

Flying Tuition by Wireless

Instruction from the Ground

A MOST interesting demonstration of a wireless system by which a flying instructor on the ground can still instruct his pupil, during the solo stage, and correct his errors while he is in the air, was given recently at the Heston Air Park in England. The chief feature of the wireless method of instruction control is that the timid solo pilot, or one about to commit mistakes, will hear the voice of the instructor just as if the latter were in the rear cockpit talking to the pilot through the ear phones; and it is considered important that the words of warning should come through the familiar channel.

The apparatus consists of a light-weight receiver fitted into the machine with a rigid aerial mounted from the wings to the tail. For the demonstration, a conventional transmitter, connected with a microphone mounted in a glass-sided room at the top of the Heston control tower, was used.

Two light machines were used for the experiment, and though a howling gale was blowing at the time, they executed without hesitation every order radioed to them by the watchers in the tower below. The demonstration was a convincing one of the efficiency of the communication, and it was linked with another addition to the wireless equipment of Heston Air Park.

Recently this airport became the first aerodrome to be provided with a ground installation which, with only half a kilowatt of power, will receive and transmit telegraphic and telephonic messages over a range of 300 miles. The London Terminal Airport has a much more elaborate and powerful equipment, but this set installed at sufficient municipal aerodromes in the country would provide a complete wireless chain for weather reporting. Its value will lie in facilitating the work of air taxi services and private charters throughout the United Kingdom, and once other airports are similarly equipped a pilot will be able to find out speedily the weather conditions anywhere ahead.

Correspondence to the "Radio Record"

WOULD correspondents kindly observe the following addresses to be used in writing to the "Radio Record"? Observance of these will save confusion and expedite replies.

1. General literary correspondence—"The Editor."
2. All technical correspondence—"The Technical Editor."
3. D.X. correspondence—"D.X. Club."
4. Business communications—"The Manager."

All correspondence to be addressed "P.O. Box 1032, Wellington."

WANTED AND FOR SALE.

For column of casual advertisements see page 32.

Rebroadcasting American Programmes

WITH the view to introducing diversity into New Zealand programmes and giving listeners the opportunity of hearing the class of radio entertainment broadcast in America, the Radio Broadcasting Company has finalised arrangements with the Great Lakes Broadcasting Company of Chicago for the special transmission on short-wave of typical American programmes. These transmissions will be made periodically and at times which will be suitable to New Zealand listeners. Atmospheric conditions permitting, rebroadcasts will be carried out by the New Zealand stations. These special transmissions will commence next Sunday evening, and rebroadcasts will be carried out by Station 3YA as an after-church concert. The results of the test will decide the action to be taken in regard to rebroadcasts by the other New Zealand stations.

Radio in U.S.A.

Opinions of Listeners

AS the result of vague murmurings of dissatisfaction with present day programmes in U.S.A., efforts have been made by means of comprehensive surveys to ascertain the public viewpoint. One of the most significant of these surveys, says an American magazine just to hand, is that recently made by the Commonwealth Club of California, since it represents an independent and unbiased attempt to learn the preferences of a typical cross section of a community of listeners. The conclusions are based upon four thousand sets of answers to a group of twenty questions.

Two-thirds of the replies showed that listeners think that there is something wrong with the programmes. More than half of them stated that they are constantly annoyed by radio advertising, although 86 per cent. admit that they are grateful to the advertisers and nearly half are led to buy through this medium. Music is greatly preferred to the spoken voice, only one-third of the audience wanting more talks, although more than two-thirds of the listeners want more educational talks and half of them want more radio drama. Saxophone music is wanted by only 106 out of 4000, of which 85 per cent. prefer semi-classical orchestral music. Men's voices received a four-to-one vote as compared to women's. One of the most surprising features in the poll is that only 19 per cent. do not enjoy gramophone music.

Fishing for distance still amuses 37 per cent. and 69 per cent. think that distance reception has improved during the past two years. Local reception has also improved in the opinion of 94 per cent. Many critics agree that there are too many stations and that they are too close together. The preference is 71 to 29 for chain programmes as compared to local. The great majority think that there should be no censorship of programmes. Proposed remedies run all the way from "killing announcers" to broadcasting legislative sessions. There seems to be especial interest in re-broadcast foreign programmes and in university extension programmes without advertising is by endowment of stations or by all sorts of special taxes.

Topical Notes

A FRIEND informs "Switch" that during the recent holidays he was the guest in a Maori home in the Manawatu, in which a first-class receiving set was installed. The members of the family took the greatest interest in every session of 2YA, which is their favourite station, and, unlike many pakeha listeners, they found entertainment and interest in every type of item, not forgetting the weather forecast and report. Grand opera was as popular as jazz. They were strong advocates for an increased day service from 2YA.

A PLEA for the repetition of records of "old time" popular songs from 2YA, Wellington, has reached "Switch." The listener urges that they find favour with both the younger and older generations, mainly on account of their tunelessness as compared with the latter-day American jazz. The records purporting to be representations of music-hall entertainments in which the audience joins with the performers, he says, are the best of these "old time" records, although the band performances of these items are quite good.

CABLES published in the New Zealand Press a few weeks ago stated that Major Trygve Gran, a Norwegian, denounced Commander Byrd for having, as the former alleged, exaggerated the difficulties of reaching the South Pole. The "Oakland Tribune" (California), recently to hand, states: "Commander Richard E. Byrd was among those to whom Floyd Gibbons's defence of the explorer's recent flight over the South Pole was available. Both short-wave transmitters connected with WGY Schenectady, associated with the National Broadcasting Company's broadcast Gibbons's programme, in which he characterised Major Trygve Gran, Norwegian, who criticised Byrd, as a mud slinger and violator of every principle of sportsmanship.

Yet while this audience criticises what is being done, it is able to offer no practical suggestions for worthwhile features that have not already been tried. It seems easier to criticise than improve. And the fact that only five per cent. say that they are "tired of radio" indicates that the present programmes are fulfilling a real need for home entertainment.

Projected Radiophone Service

From New York to Australia

IN view of the projected establishment of a wireless telephone service between New York and Sydney, the following account the "New York Times" writes of the initial test of the service:—

"It was October in Australia while New York still had several hours of September left, when the new round-the-world radiophone circuit of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company was switched into action. Ten New Yorkers took turns in talking with Australia through the standard desk telephone in the office of Dr. Frank B. Jewett.

"What day is it over there?" asked a voice in New York.

"It is October 1 here," was the reply.

"Well, we still have September with us," said a representative of the "New York Times," "and it is raining in New York."

"It is 6 o'clock in the morning in Sydney and a fine morning," answered the Australian.

"Have you had your breakfast yet?" asked the New York man.

"No, it's an hour and a half too early for breakfast," said the voice from the other side of the earth.

"The circuit you are talking over," Dr. Jewett explained, "is about 15,000 miles long. It runs from New York to London via a short-wave channel, then on to Australia. The wave employed depends upon the weather. One may speak over the fifteen-metre wave and the next speaker switched to twenty metres, all depending upon the atmospheric conditions. From London to Australia still another short wave is utilised, and its length also depends upon the weather conditions.

"This test is merely to show what is being done to extend world-wide communication. It does not mean that a regular radiophone circuit will be opened yet to the public for conversations with Australia. Much depends upon the British Post Office, which controls the English end of the circuit. It requires about thirty seconds to put the call through to Australia, yet the fourteen hours difference in time is an obstacle to the service."

An engineer called attention to the fact that the voices travelled across the Great Circle route in their jump from autumn in New York to spring at the Antipodes.

When the conversation ended the New Yorkers said "Good night," and the voice at Sydney answered "Good morning."

Beauty Talk from 2YA

AT 3.30 p.m. on the 30th January, Miss Flora Cormack will deliver a lecture from 2YA on "How Film Stars Keep Their Beauty."

"N.Z. Radio Listener's Guide?"

Dealers and Booksellers 2/6; Post Free 2/9—P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

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