

Bishop Cleary's Death An Exciting "Outside" Broadcast

Broadcast of Requiem Mass

ON Thursday, December 12, 1YA carried out a memorable broadcast, when thousands of people, Roman Catholics and Protestants listened in to the solemn requiem mass at the burial service of the late Bishop Cleary.

It was a wonderfully impressive service, with splendid descriptions interpolated by the Rev. Father Holbrook. Every listener could clearly follow the solemn ceremony.

The Advance of Radio

Its Present-day Perfection

RADIO, in its many phases, is rapidly approaching perfection. An interesting review of its present-day state of advancement was recently published by Dr. Fulton Cutting, a well known American authority on radio in all its numerous fields. His views on this subject are given below:—

TO predict radio's future with any degree of assurance, it is necessary to review its history and carefully scrutinise the present trend, and even then the prophet is apt to be wrong. Radio is a constant surprise in itself. Subject to the imagination, research and effort of the scientific mind, its ultimate limitations are not even suspected to-day. We know what has been and what is, but we do not know how to-day's achievements may be eclipsed to-morrow.

The dynamic speaker, the screen-grid valve, the new type of engineering construction, the new development of metallurgists and the amazing co-ordination of many other elements and factors have all brought about improvements and advances more rapidly than was ever expected. Radio has made faster strides in a shorter time than have ever been made in any other industry.

To-day, with power at a high point, tone at a fine degree of actuality, beauty in keeping with the most luxurious of home appointments, value at a price never before made possible, it is easy to believe that radio has reached its final stage of development. Certainly it has achieved the point where no one need longer wait for its future offerings. I have no doubt that we will witness many changes in radio receivers as time goes on, but I do not hesitate to say that the purchaser of to-day's radio will derive a good measure of satisfaction from it for several years to come.

Have you obtained your copy of the "N.Z. Radio Listener's Guide"?

Dealers and booksellers 2/6; Post Free 2/9—P.O. Box 1082, Wellington.

Available everywhere.

WITH the acceptance of the radio set as an everyday means of domestic entertainment, the listening public are now demanding the introduction of new features into programmes. In England this requirement is at present being supplied in the form of surprise items and outside broadcasts. The latter consist of relayed commentaries on important topical happenings, and the success of these broadcasts depends in no small measure on the ingenuity and resource of the engineers in charge.

In the following article, the Director of the B.B.C.'s Outside Broadcast Department gives an interesting insight into some of the experiences and difficulties encountered in conducting a successful relay. As an illustration, he gives a vivid description of the efforts made by the engineers of the department to supply listeners with a running commentary on the return of the newly-completed British airship, the R101, from her maiden voyage.

WE do not enjoy the luxury of working in studios with carefully regulated acoustics in which lines lead from permanently adjusted microphones direct to the control room. Ours the task of collecting programmes from the four corners of the country; our microphones are slung as best they may be in the roofs of cathedrals, the tops of mountains, at the bottom of coal pits, on launches bobbing about the river, even (as on one occasion) in the cabins of aeroplanes in flight; "trunk lines" to the control room are such as the post office can manage to give us, often at very short notice; we work on strange territory, under conditions where the B.B.C. generally has to take second place. But we do see life.

One of our greatest problems is that of how best to convey "atmosphere." The background of incidental sound is often a very important part of an outside broadcast; it, so to speak, "places" the programme and stamps it as the genuine article. The microphone is a temperamental creature; one can never be sure exactly what sounds it is going to pick up. But even when it has done its work—and we, through our head-phones at the "control point," can hear each sound perfectly—we are a long way off final success, for between us and the listener are the telephone lines to Savoy Hill (and thence to the London, Daventry, and other transmitters), which may play us false. This is no place for a technical discussion; let it suffice to say that for relaying purposes a telephone line must have a certain minimum range of frequencies, must be balanced, and not noisy.

ONE of our most trying experiences was in connection with the recent commentary on the return of the R101 to Cardington. The organisation of this broadcast—a very detailed and complicated business—had been completed before the airship had left her shed on the previous Saturday.

What a day! To begin with, the lift which runs to the top of the 170ft. mooring mast, overcome, perhaps, by the importance of the occasion, decid-

ed to burn out a coil at the very moment when we were about to remount the tower for our final test over the lines to London. The airship could be seen hovering in the air a few miles to the south. Squadron-Leader Helmore (the commentator), the engineers and myself had to sprint up 170 feet of spiral staircase!

It was three o'clock—the time at which our lines to London was supposed to "come through." The airship was planned to arrive at 4 p.m. Both at 1 o'clock and the R101 drew nearer, but our line had as yet not come through. At last we were connected, but the line was so unsatisfactorily "noisy" that we had to abandon all idea of using it. As always, we had a pair of lines at our disposal, a "programme line" and a "control line" (through which our engineers can talk to headquarters during the actual relay). When the airship arrived we had to use the control line for the commentary, which meant that until the end of the broadcast we were entirely cut off from London except via the microphone, which, of course, could not be used for liaison work.

That line was a traitor of the deepest dye. It obstinately refused to carry all those "atmospheric" sounds which we had reckoned would make such an expressive background. Even the words of the commentary were distorted and, at moments, lost altogether. The whole of our plan for the relay was rendered useless. We had intended the sounds around the mooring-tower to tell their own story—the shouts of the officer in charge of the landing party, the whirr of the electric winch winding in the airship on its cable, the roar of the engines, etc.

As it was, the interval had to be filled up, on the spur of the moment, with semi-technical talk until Major Scott, emerging from the airship (it has a mouth which opens like a shark's), could come and give his account of the trial. We are, through experience, steeled to most situations—but in this hour of crisis, with the relay going out to the whole Empire, I was in a cold perspiration, while Helmore, pacing to and fro like a caged lion, was a pathetic sight. However, at the critical moment Major Scott appeared and immediately commenced his account of airship's maiden voyage. We were saved!

Radiovision in England

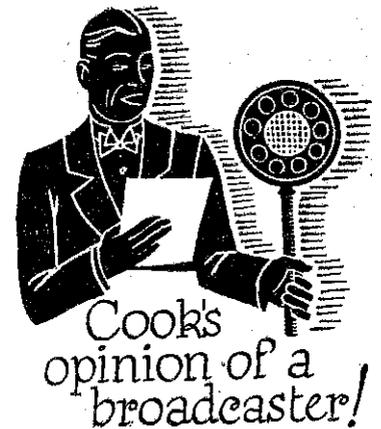
THE Baird radiovision broadcasts are now in full swing in England. They are not accompanied by speech or music, because one wavelength only is available for radiovision transmissions at the time. Later on, if the experiments are a success and the public show a keeness to receive radiovision pictures, the B.B.C. may, when the twin wavelength station at Brookman's Park is ready, grant the Baird people facilities for the use of a separate wavelength, so that radiovision can be accompanied by speech and music.

1YA Artists

Great Success at a Concert

A CORRESPONDENT has kindly forwarded us a clipping from the Thames "Star" with the published report of a very successful concert at which all the performers, except the instrumentalists Kirby and Williams, were regular contributors from Station 1YA. The point about this particular concert which is worthy of emphasis is that those organising the concert specially arranged for the services of those artists who regularly perform from 1YA. This policy was so successful that the hall was thronged at 3/- and 2/- a head to hear the same performers who are available nightly at 30/- a year, or approximately 1d. and a fraction per night.

This incident has its lesson in its demonstration of the popularity of YA artists and the publicity value of their performances over the air. It shows that people are glad to see in the flesh and hear directly the artists who have established themselves as worthy performers on the air. The same experience is available at other YA stations, where artists who have established themselves as popular performers over the air are much sought after as performers at local concerts. Another reflection which is prompted is that this experience discounts very markedly the complaints made sometimes concerning the programmes. The programmes and performers can't be quite so bad when a discriminating public is prepared to pay good round figures in solid cash to hear what radio listeners hear for their small fee.



—she thinks he's wonderful during the evening programme—but when it comes to baking she'd sooner have a tin of ANCHOR SKIM MILK POWDER on the shelf than the finest radio going. A few spoonfuls added to every mixing means more delicious scones and cakes—higher food value—and a freshness that lasts for DAYS.

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