

## W.E.A. Lectures

## The IYA Series

COMMENCING on Thursday, June 5, the first of a series of six fortnightly lectures on "Life and Labour in the 19th Century" will be given at IYA by Mr. N. M. Richmond, director of the Workers' Educational Association. A second series will follow, the subject being "Problems of Labour and Capital."

## Wellington Amateur Radio Society

## Annual Meeting

THE annual general meeting of the Amateur Radio Society of Wellington was held on Tuesday evening, May 13, at the Cambridge Terrace Congregational schoolroom. Mr. Byron Brown, president, occupied the chair. An apology for unavoidable absence was received from Mr. I. M. Levy.

The annual balance-sheet showed a substantial credit, the revenue being derived from donations and subscriptions.

The election of office-bearers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—President, Mr. I. M. Levy; active vice-presidents, Messrs. Byron Brown and J. H. Owen; honorary secretary, Mr. J. K. Hooker; hon. treasurer, Mr. W. J. Roche; committee, Mrs. Penman, Messrs. J. G. Greenhill, H. W. Faulkner, and F. W. Dawson; technical adviser, Mr. Preston B. Billing; hon. auditor, Mr. O. G. Kember.

Various criticism of the broadcasting service was voiced. Some offered the opinion that the price of the radio licenses in New Zealand were high. It was pointed out that while in New Zealand a listener's license cost 30/- per year, the fee in England was only 10/- per year, and in Australia 25/- per year. No license fee was charged in the United States and France.

There were some differences of opinion regarding the standard of music broadcast in New Zealand. While most of those who spoke regretted that so much jazz music was put on the air, it was pointed out that the public demanded a certain amount of such music.

Mr. Preston Billing gave an interesting address on one of the latest types of American screen-grid A.C. sets. The set embodied three stages of screen-grid radio amplification, a screen-grid detector, and the push-pull system of amplification. Even without aerial or earth the set afforded striking evidence of its remarkable sensitivity and tonal qualities. Mr. Billing explained the method of amplification by means of blackboard diagrams. He was accorded an enthusiastic vote of thanks on the conclusion of his demonstration.

## Radio Listeners' Guide, 1930 Edition.

Dealers and Booksellers 2/6, posted 2/9.  
P.O. Box 1032, Wellington.

Available This Week.

## Another Cast from Wanganui

IT has been the pleasure of listeners to hear several concerts relayed from Wanganui, so the announcement that another is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, will be read with the greatest satisfaction. Wanganui musical talent is of a very high standard.

The concert to be broadcast will be given by the well-known Queen Alexandra's Band, under Captain Geo. Buckley, in association with leading vocal and instrumental talent.

Mrs. Owen Warnock, who will sing "Nightingales of June," has a fine soprano voice and is a favourite on the concert platform. Mrs. S. Wills (contralto) is also well known. Miss Zelda Watts, who will give a humorous sketch, is a juvenile performer with a long list of wins at various Competitions. Mr. S. Wilbraham (tenor) will sing "Serenata Toselli."

The Bridges Trio, who have performed at 2YA, and are well known to listeners, will play "The Jolly Robbers." The trio consists of piano, violin and xylophone. Mr. Claude Tucker, flautist, a most accomplished artist, has been engaged for the evening. He will play "The Brook" and "Pampillon."

A musical novelty will be contributed by Stodart's Dance Orchestra. Master Jack Buckley (aged 14) will play, by special request, "O for the Wings of a Dove." Master Buckley is a fine cornetist. His father is an ex-Australasian champion.

A special novelty number will be the rendition of "Mighty Lak' a Rose," to be played by Bandsmen A. Ramsey ('cello and flugel horn), R. Davis (violin and trombone), and Master Buckley (piano and cornet). The accompanist for the evening will be Mr. Horatio Nelson, L.T.C.L.

## A Peep Behind the Scenes

BY installing a small but complete sound film plant at the Chilton House School, Island Bay, Wellington, on Wednesday last, Mr. McCutcheon, chief engineer, Western Electric Co., entertained and interested about 150 residents of the district. The films were virtually a peep behind the scenes, for they portrayed in a novel manner many of the principles of sound, and incidentally of radio, that were the basis of the talkies.

Basing the operation of the talkies on a cartoon, "How Mute Found His Voice," those gathered were shown by sound and sight how the idea of the sound track was worked up in the Western laboratories. "Talkie," a personified strip of sound film, took "Mute"—his silent prototype—by a questionable way into the laboratory, where he was shown by Dr. Western the way "Talkie" had found his voice. There were the two plants—one well known to radio and the other the recording camera plant.

Part of the former is to be found in every radio home—the amplifier, the microphone is similar to that used in the studios, but the photo-electric cell, although of radio origin, is, not yet fully known to all and sundry. The moving cartoons showed how the two impressions are made, both on separate film, and how the two are printed out on the final positive. The picture was interpolated by a song from "Talkie," and Dr. Western took his silent friend along the track taken by the voice. Mute finally found his voice, and with "Talkie" joined in a rousing farewell.

The cartoon was a base for the following film, "Some of the Characteristics of Sound." Much as might be written on the subject of frequencies, frequency ranges, tone, pitch, and amplitude, it remains for a film such as this to make things quite clear. An oscillator, and four instruments, served to show how characteristics of tone

depend on the number and strength of the overtones. Beside the flat and colourless note of the oscillator, 'cello, flute, violin, piano, and voice stood out in pleasant contrast.

A note of 50 cycles—how often does the reader of everyday radio literature hear this phrase? Yet it means little to him other than a deep note; but in this film the oscillator was tuned from 50 to 6000 cycles, and as the whine left the screen, we who were present knew something more of sound than we had before.

To see the sound waves slowed up to visible speed was another feature of this unusual film, and those fortunate enough to be present undoubtedly knew something more of sound than they had done before. At one stage certain frequencies were cut off from the recording microphone, and one was transplanted in the radio of a few years ago, which unhappily still obtains in some of the poorer instruments.

In "Scenes Behind the Scenes" at Hollywood and the other film cities of the States, we were shown how the talkie industry has been meant a literal recreation of the industry of moving picture production. Everywhere there are large sound-proof studios, several acres in extent. Judging from the huge doors, the places are veritable prisons in their magnitude. And this is necessary to keep extraneous noises from the microphones.

Apparently dozens are required to produce, photograph, and sound record a modern film. The photographers are housed in glass cases to prevent the sound of the motors being picked up by the microphone. The days are certainly gone when the director shouted his comments at the artists and the camera men danced round, turning the handle that recorded the moving picture. This is the electrical age when this mighty force can do almost all things but create.

The evening at Chilton House concluded with supper and dancing, provided by the talkie amplifier and a gramophone.

## An Invaluable Work

## 1930 "Guide" This Week

THIS news will be welcomed by all who have known our previous "Guides," and those who are wanting a book, couched in simple terms, to tell them all they want to know about the broad principles of radio. From all booksellers and radio dealers, then, the 1930 "Guide" will be available toward the end of this week. Last year's "Guide" proved exceedingly popular, and the whole of the first edition of several thousand was sold in less than two months. A second edition appeared, and now our stocks are running fairly low.

We have no hesitation in saying that this year's edition is an improvement on anything pertaining to radio that has yet appeared in New Zealand. It is essentially modern, and the latest views that have reached us from America and England have been incorporated. In this respect, it will interest readers to know that, in view of the new facts coming to light, a section was rewritten, and the publication of the "Guide" delayed for a few days. Then there are the call-signs—and these are up to date. No fuller or more complete list has to our knowledge been published in the Southern Hemisphere. It gives all the particulars everyone wants to know about the stations on the air. Stations that are not likely to be heard in New Zealand have been omitted. Our list of the American stations has been compiled very carefully. The d.x. columns have been carefully combed, and all information that has recently come over the air concerning the tactics of these stations has been incorporated.

Wishing to have a complete list of Australian stations, we compiled a good list from all the existing New Zealand and Australian publications, and sent this to press. The day the section was to be printed, a new list came from Australia, advising us that many important changes would operate this month, and considering that accuracy was better than speed, we scrapped the existing list, held up the printer while the new one substituted.

These examples are only typical of the topicality of the "Guide." In every section everything new that is worth incorporation is there. In only very few cases is anything touched upon that has appeared in the "Radio Record" or previous "Guides." Where reiteration was deemed advisable to lead up to the new matter, it was treated from a different angle and very much condensed.

There are nearly 100 illustrations, photodiagrams and photographs—probably not more than a dozen have appeared before.

The size of the "Guide" has been only slightly enlarged—a matter of eight pages—this excluding the introductory matter. The reader gets 160 pages of illustrated reading matter for his 2/6.

Remember—obtain your copy early from your dealer or news agent—the orders are heavier than ever before and the stocks will soon be depleted.