

Colonial Song An Australian Number

FROM 2YA on Monday, April 20, will be broadcast Percy Grainger's "Colonial Song." Of the numbers to be broadcast Mr. Grainger writes—No traditional tunes of any kind are made use of in this piece, in which I have wished to express feelings aroused by thoughts of the scenery and people of my native land (Australia) and also to voice a certain kind of emotion that seems to me not untypical of native-born colonials in general.

Perhaps it is not unnatural that people living more or less lonely in vast virgin countries, and struggling against natural and climatic hardship (rather than against the more actively and dramatically exciting counter-wills of their fellow-men, as in more thickly populated lands) should run largely to that patiently yearning, inactive, sentimental wistfulness that we find so touchingly expressed in much American art; for instance, in Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn," and in Stephen C. Foster's adorable songs, "My Old Kentucky Home," "Old Folks At Home," etc.

I have also noticed curious, almost Italian-like, musical tendencies in brass band performances and ways of singing in Australia (such as a preference for richness and intensity of tone and soulful breadth of phrasing over more subtly and sensitively-varied delicacies of expression) which are also reflected here.

Surely a Record

WE learn from Mr. Reynolds, conductor of the Cambridge Terrace Congregational Children's Choir, that, in the time they have been broadcasting, no fewer than 50 different hymns have been sung. Mr. Reynolds claims that, in this time, no hymn has been broadcast more than once. Surely a record!

The Vatican Wireless Station

Erected Under the Personal Supervision of Marchese Marconi

THE short-wave broadcasting and wireless telephone and telegraph duplex station which has just been opened in the Vatican City has a world-wide range.

The new transmitter in its main features follows the design of the famous short-wave high-speed beam transmitters which are used in the British Imperial beam stations. The complete installation consists of four main panels, and is designed for telephony and high-speed telegraphy on either 19.84 or 50.26 metres. On telephony the transmitter is rated to deliver from 8 to 10 kw. of unmodulated carrier-wave energy to the aerial feeder system, the output depending slightly on the wavelength used. The normal degree of modulation is 80 per cent. The rating on continuous wave telegraphy is 13-15 kw. to the aerial feeder.

Masts and Aerials.

TWO transmitting aerials are provided, one for each wavelength. This type of aerial has been developed recently by the Marconi Company, and is an improved type of vertical short-wave aerial.

Both aerials are suspended and insulated from a triatic slung between two self-supporting lattice steel towers 200 feet in height and 296 feet apart.

The energy from the transmitter building is conveyed to the two aerials by two separate concentric copper tube feeders similar to those used in the British Imperial beam stations. The transmitting building itself is situated near the railway terminus in a part of the grounds in the Vatican which is

surrounded by a Roman wall 45 feet high, whilst the masts are placed outside this wall. In order not to destroy the amenities of the Vatican gardens a tunnel 141 feet long passing under the Roman wall has been constructed to accommodate the aerial feeders.

Architecture.

EVERY effort has been made to harmonise, as far as possible, the transmitting buildings and aerial towers with the graceful surroundings of the Vatican City. The transmitting building is of sober but pleasing architectural design. The tops of the masts are finished off to give a bishop's mitre effect, which greatly enhances their appearance in silhouette.

The transmitting building contains a spacious transmitting room with land-

Learning to Dance by Radio

TO learn to dance by radio—it sounds difficult, but it is not what it seems if one listens to the splendid series of talks that is being broadcast from 2YA by Mr. W. E. Priestly, of the Margaret O'Connor School of Dancing, Wellington. Mr. Priestly is recognised as one of the cleverest exponents and teachers of his art in this country and he is passing much of his valuable knowledge on to listeners in an interest-



MR. W. E. PRIESTLY, who is at present engaged at 2YA upon a series of lectures on modern ballroom dancing.
—S. P. Andrew, photo.

ing and lucid fashion. Possessing a good speaking voice, Mr. Priestly's lectures are even to non-dancers quite entertaining.

During the course of the series on modern ballroom dancing all the dances at present danced, namely, the quickstep, slow foxtrot, waltz, tango, midway rhythm and the moochi, will be dealt with, each forming a separate talk. Of these, the first three are the recognised standard dances, with the midway rhythm and the moochi as the new dances for 1931.

Speaking from 2YA, on Thursday last, Mr. Priestly dealt with the quickstep, describing in detail the movements of this dance. "Listeners were taken from step to step slowly, and no doubt many were enabled to pick up a few valuable hints."

Listeners will remember that last year the same lecturer broadcast a somewhat similar series of talks, and as a result had correspondence from not only all over this country but from Australia, from whence listeners wrote asking particulars of the new dance, the quickstep—they, of course, danced it but called it the foxtrot.

It will not only provide the Vatican City with a radio telegraph and telephone link with distant parts of the earth, but when required will also enable the voice of his Holiness the Pope to be broadcast throughout the world. The Vatican station has carried out good clear telephone communication with Australia, India, South Africa, Argentina, Canada, and the United States outside Europe, and with London, Paris, Berlin, Madrid, and other European capitals.

SELLENS SHORTWAVE RECEIVER

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line control tables, an amplifier control room, receiver room, accumulator room, machine room, valve, and general stores and general office.

A special receiver, made partly of standard parts of the normal telephone and high-speed Marconi receiver and telephone-terminal four-wire two-wire equipment, will secure good telephone and telegraph duplex communication between the Vatican City and any part of the world. This receiver is situated in one of the rooms of the transmitting station and utilises vertical antennae placed at a distance of only a few yards from the sending antennae.

The new wireless station which may be considered to represent the latest word in short-wave technique, to which such far-reaching contributions have been made by Marchese Marconi and his many able assistants, has been erected by Italian engineers under the personal supervision of Marchese Mar-