

Made Microphone

DAVID HUGHES' STORY

(Continued from page 8).

not satisfied. Eventually he constructed an instrument so delicate that, with its aid, it was possible to hear the sound of air waves disturbed when extra current was given an induction coil.

After further extensive tests, London policemen on beat in the early hours of the morning saw the strange spectacle of a distinguished scientist wandering round Langham Place endeavouring to pick up the signals from the microphone in his house.

HUGHES eventually presented the result of his researches to the Royal Society, who laughed derisively at his theories and declared that electrical impulses had nothing whatsoever to do with the sounds he heard on his receiver!

That experience of organised savant-try was by no means exceptional. The history of science is full of such similar amazing occurrences, despite the fact that the "rebels" are always 90 per cent. right.

But Hughes was far too big a man to bear malice. When, at last, he gained scientific recognition of the success of his instrument he did not turn on the Royal Society; nor did he smother his inventions with greedy patents. He made not one farthing. The microphone was his gift to the world.

When, in 1900, he died worth nearly £500,000, he left the greater part of his fortune to the "Hughes Hospital Trust Fund" for four London hospitals.

Is it a truism that no Englishman need expect England to honour him?

Voices Of The Dead

RECORD MORGUE

(Continued from page 11).

Ocean, but it spoke again in the small room, recorded in 1909, telling of how his party left New Zealand in 1908, landed near the Antarctic volcano, Mount Erebus, and climbed its 13,350 feet for the first time in human history.

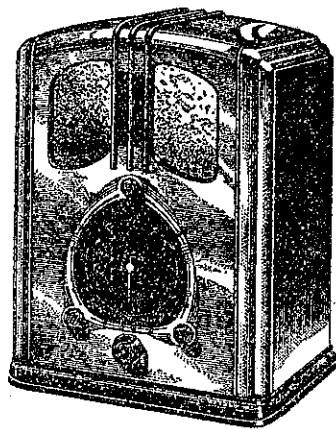
Theodore Roosevelt speaks again and the late President Harding. One can hear the voice of the present King George VI speaking at one of his open-air camps for English boys when he was Duke of York. The voice of President Wilson survives the death of himself and of many of his ideals. Fittingly, there is a recording of the voice of Marconi, broadcasting to Australia from his yacht in 1933.

In the museum of living voices I heard the voice of Lord Galway, Governor-General, in a recording of "Hunting Cries," and the voice of Frank Buchanan, leader of the Oxford Group.

THERE is stuff for a philosophising Hamlet in this museum.

Even more important, there are voices and songs that will wake the memories of many listeners and stir

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old scenes and recollections into life, enriching their present days with these reminders of the past.

TWO commercial travellers were swapping tall wireless stories in the presence of an old countryman whom they were trying to impress.

"You got a radio set?" asked one of the travellers.

"Yes, sorr," said the countryman. "I got a very good one."

"Has it good selectivity?" asked the traveller, with a knowing wink at his companion.

"Well, yes," said the old fellow, "it has. The other night I was listening to a quartet, and I didn't like the

tenor, so I just turned him out and listened to the other three."

ONCE again the winter wrestling

season is here, and once again the service of Australia's commercial station, 2UW, is to the fore in broadcasting the struggles of the men of the ring. The descriptions are put on the air by the ace of sporting commentators, Cyril Angles, whose graphic descriptions thrill thousands upon thousands of listeners every Monday evening. A novel touch is introduced into the broadcast by the introduction to listeners of the wrestlers themselves. The broadcasts come over at approximately 10.45 p.m. (New Zealand time).