

Wellington Society**Helpful Hints****Laboratory Jottings****Monthly Meeting**

THE Amateur Radio Society of Wellington held its monthly meeting in the Cambridge Terrace Congregational Schoolroom on the evening of October 8. About forty were present, and Mr. Byron Brown (president) occupied the chair.

A letter was received from the Rev. Dr. Gibb thanking the society for the message of appreciation of his recent broadcast talk on the League of Nations.

The Radio Broadcasting Company wrote acknowledging appreciation of the society's motion commending the company's broadcasting of the Wellington Competitions and the Schneider Cup contest.

A motion was carried expressing appreciation of the broadcast from 2YA, Wellington, of the Edgar Wallace play last Monday evening, as bearing evidence of the company's desire to introduce variety into the programmes. The entracte music by Mr. Truda's orchestra was also commended.

Mr. P. B. Billing gave an interesting lecture on A.C. amplifiers, with black-board diagrams. At the conclusion he gave a demonstration with an A.C. amplifier and electric gramophone with an electro-dynamic loudspeaker which he had constructed according to his own design. The natural tone of the gramophone items evoked hearty applause. Mr. Billing was accorded an enthusiastic vote of thanks.

The secretary (Mr. Laws) announced that members of the Association of Radio Transmitters had consented to give a lecture on short-wave reception at the next meeting of the society, fixed for November 12.

A Tool Protector.

WIRELESS experimenters are often at a loss to find a convenient method of preventing steel tools, such as drills, from rusting. An excellent plan is to bury them in a handful of ordinary tea contained in a suitable tin. Dry tea is one of the most hygroscopic of substances, absorbing all the moisture surrounding it, and if used for some time should be dried out periodically.

Spring-cleaning Loudspeakers.

LACK of clear reproduction and falling off in reception is rarely attributed to the loudspeaker, once it has given good results. If a horn type speaker is used, "sogginess" in reproduction may, however, be caused by the accumulation of dust and fluff on the diaphragm. Electrically, the instrument is probably sound, but domestically it needs spring-cleaning, especially if it has been in use for some time. The diaphragm is thus hampered by the small wad of material formed, thus producing a "cotton-wool" effect.

A Useful Accessory.

A POUND of plasticine is a very useful investment for any wireless enthusiast. A few examples of the uses to which it may be put are as follow:—With aerial coupling, it is sometimes desired to support a coil at a particular angle, and at a particular height near another. A small piece of plasticine can be shaped to give the necessary support. Another small piece will temporarily secure a couple of wires in the desired positions when they show a tendency to become tangled, or to short-circuit with others. In short-wave work, when valve-holders are dispensed with to give increased efficiency, a valve can be securely supported upside down by pressing its bulb into a piece of plasticine.

Tuning Trouble.

A MINOR outbreak of tuning trouble and of the local station shifting its setting upon the tuning dials of a receiver, usually occurs every summer. The trouble usually manifests itself as a slight falling-off of signal strength and an unaccountable variation in the setting of the tuning condenser. Generally the cause of this fault is poor earthing contact, due to the seasonal dryness of the soil. Any one who has to do this "dial-dodging" should try the effect of a bucket or two of water round the earth lead.

Odd Tips.

WHITE spots upon accumulator plates are a sign that sulphation is setting in.

IF you use an earth connection to a water-pipe make sure that the pipe is not painted or dirty, as such connections depend for their efficiency upon being affixed to a thoroughly clean surface.

WHEN loudspeakers are arranged in series with one another, it is very easy to short one of them by means of an ordinary on-off filament switch.

A GREAT many failures to get good reproduction arise from carelessness with the grid-bias battery or its leads.

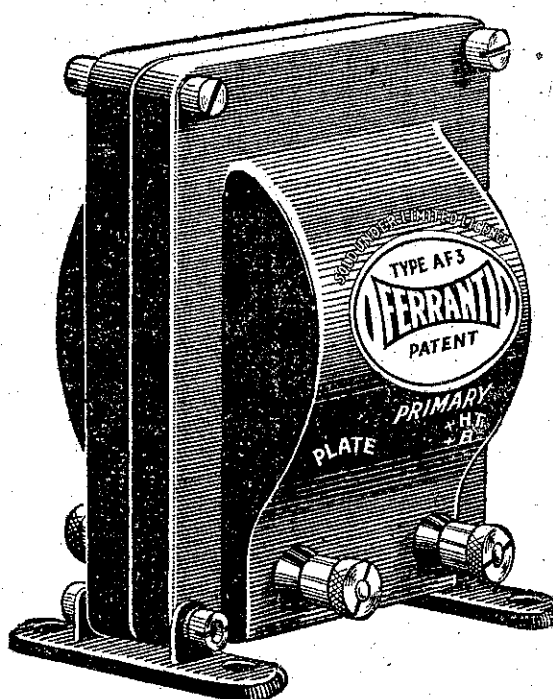
"Ferranti Trickle Charger"

MESSRS A. D. RILEY have sent to us for test one of their well-known trickle chargers. This is a very neat arrangement, its dimensions being approximately 8 by 3 by 4, the terminals being arranged along the longer side. Tappings are being provided for 2, 4, and 6 volts. The measured output of this charger is .42 amps, and it will operate for approximately 100 hours on a unit of electricity, this latter in most instances costing only 2d.

Used with an electrolytic condenser the charger could very successfully operate a moving coil loudspeaker, the consumption of which is approximately half amp. It will charge for very long periods without the slightest heating. Rectification is carried out by the Westinghouse metal rectifying unit.

THE first United States radio beacon has just passed its final tests. It has a radius of 400 miles and enables airmen to keep their course during fog.

DO not expect an audio transformer secondary to make a good audio choke for powerful output work, as it is fundamentally unsuited for such a purpose.

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