

Mr. Davies's Retirement

MR. IVAN M. LEVY, president of the Amateur Radio Society of Wellington, writes:—

"With regard to the retirement of Mr. J. Davies from the directorship of 2YA, I seek this opportunity to state that the members of my society have always regarded Mr. Davies with the kindest feelings and appreciation. His unflinching courtesy and tact and his capacity to cope with the difficulties which inevitably beset the path of a broadcast station director stamped him as a man of rare qualities. As a foundation member of the Radio Society and as an office-bearer, I was in frequent touch with Mr. Davies ever since his appointment as station director of 2YA, so that I came to know him for his true worth. As president of the Radio Society I wish Mr. Davies all success and happiness in whatever sphere his endeavours may be directed in the future."

Attractive Orchestral Selections

From 2YA Shortly

LISTENERS in all parts of the Dominion always appreciate the excellent music supplied from 2YA by Mr. M. T. Dixon and his Salon Orchestra.

An attractive feature of several programmes arranged for broadcast in the near future is several orchestral selections, to be presented by this combination. The first, to be broadcast on February 10, is the Suite Enfant Prodigue (Debussy), a delightful and deservedly popular composition. In passing, it may be mentioned that its composer visited this country several years ago as conductor to that very fine orchestra which accompanied the late Pavlova on her world tour.

The suite is typical of the lighter French school and contains some very striking movements and pleasing harmonies.

A further selection, for presentation on February 17, is the "Ballet Russe," by Luigini, who has given us some very effective orchestral suites. Probably the most famous of these is the "Ballet Egyptien." The "Ballet Russe" is equally delightful, if less known, and the music is exceptionally melodious.

The programme arranged for February 15 contains an operatic selection from the ever-popular "Madame Butterfly," by Puccini, the famous opera composer. This is one of his best-known works, and is surpassed in popularity only by "La Boheme."

The arrangement chosen for presentation is that by Tavan, who is well known for his excellent selections and orchestrations of popular operas.

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"B" Class Stations

Many Cease Operating

Copyright Position Again

DURING the past week an announcement was made that a number of "B" class stations in various parts of the country were ceasing to operate on account of the position that has arisen in connection with the Australian Performing Rights Association. The position herein is quite clear, and has been explained at various times in our columns. The Australian Performing Rights Association is a body which claims to hold the copyright of approximately 98 per cent. of all the music available through all mediums. Permission to use that music is available to various organisations in return for various scheduled payments. The "A" class stations are required to pay 6 per cent. of its gross receiving license revenue for its use of copyright items.

When the "B" class stations began operating in New Zealand they had available no revenue with which to meet any demands for copyright fees. For some time they operated without any claim being made upon them. Eventually, however, the Australian Performing Rights Association intimated to them that the position would have to be clarified. They did this more particularly because of the position obtaining in respect of gramophone records. Sales of gramophone records—which also carry a royalty—were, it was claimed, being interfered with by the amount of broadcasting of records being indulged in by the "B" class stations. The buying public would naturally not buy so freely of gramophone records if its appetite was satisfied by ample broadcasting of such records. There would thus seem some justification for the contention that the reduced revenue from the sale of gramophone records should be compensated for in some measure by royalties from "B" class broadcasting stations.

In the course of negotiations between the Australian Performing Rights Association and the "B" class stations, it was, it is understood, intimated that a collective payment of £200 per annum would be accepted on behalf of the New Zealand B class stations, this amount being substantially £10 per station. In the absence of unanimity being reached between the "B" class broadcasters this offer lapsed, hence the decision of the stations concerned to go off the air. On behalf of a Christchurch station, Mr. C. F. Woodhead advances the view that they did not understand that the payment of the £200 would be the whole extent of their liability to the Performing Rights Association. This was advanced, he states, with the stipulation that it was not to be taken as an estimate of the amount the association considered should be paid by "B" class stations, and Mr. Woodhead comments: "If we admitted their claim we do not know what they would ask in the future." There is really no question of "admitting" the claim of the Australian Performing Rights As-

sociation. That has been definitely established at law, and on the face of things the "B" class stations would seem to have been very leniently treated indeed by the organisation throughout, much more leniently than have the "A" class stations in respect of

Carillon Playing

MISS GLADYS WATKINS, who recently returned to New Zealand from Europe, where she has studied and mastered the art of carillon playing, will talk on the subject from 2YA on Friday, January 30. While in London, Miss Watkins had the privilege of playing the Wellington War Memorial Carillon.

which the Australian Performing Rights Association made substantial demands upon the revenue of listeners.

Mr. Harris's Views.

IN view of the closing down of B class broadcasting stations, owing to copyright difficulties, Mr. A. R. Harris, general manager of the Radio Broadcasting Company, was asked by a Christchurch reporter if he had any comment to make on the position, and particularly as to whether he considered the B stations should be called upon to pay copyright fees.

"No, I do not know why the B stations should have to pay copyright fees for broadcasting musical works," replied Mr. Harris. "The Australasian Performing Right Association claims to control 98 per cent. of the world's copyright in so far as Australia and New Zealand are concerned, and in return for the privilege of broadcasting its catalogue the Broadcasting Company pays to the association 6 per cent. of its gross revenue from receiving licenses."

"If the service broadcast by B stations increases the number of listeners then the Broadcasting Company automatically pays the Performing Right Association a percentage of the license fees received from these listeners."

"The payment to the Performing Right Association is made on the gross receipts from receiving licenses regardless of the fact that the broadcast service includes sporting broadcasts, lectures, news and market reports, and entertainment on which copyright is not concerned, and which is the sole and only interest of a great many listeners."

A Useful Tip

A CARPENTER'S brace can be adapted to take a small wireless drill if necessary by winding a fairly stout wire around the drill in the form of a spiral spring, to enlarge its diameter.

Tenth Birthday of Broadcasting

Celebrated in America

THE tenth anniversary of broadcasting in America was celebrated last November by special programmes, luncheons, and complimentary speeches in several of the larger cities.

The chief centre of interest was, naturally, station KDKA (Pittsburgh), the pioneer wireless station of the country. From this station, on November 2, 1920, was transmitted the first scheduled American broadcast. Official records show that KDKA has never been silent a day since then. In a letter to the station owners, President Hoover emphasised the fact that "never before in all history has a new system of communication made such mighty progress in so short a time. . . . It has already begun to modify the character of American life, and fortunately its tremendous influence is all on the side of progress. It seems but a short time since, at the request of the then few broadcasting stations, I called the first national conference on radio in 1922."

"Then we were groping dimly for methods of regulation that by prevention of interference we could enable adequate development of the art. . . . In the views expressed as to the promise of radio in that first conference some perhaps thought that imagination had run riot. We then discussed with pride the 100,000 receiving sets already in use. But much as we imagined at that time, none of us were so hardy as to prophesy that within eight years there would be receiving sets in half the homes in the United States. To-day the high level of service and the wholesome character of programmes should be a proper source of pride to all engaged in it, and is a development in our national life of immeasurable importance."

England's Short-wave Station

Numerous Aerials

ENGLAND'S Postmaster-General, speaking recently at a London dinner, remarked that the short-wave station at Rugby could at a moment's notice broadcast a message so powerfully that it could be picked up practically by every ship in any part of the world.

"If you visit Rugby," he continued, "you will find an aerial system pointing to the United States; a few yards, and there is a section plotted out in which there will be an aerial system pointing to Canada. A few yards in another direction and there is a system pointing to South Africa, and a few more yards away one to India, and again one to Australia."

"In this way, when the system is complete, the world voice of Great Britain will speak from Rugby not only to the Dominions but to all the more important countries of the earth."