

Radio in 1931

(Continued from page 1.)

structure and in function. Possibly they will become dearer but they will be fewer and will last longer. A valve with a replaceable filament has already appeared, but it seems not to have been commercialised—probably for obvious reasons.

A short time ago we heard a great deal about the Stenode Radiostat—a superheterodyne type of circuit which used a quartz crystal as a stabiliser. This type of set gave a separation of stations hitherto believed impossible. The year 1931 saw it evolve from the laboratory and become a commercial product. Kit sets are now being sold in the United States and quite a number of the sets appear to be in operation. One of the chief present objections is its costliness but, as in other developments, this is only a prelude, and it is not unlikely that we shall see the Stenode circuit embodied in the commercial receiver of the future.

Concerning the superheterodyne circuit which seems to have captured the imagination of both the American and New Zealand public, serious criticism can be directed. Undoubtedly the circuit is sensitive and more selective than the normal, but being more sensitive it amplifies noise to a far greater degree than is sometimes pleasant. Furthermore, it has the unhappy knack of picking much of the parasitic noise from the power lines and giving this to us through our loudspeakers. This has made many enemies for radio and incidentally for the electric set. Already some of the newer models have reverted to the older circuit with slight modifications.

The Progress of Television.

WHILE it cannot be said that television has made marvellous strides, yet it has made progress, and one of the most outstanding events of the year was the announcement by the B.B.C. that transmissions will take place from their studios and actually be included in the broadcast programme. It is proposed to transmit such well-known and popular artists as Jack Payne and his celebrated B.B.C. dance orchestra. Further, the B.B.C. is investigating the possibilities of conveying the television signals by land line to their regional station at Slaithe-waite. It is interesting to note that Sir John Reith, the director of the B.B.C., recently visited America and upon returning gave consideration to the Baird, a British system.

Speaking on television recently, Mr. E. T. Fisk, managing director of Amal-

gamated Wireless, and one of the outstanding figures in radio, made a statement that television to-day is an accomplished fact but it had limitations, those limitations being the size and vividness of the picture, which is only two or three inches square. Mr. Fisk said that he believed that the success we are aiming at is just around the corner, and that any day we may

Coming . . .

"Oliver Cromwell"

The famous historical play by John Drinkwater, will be broadcast from 2YA under the direction of Victor Lloyd on January 12.

discover some new steps which will take us right to our objective. "We shall look forward to witnessing in our own homes the Melbourne Cup as it is run. Going further, we may expect to sit at home in any part of the world and witness His Majesty the King opening the British Parliament, or see the President of the United States talking in the White House on an important world subject."

And so it must be admitted that the year 1932 may possibly witness the ushering in of a new stage—a new era in the evolution of radio, and that era is television.

The Micro-ray.

OF great importance was the successful transmission of the micro-ray. The system, employing ultra short-waves of approximately 18 centimetre (7 inches), was used for the first time on March 31 to provide a high quality two-way radio telephone circuit, the power used being only half a watt—just sufficient to light a flashlamp bulb. Perfectly normal conversation was exchanged between Dover and Calais. For maintaining secrecy of communication, the micro-ray offers infinite possibilities and it has valuable application in the direction of aircraft landing during fog.

Thomas Edison.

A RESUME of the year 1931 would not be completed without recording a great loss to radio—I refer to the death of Thomas Alva Edison, America's greatest inventor. Edison, it will be remembered, was the pioneer of the electric light and literally a hundred and one inventions in the electrical world. It was Edison who developed the gramophone which has now become the close associate of radio, an electric dynamo, motion pictures and a long list of inventions which have meant much to modern civilisation. The world is much poorer by his death.

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IT has oft times been stated that wireless can meet any emergency, no matter how great the difficulty or the shortness of time for carrying out a task.

A particular example of carrying out an emergency service was furnished by the radio operators of La Perouse, the famous Sydney commercial station, on a recent Sunday morning. The operator on duty was called to the telephone at 3 a.m. to take an emergency call on the Anglo-Australian telephone circuit. Rubbing the sleep from his eyes, within a few minutes he had picked up London at the La Perouse Receiving Station, and put the call through to the Post Office terminal equipment. London informed him that a call was to be put through from Valparaiso, Chile, South America, to Sydney. The call was put through to the satisfaction of all parties, thus establishing a world's record for a long-distance call.

The circuit covered was actually 17,000 miles, including 2000 miles of land-lines between Valparaiso and Buenos Aires. From the latter city the conversation was transmitted to London by wireless across the Atlantic, and on to Sydney, where the commander of the Chilean training ship spoke from No. 3 Wharf, Circular Quay.

Television Becoming Popular

Regular Broadcasts Granted by B.B.C.

GREAT interest in television has been aroused during the past few weeks by special television programmes given by the Baird process, and transmitted from the two London stations of the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The first of these transmissions was veritably a milestone in the progress of the Baird system, as it was the first television programme to be given by the B.B.C. during their normal hours for transmission. Previously the B.B.C. have only broadcast television at some time outside their schedule, and this had the effect of retarding the popularisation of television, inasmuch as enthusiasts found it very difficult to receive these broadcasts as the time was late at night.

By giving transmissions during normal hours, it seems that the B.B.C. now consider the Baird system to have reached a degree of perfection which brings it within practical and commercial limits.

For the first of these special transmissions the subject chosen was Mr.

Jack Payne and his B.B.C. Dance Orchestra, which is, perhaps, the most popular dance band in the country. The transmission was excellent, many favourable reports being received from all over the British Isles.

History of 2ZW

Attractive Booklet

AN attractive booklet, dealing with the history and growth of Station 2ZW has been issued by the owning company. It is set out in the reading matter that the station has established something of a record in having been on the air for a period of 1300 hours with less than 63 minutes loss of time through breakdown. This is a tribute to the engineers responsible for the equipment—Messrs. Collier and Balle.

An impressive list of pioneer features introduced by the station is incorporated in the booklet. This list naturally makes effective claim for all enterprise possible, and it does indeed constitute a formidable tally. Probably one of the features that will most impress readers is the social service rendered by the station. Considerable assistance was rendered in the first instance to the Mayor of Wellington's Relief Fund, and latterly Christmas cheer for the current season has been organised over a wide area by the station—in particular the Smith Family, adapted from Sydney, has proved highly popular and as an outcome, hundreds of families will derive benefit this Christmas.

Altogether, not less than £1000 has been directly secured for charity by the enterprise and aid of Station 2ZW.

Unquestionably in Mr. Stratton this station has an organiser and announcer of more than ordinary talent and the popularity claimed by the station is almost entirely due to his capacity and enterprise.

Children's Sessions

From 2YA

Monday.—Kipling Lady and Uncle Jeff to-night, and they are to be the guests of honour at an original play called "Mother Goose," written by Miss Jenkins. There will be choruses of Nursery Rhymes and recitations by the "Two Little Girls in Blue."

Tuesday.—Phyllis will entertain you all at her birthday party in the studio to-night. We are to play games and have such fun. Then we are going to play "Forfeits," and each little cousin will be told to sing, play or recite for her "Forfeit." It's Jumbo's evening, so let's hope he won't break any cups and saucers at the party.

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