

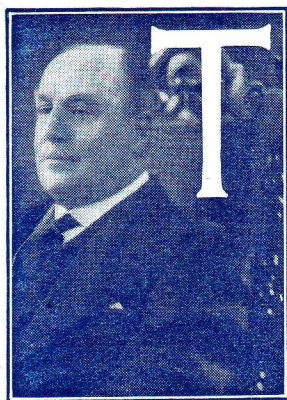
Wireless
World

The LISTENER



The Journal of the Wireless League

Edited by Prof. A.M. Low.



The Hon. Sir A. Stanley,
G.B.E., M.V.O., C.B.,
Chairman, W.L.

instruction, and amusement into every house in the land —“over the ether.”

The Wireless League does not exist to satisfy a demand for any particular class of music or standard of listening.

The Council of the League is composed of representatives from all parts of the country; they are determined to secure a Programme Service second to none. Amongst those who have been elected to stand for the tens of thousands of League members are: Sir Landon Ronald, Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, Sir Frederick Wise, Sir Harry Brittain, Mr. Ammon, M.P., and Sir Lawrence Weaver, the Deputy Chairman.

The country has been divided into fourteen Areas, governing about 150 branches, of which the Secretaries can secure the co-operation of every wireless user in England by explaining the objects of the League.

To-day we can give an unequalled service to members for the small sum of 2s. per annum; but, as in the case of wireless itself, we are only beginning. When the League is able to speak with the authority of a million members, its power will be the greatest factor that broadcasting has known. During the past year our branches have themselves conducted meetings all over the country.

The League has instituted a competition, for which the Stanley Gold Medal is offered to the member who presents the best invention of wireless apparatus.

The B.B.C. themselves have welcomed the Wireless

THE *Listener*, of which this is the first number, is, as shown by the sub-title, the Journal of the Wireless League. In this capacity it fills two rôles. It is the medium of communication between the Council of the League and its members, and it voices the collective opinion of the members of the Wireless League. It is, so to speak, the personal representative of the listeners, and it will present the viewpoint of the Wireless League as an organisation whose sole object is to bring education,

League, in that we have been able to assist them by constructive criticism of the Programmes and by representing the wishes of listeners in a corporate manner. We devote our entire attention to the interests of listeners.

A more material advantage secured by joining the League or by renewing the subscription is that of Free Insurance. From the moment 2s. is received, the receiving set is insured against Third Party claims, damage by Fire and Lightning, and is now also covered for risks of Theft, Burglary, Housebreaking, and Larceny. The League gives free technical advice.

The time is coming when it will be necessary for listeners to state exactly what they need as regards programmes; if these needs are encouraged by the League, the demand will follow, and fulfilment is only a matter of time.

Strengthen our hands; 2s. cannot do you any harm, and if in exchange you receive Free Insurance, Free Legal and Technical advice, and free representation on a Committee whose views are accepted with respect, surely it is worth while!

Wireless is a new art: get in on the ground floor.

Ensure that all money spent on licences is devoted to your service, and your service alone.

In evidence before the Government Committee the League recommended:—

- (1) The setting up of a permanent Broadcasting Commission.
- (2) Representation of the listener.
- (3) Alternative programmes.

We now ask for a “land line,” to give Continental broadcasts to crystal users, and a special service of local

news and education with a three-mile radius in the large cities, in order that interference from the new high-power Stations scheme may not prevent those equipped with a modest apparatus from receiving the alternative programmes.

The Wireless League has made a beginning; the end will never be in sight. *Join, or renew, as the case may be, now.*

“The B.B.C. welcomes ‘The Listener.’ We have always before us the need for constant progress and we gladly listen to constructive criticism and help from the large body of listeners you represent. ‘The Listener’ should be a milestone in the advance of British broadcasting.”

—The British Broadcasting Company.

Alan Watts

THE ear, and this year, are critical for the listener. His greatest need is selectivity. He wishes to pick and choose like a gramophone. To do this is seldom possible without interference.

Perfect music and perfect selection are the greatest needs of wireless to-day. An improvement in these two items would enable us to attain the "catalogue" ideal of music and song from all over the world.

It will not be long before beam and short wave transmission empowers the user of the future air liner to talk to his house on the way to India; but selectivity is needed first of all.

Cheap sets with too many earths are neither select nor selective, yet directional wireless transmission can bring events from all corners of the globe to our fire-side. Very soon we shall have wireless sight and broadcast pictures in our home, a few millionths of a second after the event has taken place. This is where wireless transmission scores over the gramophone system, which takes months



for the manufacture and release of a record.

Speeding up of communication is the keynote of all progress.

Before long the B.B.C. may give us alternative programmes, but the big stations must have very different wavelengths if simple selection is to be possible. Can they not retain local stations for education and local news, on a power which limits normal reception to about 3 miles' radius? Cost would be low and interference would be avoided with the public broadcasting from all over the country . . . and the world!

The B.B.C. would welcome the assistance of theatrical *entrepreneurs*, but when a boy with a telephone and a piece of

sugar can "listen-in," how is the promoter to be repaid?

Less talk and better afternoon music is a good slogan, but we have something to be thankful for. Think how dreadful would be the result of a Government monopoly on music halls with one fixed performance. The B.B.C. is in much the same position, the monopoly is necessary owing to the impossibility of securing real selectivity at present.

The poor old Government has been accused of having a finger in the pie. But would anyone suggest that jazz should be allowed to interfere with Post office or naval and military operations?

Selectivity will come; we shall press our knobs and hear all we want, before long. In the meantime let us concentrate upon what is practicable *now*. We want Paris concerts and Continental events that can be picked up—not only when we are alone—by crystal users. Why not a landline to Paris, with the Continent at full strength from 2LO, without the necessary permission from atmospheres, sunlight, and other stations?

WHY PHONES PHONE.

A wireless set is a very silent thing, until the power reaches the telephones. This is not surprising, for the business of wireless is to carry electrical impulses over long distances, through brick walls and over the sea, until we want to convert those impulses into sound. Sound is the mechanical result of waves of compression and rarefaction in the air. Air does not oscillate easily like ether, and the business of the telephone diaphragm is to move backwards and forwards in accordance with the strength of electrical current, which passes through the coils of the magnets in the headphones.

It is this vibration of the diaphragm that does its best to produce music which is exactly that given to it by the æther, together with a little quite natural distortion. The moving parts of a headphone are light and therefore do not suffer seriously from inertia effect.

The ear is so delicate—it can detect the movement of a diaphragm of one-millionth of a millionth of an inch—and so easily upset, that the relatively heavy parts of a loud-speaker do not always please our ears with their working.

Loud-speakers seldom give really accurate music when they are forced. Listeners too often think of volume rather than reality of effect, and until improvements are forthcoming it is a humiliating fact that the headphone "crystaliser" hears better music than the multi-valve "fan." It is just as creditable to obtain *pure natural* reception as it is to "log" 50 stations in one evening, when all are distorted and mingled with Morse.

Most so-called selectivity means that one station is louder than others. Most purity means that results are better than many gramophones. It is important not to offend even one ear in our audience.

The time will come when it will be hard to distinguish between a piano by radio and a piano by air. The time will come when radio pictures will be as clear as the modern cinema.

What would Gladstone have said in eighteen something if he had been told that 1926 would see us flying the Atlantic and hearing the Savoy band all the while? What will the Wireless League say in 1926 if radio music from America is not so pure as the ordinary Post Office telephony from "the other side"?

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WOMEN AND WIRELESS.

It was a lady who is alleged to have asked the Editor how she could slow down the music for dancing, and to have said, "I have already tried turning all the knobs, but it is no use." As a matter of hard fact many women make up their own sets far more neatly than mere clumsy males. They show a far greater appreciation of the programmes, and they are influencing general set design in the best direction.

They ask for the receiver to mingle with the furniture, and very sensibly they dislike the untidy—but necessary—outside aerial. Will they not suggest some novel items for programmes? Would they like more fashion talks in the afternoon? Would they like broadcast cookery recipes, or would they prefer a special wavelength altogether or a directional beam of matter far too sacred for the mere male? What about a dance programme with a description of every item by "Lady This," or a criticism of things seen at the average dance by Madame Russhnickova?

KNOCKS BY KNOX.

Apart from the interest of the Father Knox broadcast, in which the burning of "Big Ben" was described and in which the Houses of Parliament were blown up—some people would be delighted—there is probably a scientific explanation for so much misunderstanding. When we sing or speak to an audience we rely upon more than the one sense of hearing to give the desired impression. We use seeing, touch, and even smell, to convey our personality. We probably rely upon numbers of other unknown senses, there may be some telepathic effect for which the transmitting apparatus is not yet discovered. Certainly a microphone is no use for anything but the course waves of air to reproduce sound. Mental waves are as yet beyond our ken.

Wireless only transmits one sense, and that imperfectly, so that the public, in listening to Father Knox, only heard *part* of his voice and missed much of the delicate inflection which would have made the joke evident to an actual listener or onlooker.

The same effect prevents some classical music from being transmitted effectively and shows up the need for programme simplicity. Accurate reproduction is a great need in broadcasting. Nightingales are no use if they sound like squeaking perambulators.

The listener wants accurate broadcasting of popular music, and events that are *within the capabilities of modern radio*.

So successful is broadcasting and so cheap that the demand for music has outstripped the scientific knowledge of the art.

Wireless possibilities are unlimited, and every new listener contributes to improving the service.

AROUND THE BRANCHES.

Subscriptions are now due. Use the form overleaf and post immediately.

Tottenham and District Branch.

Covering Tottenham, Wood Green, Upper and Lower Edmonton, this branch is getting well to the front. The Provisional Committee appointed at the inaugural meeting of members of the League has got to work, and a further meeting of members is called for March 25th next to receive the report of the Committee. An interesting feature of the meeting will be a lecture by Mr. A. Hankey, of the B.B.C., on a popular subject. Councillor T. Elderfield has accepted the presidency of the branch. *Hon. Sec.:* G. H. Hasemer, 9, Galliard Road, N.9.

Newbury Branch.

An infant of six weeks old and 78 members. No time has been lost, and this number has been increased by 50 per cent. *Hon. Sec.:* R. H. Parkes, 71, Gloucester Road.

Leeds Branch.

Formed in October, 1925, and has made considerable progress under the able direction of its chairman, Mr. E. N. Kent-Lemon, and a "live-wire" committee. Membership is steadily increasing as the benefits and advantages of "the League" become wider known, and the secretary will be pleased to give any information to those interested who live in the district. *Hon. Sec.:* J. Watson, 4, Armley Grange Drive, Armley.

Bradford Branch.

The Bradford Branch has doubled its membership during its three months' existence. *Hon. Sec.:* C. Wicks, 70, Saton Road.

Harrow.

General meeting to be called for early next month, when we hope Professor Low will come and talk to us. Harrow listeners please write to *Hon. Sec.:* E. W. Everett, 28, Greenhill Crescent.

Sheffield Branch.

The League has made much progress in Sheffield. The membership is now 1,000, and is daily increasing. It is recognised as the "listeners' league." The branch is energetically co-operating with the educational authorities and the Chamber of Commerce, and has already promised to place installations in two Council schools. A public meeting at the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield, will be held on April 22nd, and Professor A. M. Low has promised to speak. The social side is not neglected, and dances and other social functions are being organised. *Hon. Sec.:* S. J. Adams, 38, Church Street.

Windsor Branch.

Inaugural meeting at Congregational Hall, Windsor, March 25th. Professor Low will then give members some technical tips as well as ideas on the future of broadcasting. *Hon. Sec.:* K. W. Lane, Imperial Service College.

Wembley and District Branch.

Branch going well. The membership is nearly 200. The annual meeting will be held next month, at which Professor A. M. Low will speak. *Hon. Sec.:* R. W. Corkling, "Orpington," Basingham Road, Alperton, Middlesex.



Mr. Thomas Denbigh, J.P., Chairman of Bradford Branch



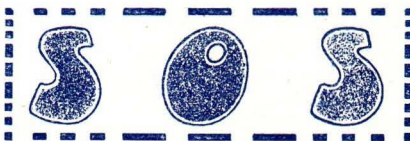
Mr. K. W. Lane, Hon. Sec. of Windsor Branch.

Wandsworth Branch.

During the past six months the membership increased from 2,000 to 3,745. The area is so large that it has become necessary to have sub-branches. Secretarial help badly needed. The branch is actively organising an appeal for receiving apparatus for local hospitals. *Hon. Sec.:* F. G. Edwards, 29, Baskerville Road, S.W.18.

On another page will be found a provisional list of Branch Secretaries' Addresses.

It is regretted that pressure on our space in this issue prevents the insertion of notes from a large number of branches. Next month it is hoped more space will be available.



THE MOST IMPORTANT hint to any new reader is the reminder that a house without radio is like a house without a bath.

ALWAYS REMEMBER that, having paid your licence, the more energy you can collect the less you need spend on amplification. So begin with a good aerial. Insulate it properly and keep the insulators clean. Soot, dust and dirt all conduct electricity and waste the incoming signal. The vertical portion of an aerial or the "lead-in" is important. Sometimes it is more effective than the aerial proper, so keep it away from trees and buildings

THE EARTH is cheap, but high-frequency currents dislike sharp corners. Let your earth wire be like the nigger's business—as straight as possible! If a real main water pipe is out of the question, try other pipes, but best of all, bury a large

metal plate in the ground and solder the earth wire to it. Choose wet ground; a bucket of water over the earth spot once a week is very useful.

SOME FLATS, of the brickwork variety, have no room for aerials. A roll of chicken wire in the roof, suspended from a ginger-beer bottle, with an insulated wire to the set, makes a good aerial if the usual wire round the picture-rail is inconvenient.

FRAME AERIALS are excellent, but are little use on ordinary crystal sets; their directional effect is useful for cutting out unwanted stations.

A sheet of silver paper made up from scrap between two varnished sheets of brown paper about 5ft. by 4ft. makes a good aerial in some districts. Remember that the location of a set affects its results. Certain neighbourhoods are very "dead," due to reflection and other troubles. Moving the position of the aerial may bring improvement and help to avoid interference from trams and electrical machinery. If this latter is very bad, the only hope is to "write to the League about it."

DIRT IS BAD for wireless sets and batteries. Keep them dry and covered.

If the H.T. battery is kept in a cardboard box and sealed up it will last longer, particularly if disconnected. Flash-lamp batteries in series make good H.T. supply, and are often less susceptible to damp and dirt.

DO NOT HOWL. Ask the B.B.C. for their "anti-howl" pamphlet. Oscillation spoils other people's enjoyment. Worst of all, it spoils yours!

PLEASE REMEMBER that the League is conducted by its members for its members. Help us not to waste money and renew your two shillings at once. We want our modest staff to work for progress in your interests, and not to spend time on book-keeping.

IF ANY reader has a good idea for a workable wireless competition, write to "The Listener."

We have already one suggestion for a working model valve with a series of diagrams showing each phase of detection printed on the top corner of "The Listener." By flicking over the pages the movements of "electrons" would become evident.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that "his League membership is the best bargain he has ever made." Another tells us that by our free legal advice scheme we have obtained replacement of a damaged accumulator free of all cost to himself.

THE BADGE of the League can be obtained from headquarters or from any branch or area secretary.

ONE DOES not neglect insurance because the home is not burnt down twice weekly. The policy is a guard. So is the League.

When you visit a theatre you pay for the seat—unless you are lucky. The air is the medium by which you hear the performance, and it costs nothing. The B.B.C. should not be encouraged to establish a new standard of bands and performers. Good music and good artists exist already. The public wants to hear them. The public wants Gilbert and Sullivan, and *will* have it from the concert platform where this music is played. A theatre costs 10s. 6d. for a seat, and spends hundreds of pounds to get the best artists. Wireless must not spend hundreds on what is after all a cheap method of transmission, and pay minor artistes £2 2s.!

Contributions and Branch Notices should reach the Editor, Chandos House, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, not later than the 15th of each month.

FREE INSURANCE.

Free legal and technical advice, free insurance. You can pay two shillings and forget the League if you wish—until atmospheric or fire spoil the set, or until your aerial spoils someone else's best hat. The Wireless League was the first to be invited to give evidence before the Broadcasting Committee on behalf of the listener. Our witnesses recommended a Commission—so does the report. Our witnesses recommended special wavelengths for education—so does the report. What the League "Listener" thinks to-day, all listeners think to-morrow.

Now for that two shillings!

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Members of THE WIRELESS LEAGUE are covered by Insurance with the CORNHILL INSURANCE Co., LTD., 32, Cornhill, E.C.3, as under:

- (1.) Damage by Fire and/or Lightning or Burglary, House-breaking, Theft or Larceny on Wireless Receiving Sets, including Aerials and Accessories, the property of members of the Wireless League, whilst in any Private Residence, Hotel, Inn, Lodging House, Club, Nursing Home, Hospital, School or Restaurant in the United Kingdom and Ireland, up to the actual value of such Sets, etc., no one set to be deemed of greater value than £25 (Twenty-five pounds), with a limit of £50 (Fifty pounds) in respect to any number of Sets owned by one Member.

This Insurance does not cover the burning out of valves or damage to apparatus caused by excessive pressure, short-circuiting or self-heating, or whilst being actually worked upon.

- (2.) Legal liabilities to Third Parties incurred by Members of the Wireless League in respect of injury to persons and/or damage to property in connection with Wireless Receiving Sets, etc., as defined above, with a limit of £250 (Two hundred and fifty pounds) in respect of any one accident or occurrence.

The above Insurance is effective to March 31st, 1927, in respect of Member's apparatus at the address or addresses given by the applicant subject to the terms and conditions of the Insurance Policy held by THE WIRELESS LEAGUE on behalf of its members.

In the event of a claim arising, notification must be sent to the office of THE WIRELESS LEAGUE within seven days of the occurrence.

MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL FORM.

To be filled in by readers who wish to become members of the League, or to renew their membership for a further twelve months as from 1st April next.

To the Secretary, The Wireless League, Chandos House,
Palmer Street, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

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Please *enrol me as a member of The Wireless League. I enclose P.O. for Two Shillings,† which entitles me to membership with all the privileges and rights as enumerated in the constitution of the League, including FREE Insurance, Free Legal Advice and Free Technical Advice.

* Cross out Line not required.

† Keep the Counterfoil of your Postal Order.

WRITE IN Name (in full)
CAPITAL (State whether Mr., Mrs. or Miss)
LETTERS. Address

My Membership No. is.....
(This is only applicable in the case of renewals)

Please enclose stamped addressed envelope.

Commencing with the first issue in May, "The Wireless World" will devote four pages in the first issue of each month to League Notes and News, and a special arrangement has been made whereby those who are interested may receive these issues, post free, in addition to membership of the League, by payment of a joint subscription of 6/-.

All who wish to take advantage of this offer should fill in the form below instead of the Membership Form above.

JOINT MEMBERSHIP and SUBSCRIPTION FORM.

To the Publishers, "The Wireless World," Dorset House,
Tudor Street, London, E.C.4.

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Please *enrol me as a member of The Wireless League and also enter my name as a Special Subscriber to "The Wireless World." I enclose P.O. for Six Shillings,† which entitles me to membership with all the privileges and rights as enumerated in the constitution of the League, including FREE Insurance, Free Legal Advice and Free Technical Advice; and also to receive, post free, for twelve months, commencing May 5th, 1926, the first issue of "The Wireless World" published each month, containing a copy of the "Listener."

* Cross out Line not required.

† Keep the Counterfoil of your Postal Order.

WRITE IN Name (in full)
CAPITAL (State whether Mr., Mrs. or Miss)
LETTERS. Address

My Membership No. is.....
(This is only applicable in the case of renewals)

Please enclose stamped addressed envelope.