

The Late Dr. Ferranti**An Untimely Death**

BY the recent untimely death of Dr. S. Z. Ferranti, the famous pioneer in the science of electricity, England lost one of her foremost inventors. Dr. Ferranti was born at Liverpool in 1880, and even as a child showed phenomenal promise in mechanical construction. He completed his education at the age of sixteen, and immediately joined Messrs. Siemens Bros., a well-known electrical engineering firm. Ferranti's main work was the design and construction of the apparatus for town-lighting schemes, and his ideas and inventions, though completely successful, were so original that for years his contemporaries were antagonistic towards him. At the beginning of 1884 the Hammond Company, which owned numerous patents on Ferranti's inventions, went into liquidation. Ferranti, however, succeeded in buying back the patents, and, having purchased a few tools, started manufacturing on his own account, and practically founded the extensive concern which exists to-day as S. Z. de Ferranti, Limited.

Having founded this, one of the best known radio firms in the world, Dr. Ferranti continued his experiments, paying great attention to radio. At the time of his death he was still experimenting, but the theme of these experiments is not known, and it is very doubtful whether a successor can pick up the thread.

News Items

A NEW station at Kosice, in Czechoslovakia, transmits a curious collection of programmes in Russian, Hungarian, and Polish in an attempt to cater for its extraordinarily cosmopolitan population. From time to time services from the Polish synagogues are transmitted.

IN music-loving Munich, every telephone owner can listen to the opera performances each evening by telephone on payment of a fee. Apart from that, there are listening-rooms in a special building open to the general public where one may listen to the opera for sixpence an hour with headphones.

AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY OF WELLINGTON.

THE Monthly General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Cambridge Terrace Congregational Church Hall on Tuesday, February 11, at 8 p.m.

MR. L. H. WRIGHT

will deliver a short address on

"THE SERVICING OF SETS,"

after which members are invited to ask questions on this topic or to bring along their defective sets, when Mr. Wright will demonstrate methods of testing.

All listeners are cordially invited to be present.

A. G. H. LAWS,
Hon. Secretary.

Opening of Dunedin's Town Hall

To Be Relayed Through 4YA

THE official opening ceremony in connection with Dunedin's new Town Hall and its magnificent organ will take place on Saturday, February 15. The celebrations will continue the following week and will be broadcast by both 4YA and 8YA. The occasion is an epoch-marking one in the history of Dunedin. The complete block of new buildings occupies a space 222 feet long by 128 feet wide and the edifice is a credit to the city. The contract price was £86,041 and the work has taken three years to complete.

The total seating capacity of the main hall is 3000. The architects felt that a hall of this size would probably appear rather cold and formal if finished in the usual manner, particularly on such occasions when it was not filled to capacity. They have, therefore, in conjunction with the decorators, devised a scheme of decoration which has the effect of giving a warm and comfortable glow throughout the whole interior, and this appearance is further enhanced when illuminated with the electric lighting. The soft terracotta shades of the ceilings, the richness of the panelling and parquet flooring of the platform and brown upholstering on the seating all combine in giving the interior this effect.

The concert hall has seating accommodation for 900. The building of the Town Hall was financed on a scheme outlined by the Town Clerk (Mr. G. A. Lewin) and it is tantamount to being a gift to the city from the city trading departments, which are profitable concerns.

Wembley Exhibition Organ.

INSTALLED in the Town Hall is the finest organ in Australasia. It cost £30,000 and was a gift to the city. The organ is the one that was built for the Wembley Exhibition, adapted to the Town Hall, with alterations and additions to the tonal construction. It is now an entirely modern organ. It occupies a floor space of 7000 square feet and is built on three levels, rising to a height of 50 feet. There are approximately 1500 miles of wire used in the electrical actions and 18,000 contacts and soldered connections. There are roughly 3500 pipes, the largest being 38 feet in length and weighing half a ton.

The whole organ from keyboard to pipe is operated electrically, which means that the only connection between the console and the organ is an electric cable containing some hundreds of wires but only about two inches in diameter. In the olden days every connection between key and organ was mechanical, and it can be safely left to the imagination to picture the complications and amount of space such an action involved.

Opening Ceremonial.

THE official opening will be impressively carried out. From 7.30 to 7.50, Dr. W. G. Price (Mus. Doc.) will give an organ recital. At 8 o'clock a procession consisting of the Mayor, Town Clerk, Councillors, Past Mayors of the City, the architects and the builders, will be formed in the main foyer and march to the stage.

The programme to be carried through will be:—

1. National Anthem (arranged by Sir Edward Elgar for chorus, soprano solo, orchestra and organ).

Soloist: Miss Meda Paine.

Conductor: Dr. V. E. Galway.

2. Address by His Worship the Mayor (R. S. Black, Esq.).

3. Festival "Te Deum."

Chorus, orchestra of stringed instruments, brass and organ.

Conductor: Dr. V. E. Galway.

4. Vote of thanks to the donors of the organ.

Cr. H. L. Tapley, C.M.G.

5. Organ solo Dr. W. G. Price

6. Vote of thanks to the Bristol Piano Co. and Messrs. Charles Begg and Co., Ltd., for gifts of Concert Grand Pianos for Main Hall and Concert Chamber.... Cr. J. J. Clark.

7. Chorus..... "Worthy is the Lamb" and "Amen" (Handel)
Conductor: Dr. V. E. Galway.

8. National Anthem.

Note.—Brass instruments in Sullivan's "Te Deum" played by members of the St. Kilda Band.

Conductor: Mr. J. Dixon.

Trade Personals

MR. E. R. BOUCHIER, director of Speddings Ltd., Auckland, is spending a few days away from that city on vacation.

MR. W. LYALL-WILLIS, export representative of A. C. Cossor Ltd., has been on a business tour throughout New Zealand, and at present is staying at the Grand Hotel, Auckland.

MR. A. C. JOHNS, of Johns Ltd., Auckland, has returned after a short holiday in Wellington.

MR. D. LEWIS, former assistant-manager of Radio Ltd., is now acting in the capacity of manager.

MR. C. O. K. FEAR has recently returned to his business in Wellington after an extended tour throughout New Zealand, where he paid special regard to radio conditions existing in the various districts through which he passed.

MR. G. G. MACQUARRIE, accompanied by his daughter, is spending a holiday at Rotorua.

MR. C. M. ABEL, director of Abel, Smeeton Ltd., Auckland, is at present on vacation.

THOS. BALLINGER AND CO. LTD. advise that they have received the latest Peerless Courier models, equipped with the Kylelectron speaker.

HARRINGTONS, LTD., of Wellington, are now handling Crosley Sets.

The agents for His Master's Voice instruments announce the introduction of the new model of "His Master's Voice" Combination Gramophone and Radio.

MR. GEO. HOWES, of G. Howes and Co., Dunedin, who was in Wellington last week, has returned to Dunedin.

DR. VLADIMIR ZWORYKIN, a research engineer of the Westinghouse Electric Company, is stated to have claimed the ability to make television a practical and commercial proposition by means of the Zworykin Cathode Ray tube. The usual statements about moving pictures, sets being marketed shortly, and synchronisation with radio sound broadcasts, are not lacking. An appropriate motto for those who live in expectation of seeing in New Zealand a cricket match being played in England would be, "He that lives the longest sees the most."

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