

(Continued from front page.)

good cheer. The skeleton without the feast would have been, indeed, a sorry arrangement. But the feast without the skeleton would have lacked full proof of sanity and courage. They did not take their pleasures sadly, those banqueters of old; they were of the stuff out of which heroes are made. They dared to set together the joys and solemnities of life, to measure the gladness against the pain, and still be gay. They could bear the thought of the end of the feast without losing its relish.

With the approaching end of the year comes the "Cheerio!" of Rabbi Ben Ezra:

Grow old with me,
The best is yet to be,
The last of life for which the first was made.

Our times are in His hand,
Who says, A whole I planned;
Youth sees but half; trust God; see all,
nor be afraid.

They prove their manhood who can read the gloomiest forecasts of some weird observer of the conjunction of planets, and then go undisturbed to their tailors and order their new suits.

Some day
The cloud-capt towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,
And like the baseless fabric of a vision

Leave not a wrack behind.
Well, what of that? It were well to be decently clad and decently busy when the dissolution comes. We are clocks, says a literary medico, wound up for so many years. We must run

down, then, eventually. Very well; there's no reason in that for worrying others with the ceaseless release of our alarms.

It is not by either epicurean recklessness of all but pleasure, nor by stolid indifference to it, that life's triumph can be won. It comes with the wise use of every privilege, and the wise doing of every duty, in the light of days recognised as fleeting. In the doings of our earthly life, bounded as it is by a sure finale, time is of the essence of the contract. Opportunities seldom pay second visits. This evening's chance of showing kindness, to look no further, will not recur to-morrow.

Sturdy old Samuel Johnson taught Lord Chesterfield this lesson when the great dictionary was at last published. In the day of his dire need of help for its publication Johnson's appeals to the noted patron of the Arts met with cold indifference; but when, in spite of all difficulties, Johnson's task was accomplished, Chesterfield pressed his patronage. Johnson's memorable letter of dignified refusal was blunt in its intimation that the ignoble lord's kindness had "missed the bus." It concluded: "The notice which you have been pleased to take of my labours, had it been early, had been kind; but it has been delayed till I am indifferent and cannot enjoy it, till I am solitary and cannot impart it, till I am known and do not want it."

There is a page in Carlyle's diary that must have been blurred with tears as he wrote. It is the page that tells of regret that his dead wife had not received from him more thoughtful care than he had given. He blamed himself, perhaps with characteristic strenuousness rather than calm justice,

for neglect. She had been dutiful in the extreme, and he had loved her; but more tenderness, he thought, might have been shown by him. "Oh, for five minutes more of her, to tell her with what love and admiration, as of the beautifullest of known human souls, I did intrinsically always regard her!" Then, a few lines farther down, his wail of regret bursts into a torrent of urgent appeal: "Thou who wouldst give, give quickly; in the grave thy loved one can receive no kindness. . . . Be wise, all ye living, and remember that time passes, and does not return."

Sunset and evening star write in their journal the same solemn counsel. It shines in the moon's waning bow. These December days—days of examinations, of compiling reports, of closing of accounts in preparation for audit—whisper it. As the Old Year dies, this counsel will be uttered clearly in reason's ear. Other days and years and months may come, but these not again, and there is no journey without an end. Not with any morbid sense of helplessness do we think of these things, but with a calm and cheerful resolve to "carry on!"

Radio in the Far North

THE Iceland Government has signed a contract with the Marconi Company for the erection of a modern 16-kilowatt station. It is reckoned the station will be ready next June. It will be more powerful than the main British broadcasting stations, and about half as powerful as Daventry. It will be capable of telegraphic communication as well as broadcasting.

Radio on the Continent

A Serious Problem

WITH the large increase in the number of broadcasting stations in Europe, the question has arisen whether it is possible to allocate to each station a wavelength which will not cause interference with other transmissions. The position is acute, and it is regarded that the only solution lies in a reduction of the number of transmitting stations.

It has already been found necessary to apply this remedy to at least one European country, for according to a wavelength allocation plan recently formulated at Prague, it has been found possible to grant only sixteen wavelengths to France. Thus, as this country has twenty-four broadcasting stations in existence, it has been found necessary to discontinue transmissions from eight of these.

Another solution of the problem of interference is one which, though scarcely commendable, is being adopted by almost every country in Europe. In order to counteract interference from other countries, each country is endeavouring to increase the transmitting energy of its broadcasting stations. Such measures can only result in chaos, and the only satisfactory solution of the problem would be an International Conference to decide on an impartial distribution of both wavelengths and transmitting power.

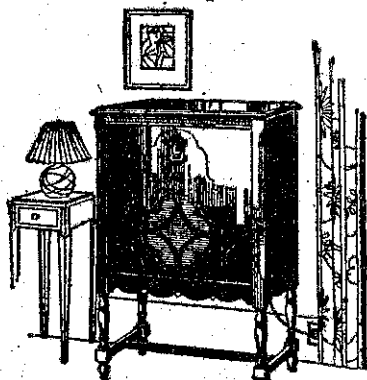
Gradually, with the evolution and development of the wireless programmes most authorities have put forward schemes either for an increase in the number of stations to supply an extended service or, alternatively, an increase in the power of the transmissions, thus obtaining greater range. Taking Great Britain alone, the new Bookman's Park dual transmitter will work with an energy of 30 kilowatts in the aerial, and in the near future four more similar high-power installations will commence broadcasting. On the Continent we find numerous proposals to erect super-power stations in various cities scattered throughout Europe.

So far as can be foreseen the near future will bring with it a battle of giants, an event which will benefit no individual country, but which, on the other hand, in the present limitations of the waveband, will sadly hamper broadcasting developments in Europe.

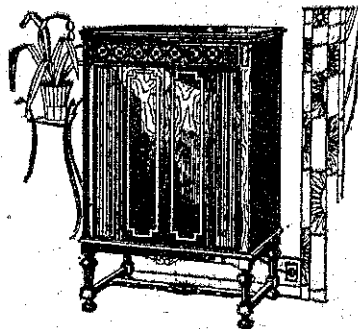
Broadcasting in Canada

A CHAIN of high-power broadcasting stations across Canada is recommended in the report of the Royal Commission recently appointed to investigate Canada's wireless problems. It is also recommended that a State-owned corporation should be set up, similar to the B.B.C., and that funds necessary for the operation and maintenance of the service should be obtained from licence fees and programmes sponsored by advertisers, together with a Federal Government subsidy of £200,000 annually for five years. As a nucleus of the broadcasting chain, it is suggested that seven 50-kilowatt stations should be erected to give reliable service over the populated areas of the Dominion.

New Dynamic Concert Speaker

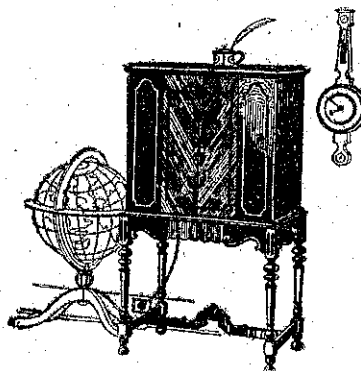


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