

THE Amateur Radio Society of Wellington, which is conducting the competitions for constructors on behalf of the Radio Exhibition Committee, was founded about six years ago, before broadcasting as we know it to-day, was inaugurated.

Wellington during the infancy of the Radio Society was served intermittently and regularly by low-power broadcast stations maintained partly by voluntary subscriptions from the trade, and listeners. The programmes comprised gramophone records lent by kind enthusiasts, and items by local and occasionally visiting talent.

Where assistance is on a purely voluntary basis, a service is difficult to maintain, and, as the operating and maintenance charges of the broadcasting plants were considerable, little wonder that the service was such that broadcast listening by the general public made very little progress. It is due to those hardy pioneers of broadcasting, however, to mention that they undoubtedly firmly established the cult of broadcast listening in New Zealand. There were "outside" stations in Auckland and Dunedin in those primeval days, which afforded Wellington listeners a good deal of pleasure by their excellent programmes and transmission. But, again, their maintenance was based partly on voluntary contribu-

tions, and it was abundantly evident that New Zealand, if it wanted to keep abreast of the times, must establish a national scheme of broadcasting supported by compulsory financial contributions by both the listeners and the radio trade.

From the outset the Amateur Radio Society of Wellington came under the control of broadcast listeners, though the original idea of the founders was that amateur morse transmission should take a prominent place in the activities of the society. So strong, however, was the broadcast listening section of the society from its very inception that any move towards the carrying-out of amateur morse transmission was never discussed after the initial meeting of the society.

Those who prominently opposed amateur transmission pointed out that the logical trend of radio was towards broadcast listening, and that in a few years the number of amateur transmitters in New Zealand would constitute only about three per cent. of the number of radio licensees. That this estimate was fairly accurate is borne out by the official figures of to-day.

It was regarded, at the outset, as obvious that the interests of broadcast listeners and amateur transmitters were not the same, and, unfortunately, were, at that time, in conflict owing to a good deal of annoyance caused broadcast listeners through interfer-

ence by amateur transmitters who were not then employing the ultra-short-waves now in vogue.

In justice to the amateur transmitters, it must be explained that broadcast receiving sets were far more difficult to operate during that period, and a reasonable degree of selectivity was not obtained, either through lack of skill on the part of the listeners, or inherent faults in some of the circuits employed by them. In individual instances there were faults on the other side.

Feeling ran pretty high at times between the broadcast listeners and the amateur transmitters, so that any suggestion that the Amateur Radio Society should establish a morse transmitting station was tabooed. The hatchet, however, has long since been buried.

WHEN the Radio Broadcasting Company of New Zealand commenced operations about the end of 1925 it marked the dawn of a new era of broadcasting in this country, and in less than three years the number of licensed listeners throughout the Dominion rose to over 40,000. With the general progress of radio, vast improvements have been made in radio receiving circuits and all forms of equipment, and the public of to-day have the benefit of the concentration of years of scientific research and experience.

The Amateur Radio Society of Wellington has increasingly striven to be of service to the general body of broadcast listeners, as well as its own members. The general meetings have, excepting in few instances, been open to the general public. Per medium of lectures by the most expert radio men of the community, the society has endeavoured to assist the broadcast listener whether he be a home-constructor or merely one who desires to learn the principles governing radio reception and reproduction. The care and attention of radio equipment, the most desirable type of components to use, and the reason thereof, have also been exhaustively dealt with in these lectures at regular monthly meetings, generally held now in the Congregational Church Schoolroom, Kent Terrace, on the second Tuesday of each month.

While not claiming to be the mouth-piece of the general body of broadcast listeners, the Wellington Society frequently acts as a medium in placing before the Broadcasting Company representations considered likely to increase the popularity of the broadcast service. In a number of cases these suggestions have been adopted by the Broadcasting Company, and the friendliest relations exist between the company and the society, even though their opinions may not always coincide.

In keeping with the policy of the Wellington Society, it has consented to conduct the competitions for constructors, and also the essay competition on behalf of the Wellington Radio Exhibition Committee. These competitions are strictly confined to amateurs whether members of the society or not, and it is anticipated that there will be numerous entries in all four competitions.

In the constructional competitions neatness of work and design will be important factors in determining the prize-winners. The society has obtained the services of a radio technician of outstanding ability to act as judge.

## Radio Society

(Concluded from page 11.)

notice of his rescinding motion before a reply had been received from the company. The best relations existed between the society and the Broadcasting Company, and if the society desired to retain the respect of the company it was only fit and proper that the rescinding motion be carried and forwarded to the company to disclose the more considered attitude of the society with regard to the football relays.

The chairman (Mr. Byron Brown) briefly endorsed Mr. Levy's views, and asked whether anyone had anything to say on the matter. As there was no response he said all that remained was to put the motion to the meeting.

The motion was then put, and was carried unanimously.

A somewhat dramatic incident occurred after the motion was carried. A lady asked the chairman whether she could say a few words. On permission being granted she stated that her husband, who was bed-ridden and blind, looked forward eagerly to the Saturday afternoon football relays.

The chairman remarked that there were without doubt many scores of other stricken men who shared the sick man's fondness for the football relays.

IN reply to a letter from the society urging that the Sunday afternoon sessions of 2YA, Wellington, be extended till 5 p.m., the Broadcasting Company stated in a letter: "We will be very pleased to bear the suggestion in mind that the Sunday afternoon session at 2YA be extended to 5 p.m., although at the present moment circumstances will not permit of this being carried out. At the same time, you will appreciate that the service given by 2YA has recently been extended above that given by our other stations by the introduction of a dinner music session, and in the circumstances any further increase in the service must first be considered in respect to our other stations. We will, however, bear your suggestion in mind for further consideration." Members pointed out that the dinner music sessions had resulted through representations by the society.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to a lecture by Mr. L. H. Wright on moving-coil loudspeakers. This was listened to with the greatest interest, and an account of it appears elsewhere.

## Radio for Flats

RADIO catering for flat-dwellers is a problem which is perhaps more acute in New York than in any other part of the world, and various systems for apartment houses (or what we would call "blocks of flats") have been introduced lately. In the new Kehaya apartment building in New York there are 118 flats, and these are all connected to a certain radio distribution system, very much after the same manner as central heating arrangements. The plant has been insulated by the Radio Corporation of America, and all the tenant of a flat has to do is to plug his set to one of two single-wire aeri-als, when he can tune to any desired station.

