cent., is explained by the fact that local interference has not played a big part in reception of programmes by listeners and it is still possible in Melbourne to satisfactorily receive the two "A" class station programmes with a very humble type of crystal set. It is evident now that a change-over from crystal set to the valve set is taking place, as we find that during the last twelve months licenses in Victoria have suffered several setbacks. Between May 1928 and 1929 the increase in the southern capital is under 7000.

THE R.A.F. wireless station at Cairo has sent a message to Croydon Aerodrome stating that telephone conversations sent out by an aeroplane, which was carrying out tests with a Marconia short-wave experimental transmitter, while flying over England, were distinctly heard in Cairo. This would appear to be a record in long-distance transmission from an aeroplane in flight.

A DEVICE has now been perfected which will send out S.O.S. signals automatically once it has been started. The machine is not unlike a small portable typewriter in appearance, and in addition to the S.O.S. it will also send, by wireless telegraphy, transmissions of latitude and longitude, call-signs and certain other signals, and can be operated by any one unacquainted with the code.

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