

## The "R" Signs.

FOR the benefit of new readers, the following is the international "R" system for indicating the audibility of signals:—

- R1.—Faint signals, just audible.
- R2.—Weak signals, barely readable.
- R3.—Weak signals, but readable.
- R4.—Fair signals, easily readable.
- R5.—Moderately strong signals.
- R6.—Strong signals.
- R7.—Good strong signals, readable through lots of interference.
- R8.—Very strong signals, audible several feet from the 'phones.
- R9.—Extremely strong signals.

## Rebroadcast Extraordinary.

MR. S. HALL (Wellington) reported that while listening to a duplex telephony test between VK2ME, Sydney, and W2XAF, Schenectady, late one evening recently, the American told Sydney to listen carefully to what was coming. The voice of the Australian was then heard from W2XAF, but, Mr. Hall states, he was surprised in tuning in 2ME to find they were silent. At the conclusion of this mysterious talk, the American asked the Australian what he thought of his own voice. It appears that in a previous test, advantage was taken of good reception to experiment with making a sound film of the talk received, this being transmitted about a week later back to Australia.

This opens up a wide field for retransmitting programmes, speeches, etc., which are received at distant places at a time not suitable for rebroadcast. A sound film can be made and then put on the air at a suitable time. This will particularly apply to New Zealand, where, on account of the difference in time, many broadcasts from the Old Country through G5SW are only heard by a few, where, if they could be "bottled up" for a few hours, could be heard by all with a receiving set.

## Short-wave News.

ACCORDING to a message from Rome, contrary to rumours, no relays are to be made of religious services given at the Vatican Sistine Chapel, and the transmitter to be built in that city will not be used for that purpose.

IN response to requests sent by Germans abroad, the Königswusterhausen short-wave transmitter on 31.38 metres daily broadcasts a news bulletin at the end of the evening transmissions.

THE interchange of radio programmes between German broadcasting stations and the National Broadcasting Company in America has been given final approval by the Reichsforst Ministerium of Germany. These programmes will be sent through the short-wave station recently erected at Königswusterhausen.

A SPECIAL Service of Intercession for the Naval Disarmament Conference, now sitting in London, was announced several times during the week from 5SW, to be held at Westminster

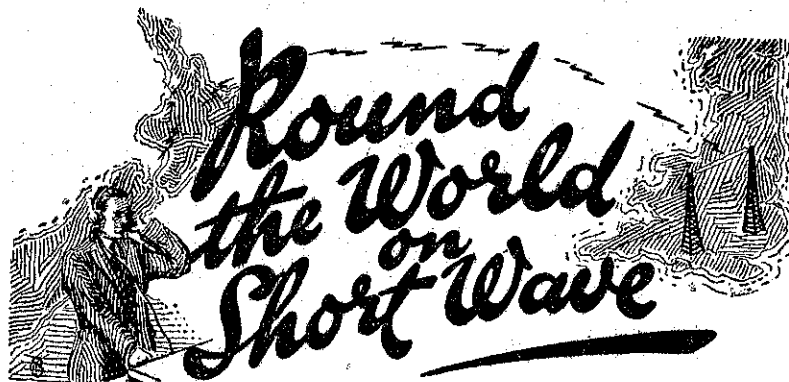
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The rate for small advertisements under this heading is 1/6 cash for 20 words, and twopence for every other word thereafter.

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Abbey on Saturday, March 1, at 4.30 p.m. G.M.T. This time, being 4.30 a.m. Sunday morning, would not find many in this country willing to leave their beds so early to listen to a service. The writer decided to lose a little sleep and was repaid by hearing the whole of the service, almost as clearly as if broadcast by 2YA from a local church, instead of originating from the famous Westminster Abbey in London.

G5SW "went on the air" about 4.20 a.m., putting on their tuning whistle to allow listeners to tune in properly before commencing to broadcast. Promptly at 4.30 a.m. they switched over to London, when the Abbey organ was heard. The hymn, "Thy Kingdom Come, O God," was sung by the choir, and congregation. This was followed by an address from the texts "Let the peace of God move" and "Let the Peace of Christ decide." This was all clearly readable. After this address the "General Confession" was repeated by the congregation. The Bishop then prayed for "The peace of the world," "The Naval Disarmament Conference," "Ourselves and all men," and then "Let us pray in silence." The "Lord's Prayer" was then repeated by all. The hymn, "When I survey the Wondrous Cross," was announced and sung. This hymn was worth the trouble of rising early. The organ with a well-trained choir of men and boys, was delightful. Another prayer and the Benediction concluded the service at 5.10 a.m.

G5SW announced that they were closing down till 12.30 GMT on Monday, and went off the air at 5.12 a.m. Reception, although quite good, being 100 per cent. readable at good strength, R8-9, was marred by a slight rapid fade or gushiness. In spite of this trouble, every word could have been copied by a shorthand writer.

This is an instance of where the sound film referred to previously would be of value. The whole service could be put on the air at a suitable time for all listeners.

## Reception for Week ending March 1, 1930.

RA97, Siberia, 70 metres.—Reception has as usual been more or less marred by static. What appeared to be a children's session was heard on Monday, at 9.30 p.m., when an Uncle was imitating animals. Some fine orchestral music is broadcast at times, but about 95 per cent. of their transmission are talk.

3ZC, Christchurch (N.Z.), 50 metres.—This station was heard on Friday from 7 p.m. till 8.30 p.m. with a good selection of records. Reception was excellent at R8 with slow fades to about R5. 3ZC announce their wave-length at 50 metres, but I make them to be about 46.6 metres. They broadcast on this wave-length on Wednesdays from 3 p.m. till 4.30 p.m., and on Fridays from 7 p.m. till 8.30 p.m. Reports of reception are asked for.

W9XF, Chicago, 49.85 metres, continues to come in well till 7 p.m., when they sign off.

W3XAL, Boundbrook, New Jersey, 49.7 metres, was tuned in at 5 p.m. on Saturday, when they were R3, rapidly

increasing in volume to R8-9 by 5.30 p.m. Dance music was being relayed from the grill room of the St. Francis Hotel, New York City.

W2XAF, Schenectady, New York, 31.4 metres.—A very enjoyable programme was heard from this station on Sunday, which was being transmitted for Admiral Byrd and party. It was "all Scotch," Sandy McFarlane was there, and sang a number of Scottish songs. The General Electric Orchestra, a piper, and a male quartet also contributed to the enjoyment of the programme, which was received at excellent strength.

On Saturday the last hour was devoted to dance music from the Hotel St. Regis. This was excellent at R9.

PCJ, Eindhoven, Holland, 31.4 metres. This station is now back to its usual good reception. Friday and Saturday mornings from 6 a.m. till 7.30 a.m. volume was even at R9 all through. The relieving announcer is not so clear in his English as Mr. Startz, who is away on holiday. Reception was very poor on Saturday afternoon from PCJ, R3 at its best with a bad rapid fade.

Zeesen, Germany, 31.38 metres, has been good on most mornings except Wednesday, when they were not heard.

VK2ME, Sydney, 28.5 metres, are still to be heard night and morning testing with GBX, of England. Tuesday was an extra busy day, as after the regular test with GBX they were testing with PLE, Java, from 10 p.m., and later from 11 p.m. with our 2YA. I understand they were testing with W2XAF at a still later hour, but did not hear it.

GBX, England, 27.5 metres, testing twice daily with 2ME, Sydney.

KZRM, Philippine Islands, 48.8, 26, and 24.4 metres.—KZRM has been heard on each of these wavelengths during the past week at different times. I find that reception is best on 26 metres.

G5SW, Chelmsford, England, 25.53 metres, is slowly improving in the morning session (as received here). Big Ben is now heard at R8, and the talk that follows is a better percentage of readability. The time is not suitable for me to do more than just tune them in and then leave them.

KDKA, Pittsburgh, 25.4 metres.—I did not hear KDKA on this wavelength on Sunday or Saturday, either because reception was poor or they were not transmitting. On Sunday they were working on 48.86 metres at 6 p.m. with messages for the Far North. Reception was R6 with continuous crackling static.

W6XN, Oakland, California, 23.35 metres, was excellent Friday at R8 when tuned in just before 7 p.m. with a programme by the National Electric Orchestra. The "Musical Musketeers" followed with a dance programme. They were heard on Tuesday, but not till nearly 8 p.m., when volume was only R4.

W2XAD, Schenectady, 19.5 metres, was heard for a short time on Saturday at R3, but was soon lost.

PCK, Holland, 16.3 metres, were on duplex on Tuesday evening at R4, and records on Friday at 10 p.m., R8.

PLE, Java, 15.74 metres, were heard at the same times as PCK at about the same volume each evening as the Dutch station.

## Unidentified Stations.

ON 25.5 metres (about).—On Thursday, at 10 p.m., a foreigner was calling "Hullo, Hullo, SPN," at least, that is what it sounded like. Other talk was heard, but being foreign could not understand it.

31.5 metres (about).—This station which I queried as a German, is, so I am told, definitely a German. It has been heard again during the week at about 6 a.m. on most mornings.

31.2 metres (about).—Another stranger that is being heard frequently during the early morning, but so far has been too weak to get their call if one has been given.

I SHOULD be much obliged to you if you can let me know the day and hour, New Zealand time, when American, European, short-wave stations broadcast programmes.—J.W.L. (Dunedin).

[A tall order, but perhaps some enthusiast can oblige. Mr. Sellens usually gives the times he hears the stations.—Ed.]

## Valuable Hints

## Loose-coupled Aerials.

WHEN operating a short-wave set it will be found that unless the aerial is really loosely coupled by means of a very small coil, a very small neutralising condenser, or a few turns of the grid-circuit coil, it will be impossible to obtain smooth oscillation, and the sensitivity of the set will be destroyed. Particular attention should be paid to this, as once the importance of correct aerial coupling is realised, a few moments spent in experiment will prove that there is a harvest of stations awaiting the operator who knows how to search for them.

## Heating Soldering Irons.

A GAS fire is better for heating soldering irons than a coal fire, because it is cleaner. One of the rings on a household gas stove is a very convenient thing for heating soldering irons. But watch the iron carefully, as otherwise it will be raised up to a red heat. This will cause the surface of the bit to become oxidised and this will militate against its proper tinning. A good indication for correct heat is to watch for a blue flicker in the flame over the bit. When this appears, remove the iron, wipe the end quickly with a thick wad of rag and then "tin" it in the usual way.

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