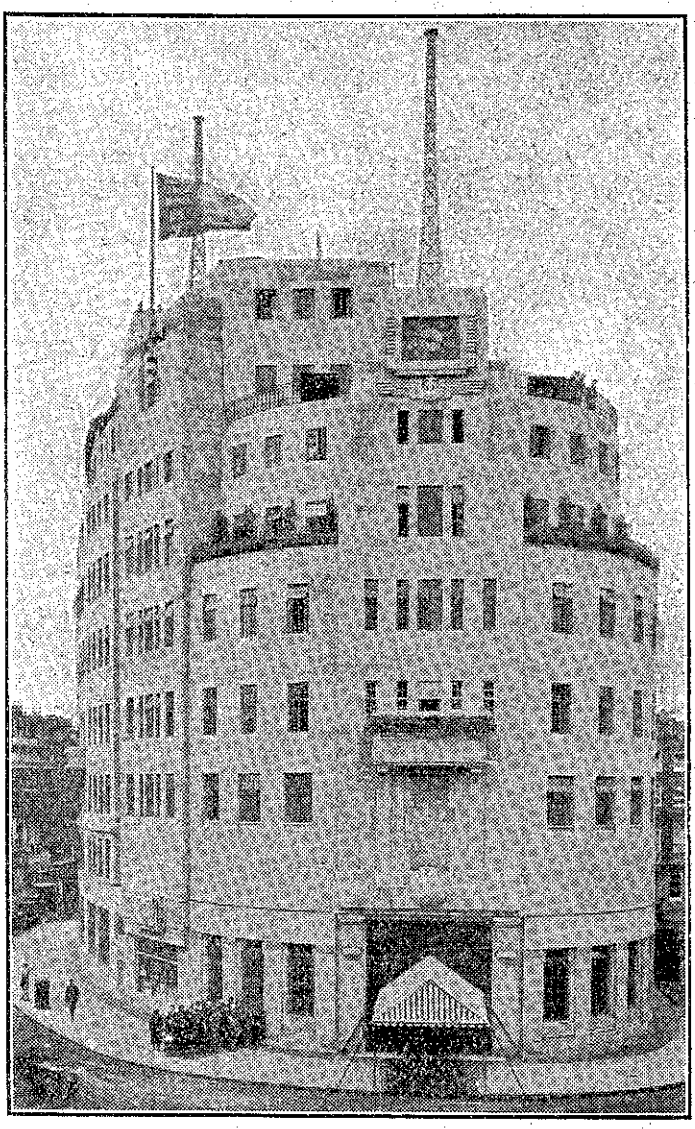

From LONDON to your Sitting Room

12,000 Miles of Wonderful Precision

HOW many hundreds of radio listeners throughout New Zealand eagerly await any opportunity to tune in to broadcasts from the B.B.C. in London? Yet—how many of these fans realise exactly how the broadcasts are arranged? All they have to do usually is to tune their sets in to the nearest National Station. Do they appreciate the tremendous amount of organisation and accuracy required, to allow them to hear the items true to schedule?

For instance, during the week of Empire Broadcasting, in connection with the King's Jubilee celebrations, a speech by Mr. E. A. Ransom, the Acting-Prime Minister of New Zealand, will be broadcast from the B.B.C. in London. Do the listening hundreds stop to consider the complications that such an item incurs? The Acting-Prime Ministers of the various Dominions will each make appropriate speeches, and all will be broadcast by the B.B.C. in London at the scheduled time. How is this done?

Probably the average listener has never for a moment thought of any difficulties being attached to Empire broadcasting, but also, probably he would appreciate his programme a great deal more if he had an inkling as to what was going on "behind the dials." He probably has a vague idea that someone, somewhere turns a switch or two, somewhere else, and the rest then just sort of "shoots the works."

Let us attempt to enlighten him a little. To come back to the Acting-Prime Minister. Actually the speech will pass through six stations before it is finally received in London. Because it is such a great distance from England, New Zealand, in contributing her portion, has perhaps the hardest task of all the Dominions. The speech from 2YA is through the telephone exchange, relayed to the terminal equipment of the radio telephone channel on Tinakori Hills. From there it is sent by the short-wave transmitter to the Australian receiving station, La Perouse, and on to the Sydney-London radio channel terminal equipment at the Sydney G.P.O. In a similar manner, the G.P.O. sends it on to Pennant Hill, a short-wave station of considerable power, which is situated about nineteen miles from Sydney. In its turn, Pennant Hill transmits to the London receiving station, which completes the cycle by connecting direct to the B.B.C.

As may be seen, exact synchronisation is both difficult and essential, and every one of the stations concerned must, following a warning signal, be ready instantaneously to put through the speech. One slip by any one of the stations would be fatal, and perfect combination is most necessary.

For New Zealand to broadcast an event from the B.B.C. is not so difficult. From the B.B.C. the programme is relayed to the Empire broadcasting station. From there, either GSB or GSD, whichever is the more suitable at the time, is received directly by the respective New Zealand studio receiving stations, and is put through the national network. Each of the main stations has its own receiving plant close to the studios, and each receives its own separate relay from the transmitting station in London. However, occasionally when reception is poor, one of the receiving plants might receive for the whole of New Zealand, and rebroadcast throughout the national network.

Just because important items and events which are to be broadcast to the Empire from Daventry on short wave do not coincide with convenient times for reception overseas, we are not deprived of the pleasure of hearing them. The system of electrical recordings has been so well developed during the last few years that the records made when the actual broadcast is

(*Continued in col.* 1, *next page.*)