

1YA Lectures

Talks on Zoology

Radio Advertising

Freely Used in Election Fight

Wellington Radio Society

Monthly Meeting

Wanganui Choral Society

Relay by 2YA

AT 1YA on Saturday, November 30,

Professor J. C. Sperrin-Johnson, president of the Auckland Zoological Society, will give a talk on the activities and objects of the society. The lecture is timed for 7.40. This address is another of the interesting series of talks arranged by 1YA.

The Auckland Zoological Society is of comparatively recent formation, and is the logical outcome of the very fine zoological park which the Auckland City has. The suggestion for the society's formation came from His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Geo. Baidon), and a public meeting readily endorsed the proposal, and the membership, which includes many well-known people, is steadily increasing.

The society's objects are to encourage the study of zoology in the Dominion, and in the Auckland provincial districts in particular; to promote a knowledge and interest in the native fauna of New Zealand, and encourage its protection; and to publish bulletins and papers relating to zoology.

The society has been fortunate in securing as its first president Professor J. C. Sperrin-Johnson, M.A., M.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., Litt.D., F.Z.C., F.R.G.S., who occupies the Chair of Biology at the Auckland University College. Professor Sperrin-Johnson gave an initial talk from 1YA on Thursday, November 11, and a further talk will be given on November 30, St. Andrew's night. After the New Year it is proposed to run a series of zoological talks, the society arranging for the speakers.

For any of our readers interested in the activities of the society, we desire to add that the hon. secretary and treasurer is Mr. T. W. M. Ashby, A.A.I.S., Town Hall, Auckland, and he will be happy to furnish particulars of membership to any interested. Members have the privilege of free admission to the zoological park on any day of the year, and also receive a certain number of complimentary tickets which may be given to friends.

"NEWSPAPER NEWS," an Australian technical journal, says of the recent political campaign there:—

"Broadcast stations came into their own as advertising mediums during the Federal election campaign. Never in Australian history have they been hired to such an extent by the political parties.

"The 'A' class stations (which do not accept advertising) broadcast one speech by each of the party leaders, and left it at that. But with the knowledge that hundreds of thousands of persons can now listen in, the politicians were eager to get their propaganda on to the air every night; and so the 'B' class stations, which may be leased for advertising purposes, reaped a rich harvest.

"On the last night of the campaign, 2GB, Sydney, staged 16 Nationalist speakers, in addition to the Premier and Prime Minister, and Mr. Hughes. The Queensland station, 4QG, occupied the night broadcasting a rowdy meeting at which the Treasurer, Dr. Page, was star speaker. In fact, it was almost impossible to get anything but political speeches on October 11. 2GB did not finish until close on 1 a.m.

"Mr. Hughes, especially, made great use of broadcast stations. The last week of the campaign listeners-in heard him every night. The Trades Hall station, 2KY, held an election session every day, and staged the novelty of the only speeches by a candidate's wife—two addresses by Mrs. Theodore.

"At previous elections there was very little private broadcasting done, most of it being confined to the official broadcasts and relays of the three party leaders. The interest taken in the recent campaign made the ether a valuable medium for getting right into the homes.

"Gramophone records were also exploited for publicity purposes for the first time in an election campaign—but not by the politicians. Their voices were used for advertising purposes by (Concluded at foot of next column.)

THE Amateur Radio Society of Wellington held its monthly meeting in the Cambridge Terrace Congregational Church schoolroom on Tuesday evening, November 12. The president, Mr. Byron Brown, being absent on a visit to Australia, the chair was taken by Mr. I. M. Levy, vice-president.

A lady member reported serious electrical interference from a source in proximity to Daniell Street, Newtown. She stated that the interference was almost continuous night and day, and spoilt broadcast reception. A motion was carried instructing the honorary secretary to notify officially the district radio inspector of the complaint. Another member complained of similar interference, although intermittent, at Miramar.

The subject of the annoyance occasioned by howling valves was much discussed, and it was explained by a member of the trade that the P. and T. Department very rigidly tested all types of sets on the market in order to prevent the sale of any set likely to cause interference with broadcast listening. He offered the opinion that the trouble from howling valves was mostly due to home-built sets. The advance of the a.c. type of set in popularity, however, was steadily reducing the howling valve nuisance, and in time would almost entirely eliminate the trouble.

Members reported a somewhat persistent nuisance caused in the Lyall Bay area by a howling valve, which was almost continuous each evening. A member who resided at Miramar added that the howling valve was probably the same which annoyed listeners in that area. A suggestion was made that the matter should receive attention from the district radio inspector.

It was decided to congratulate the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters on the reduction of the license fee for transmitting stations from £2 2s. to £1 10s.

AN instructive and interesting lecture on methods of testing loudspeakers in the laboratories of manufacturers was delivered by Mr. C. Liddell, a member of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters. Mr. Liddell, who illustrated his remarks with graphs prepared by himself, said that very little real research had been done on the subject. It was a difficult problem to ascertain the amount of energy imparted to the air on various frequencies from a loudspeaker, but he described by diagrams the Phonodeik Raleigh Disc and other ingenious and successful methods. Many difficulties had to be overcome in obtaining a fairly even distribution of volume throughout the gamut by a loudspeaker, and these were dealt with in detail.

Columbia records, who produced records of the Prime Minister, the Treasurer, the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, and Mr. Hughes. Matrices of these are being sent by Columbia to the Federal Museum to take their places beside records of Hinkler, Kingsford Smith, and Ulm.

ON Wednesday, December 4, the eighth concert of the Wanganui Choral Society will be relayed from Wanganui by 2YA.

The society was formed early in 1926, and from its first public performance down to the last concert in June, 1929, has had a continuous record of success, and of enthusiastic reception from musical critics and the public generally. The opinion has been expressed by more than one professional musician of repute that there is no



Mr. F. Wentworth Slater, A.R.C.O.

finer choir in Australia or New Zealand than that of the Wanganui Choral Society.

The society has given only one concert outside Wanganui, in respect of which the "Hawera Star" stated: "It was a revelation in the art of concerted singing and a high tribute to the work of the conductor. He concentrates his abilities on the control of the voices, and, as it were, plays on them as an organist on his instrument, bringing out at will the most glorious effects. The members sing without music, consequently are able to give their undivided attention to their conductor. The results obtained were remarkable. Their breath and tone control, their grades of expression, the wonderful pianissimos (in which their conductor excels), the attack and release are features which mark all the work of the choir. Meticulous care and attention to detail are most pronounced, and this completed the triumph in choral singing which was achieved."

Needless to say, the high standard attained by this choir is in very great measure due to the genius and practical ability of the hon. conductor, Mr. F. Wentworth Slater, A.R.C.O., who, in addition to his work with the Choral Society, is conductor of the Wanganui Male Voice Choir, organist and choir-master of Christ Church, and has an extensive practice as a teacher of voice production.

Mr. Slater had most extensive experience in Wales in the training of both male and mixed voice choirs, and also in adjudication, particularly in the choral sections, at many musical festivals.



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