

Our Mailbag

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50,000-watt station in a suitable place and instead of the 50,000-odd listeners I venture to say there would soon be 250,000, as such a station would be heard all over the country, with no fading, static or distortion. I do not intend casting reflections on any of the station staff's capabilities, as I think they are doing their utmost with the equipment at their disposal. A very high-powered station will have to come, sooner or later, so why not now before chaos exists with numerous stations like U.S.A. I am the owner of a very powerful receiver, and through static, etc., have had only one programme in the past eight weeks. Speaking for myself only, I would not mind a £5 license fee.—Constant Listener 2.

An Unexpected Meeting

THE wireless is once again responsible for an unexpected meeting of old friends. When the British Rugby football team was in the studio of 2YA on Thursday evening, making its introduction to New Zealand listeners over the air, one particular listener pricked up her ears when it was announced that Mr. Black of Oxford University, and incidentally South Africa, would be the next to speak. This listener was Mrs. J. Davies, wife of the director of 2YA. She immediately rang the studio to know whether Mr. Black was Brian Black. This proved to be the case, and it then transpired that Mr. Black was a former pupil of Mrs. Davies. Needless to say, Mr. Black was greatly thrilled at the unexpected news, and a meeting was speedily arranged.

Radio-equipped Coastal Vessels

Recent A.W.A. Installations

THE application of wireless telephony to marine communication is being effectively utilised by Amalgamated Wireless. Three of the company's coastal radio stations are now installed with telephony transmitters, while A.W.A. have also installed telephony equipment on five of the Australian coastal cargo boats, the equipment being in charge of the master of the vessel. By means of this equipment the masters are able to speak with one another from vessel to vessel, and with such coastal radio stations as are equipped with telephony apparatus.

Some seventeen trawlers operating off the N.S.W. coast have also been equipped with telephony apparatus by A.W.A. and the masters are thus able to effect telephony communication with each other, and with the coastal radio stations.

Dinner Music

THE presentation of gramophone records of music suitable for the dinner-time sessions is no easy matter. "Switch" has been looking into the lists of records available for such a purpose, and confesses that the selection of suitable items is a most difficult undertaking. However, the dinner music sessions from 2YA, Wellington, are well high ideal. By the way, the writer listens-in habitually to the twenty minutes' "meditation music" put on every Sunday night by 2FC, Sydney, prior to that station signing off. The programme director makes a good selection, but "Switch" does not envy him his task.

Thieves Caught by Radio

Ingenious Detections

A FIRM of cigarette manufacturers in London has successfully employed microphones in the detection of theft. The firm had been suffering severe losses of stock totalling hundreds of pounds, and being unable to trace the leakage, enlisted the aid of a well-known English radio manufacturing company. An engineer, in the guise of a telephone inspector, concealed three microphones at strategic points, and connected them to a sensitive amplifier under the roof.

Here one night the detectives put on headphones and settled down for a long vigil. At first they heard only the mysterious creakings and whisperings which one seems to hear in every building at dead of night. Then close on 12 o'clock the sound of footsteps and rustling paper came to their ears. By switching to each microphone in turn, the detectives were able to locate the origin of the sound. They crept down stairs and two of the watchers confronted the man as he came out from the back door with hundreds of cigarettes under his arm.

A Driverless Motor-car

AN amazing demonstration of the "electric eye" or light sensitive photo-electric cell, was given recently when H. P. Davis, Vice-President of the Westinghouse Company, from his office in Pennsylvania directed the movements of an unattended automobile in New York. As Mr. Davis told the car to "go ahead" it moved forward. Similarly, upon orders from the distant operator, the car stopped and moved backwards. The lights were even turned on by the distant voice.

This was the first time in history that an automobile in one city was

From all Angles

MR. T. J. PARKER has been appointed to the board of Amalgamated Wireless, Ltd., to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. W. T. Appleton. Mr. Parker is a grandson of the founder of the famous Australian shipping firm of Huddart, Parker, Ltd. He was born in Melbourne in 1888, and educated at the Church of England Grammar School, Melbourne, and at Dresden (Saxony) and Charterhouse (England). Mr. Parker entered the business of Huddart, Parker in 1906, starting as an office boy, and went through all departments of the shipping business, including the wharf offices and the position of seagoing purser. At various times he had charge of the company's branch offices at Ballarat, Dunedin, Auckland, and Melbourne. At the present time he is a director and the Sydney manager of Huddart, Parker, Ltd.

THE perfunctory manner in which some of the smaller New Zealand stations give their call letters is the subject of a letter received from "Anti-Careless" (Masterton). He writes: "I suggest that the announcers should say the word 'station' before the call letters, as it affords one notice that the call letters are to be given. At present they gabble out the call letters as though they are ashamed of them, or in a desperate hurry. There are exceptions, but extremely few."

controlled and moved at will by the voice of a person in a distant city. It was made possible by a photo-electric cell which was placed on the trunk in the rear of the car. A telephone connection was then established to Mr. Davis's office, and when he spoke the sound impulses set up were transferred into light waves. These were picked up by the "electric eye" which in turn operated certain relays and gave the automobile its backward and forward movements.

By the courtesy of the Y.M.C.A., we are able to publish the accompanying photograph of the Optimists' Club, who were responsible for the delightful entertainment mentioned in our last issue, broadcast from 2YA last week during the children's session. Readers will learn with interest that it is the practice of the club to meet every Thursday for luncheon, music and mutual good cheer.

