

THIS WEEK'S SIGNED ARTICLE.

Keeping B.B.C. Employees Young and Healthy

By W. J. Cross

THE British Broadcasting Corporation is essentially a young organisation, young in history and young in personnel. Its employees are selected from people in all walks of life. The present staff numbers well over 2000 persons—probably a surprising figure to many people—and it does not consist solely of announcers, programme producers and engineers, which is a popular supposition. Besides these officers, the staff includes accountants, editorial staff, legal advisers, auditors, publicity experts, stenographers, filing clerks, watchmen, liftmen, commissioners, librarians, advertising representatives, labourers, carpenters, caterers, telephonists, cleaners, waitresses, cloakroom attendants, bookkeepers, pages, porters, firemen, packers, studio attendants and photographers.

As in the Navy, so with broadcasting: "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and even more makes Jill a dull girl, so that in the interests not only of its staff but of its own efficiency, the B.B.C. has made ample provision for adequate recreation. It has followed the example of some other large employers by adopting as far as possible the five-day week, work on Saturdays being reduced to a minimum. This concession, which was introduced in the interests of the general health of the staff in order to allow greater time for exercise, fresh air, and outdoor pursuits, has shown that there is no reduction at all in the general output of work, but rather an increase in all-round efficiency.

Nearly all members of the B.B.C. staff belong to the B.B.C. Club. From a very modest beginning this club, in the course of a few years, has become the possessor of

facilities for recreation probably unsurpassed by any other organisation in Great Britain. The headquarters of the club are situated at Mottspur Park, where there is ample provision for cricket, football, hockey, tennis and netball. There is a magnificent clubhouse, with facilities for every kind of indoor game—from billiards and badminton to shove-ha'penny—and containing not only a restaurant, but a small swimming bath. There is also a large central hall where dances and concerts and other activities take place. In addition to Mottspur Park, there are branches of the Club at all Regional stations, where adequate provision has been made for recreation. At Daventry, the home of the Empire Broadcasting station, for instance, there has been many a tussle at billiards, cricket, football, and ten-

nis between the B.B.C. engineers and the inhabitants of this ancient town. Cricket matches between the B.B.C. and the Town Council are held each year. S. Fry, the son of the famous C. B. Fry, plays cricket regularly for the B.B.C. He is in every respect a worthy son of his father. The red-letter day in the history of B.B.C. cricket is when a visit is paid to Hamble to meet the team captained by "C.B." who, despite his sixty-four years, is still more than a match for many of the younger generation. Sunday cricket matches are a great attraction.

The standard of Rugby football is also high. Several men who distinguished themselves at their universities are now playing for the B.B.C. Howard Marshall, formerly of the B.B.C. staff, and now one of the best-known commentators on sporting and general events, at one time played for the Harlequins. The swimming section of the B.B.C. Club

also has a large membership. The motoring section of the club is in a flourishing condition. Extraordinary ingenuity is displayed in maintaining interest on the part of members. There are treasure hunts, scavenger parties, and reliability trials.

The rifle section is one of the more recent activities of the club. Naturally, its appeal is mainly to men, but the membership includes a number of promising shots drawn from women members of the staff. Matches with other organisations are regularly held. The tennis section probably has the most general appeal to all, although closely rivalled in popularity by its younger brother, table tennis. Squash rackets are available within easy travelling distance of Broadcasting House. Hockey and netball also flourish, mainly among the women members of the staff, but quite a number of men have now taken up the former game seriously.

Physical culture classes are also held near headquarters, and violet-ray treatment is at the disposal of all who care to apply for it. It may be mentioned, incidentally, that the B.B.C. is most careful of the health of its employees, and at Broadcasting House a matron and nurse, with a well-stocked dispensary, are constantly in attendance. Facilities are also provided for more expert medical advice and inoculations against the common cold.

Many members of the staff known especially to Empire listeners take considerable part in the activities of the Club. W. M. Shewen, chief Empire announcer, is captain not only of the men's tennis

(Continued on page 51.)

AOTSAOTS

A 200lb. pig was struck and killed by a bus on the Eglinton Valley Road, Otago.

A QUADRANT used by Captain Cook on the Endeavour is on display at the Dunedin Public Library.

"I NEVER expected to see such a darn fine stoddio right down under," was Victor Jory's comment after being shown round IYA.

"YOU have just heard Miss Nee-Sa Long, daughter of Long Tack Sam and Mr. Aster."—Announcement from

a Dunedin B station.

TWO more piquant phrases from the Hon. Minister of Public Works: "Body snatching" (the scramble for unionists), and "Industrial cuckoos" (non-unionists).

FOUR legs, four wings and two lots of tail feathers. What was it? A chicken hatched by a hen and owned by Mr. G. Cogle, Christchurch. It lived for half an hour.

AOTSAOTS

ON a recent trip to Invercargill, the Kotuku brought back 1800 letters.

ACCORDING to a Dunedin publican, he has made 30 trips to the Eglinton Valley, but workmen there assert he has made 35.

BECAUSE they are not proving financially successful, the popular Dunedin R.S.A. sings are proposed to be stopped.

A GRAVE request was last week made by the Onehunga Borough Council—that no funerals should take place on Sundays.

"PIE and mashed" will probably be the cry when wages are restored, because Christchurch restaurants "bob" lunches will be 1/3.

"IS that the aerodrome? What's wrong? Is it war?" Queries put through to Wigram aerodrome when night-flying was being practised.

Next week's signed article, by Stuart Perry, gives sidelights in the daily round of a city librarian.