

Radiatorial Comment

TOO much praise cannot be given to the Southern California Radio Association for its action in banning from the air between 6:45 and 11:00 p.m. all alternating current C. W., I. C. W., spark, 'phone and poorly filtered R. A. C. transmission. This means that the broadcast listener will not be disturbed by amateur signals during the time immediately preceding and following the regular concert periods. It also means that non-interfering transmission from direct current C. W. and 'phones using the Carson method may be employed.

This is only one of many instances where sixth and seventh district amateurs have shown an intelligent spirit of cooperation. They were the first in the country to voluntarily refrain from transmission during the evening broadcast hours. Due recognition of this fact was made when compulsory nation-wide silence was first enforced. At that time the Pacific Plan was allowed to continue until the expiration of the year's agreement with the broadcasters.

It is possible that such commendable action is partly responsible for the exemption from the daylight saving restriction that the Department of Commerce has granted Pacific Coast amateurs. Coincident with the publication in these columns of an objection to this system as applied to districts where daylight saving is not in force, the radio supervisors of the sixth and seventh districts recommended that their districts be exempt. These recommendations were accepted by the Department.

The fine spirit shown by the Southern California amateurs may well be emulated by amateurs throughout the country. Not only is the use of pure C. W. in full accord with progress, but it also wins the good will of the B. C. L. As a whole, the broadcast listeners are fair, and will be more likely to concede the justice of greater privileges to the amateur transmitters if they realize that the amateurs are ready to meet them half way.

NOT least among the several factors upon which is based the thrill of radio, is the opportunity it affords for expression of mechanical ability. Whereas the past generation may have exercised its mechanical genius as a whittler of model ships or in furniture making, this same creative impulse now finds outlet in the construction of radio sets. More than half the sets in use today are home-made.

Their makers justifiably take greater pride in their handicraft and derive greater satisfaction in operation than can come to any user of a factory-made set. The pleasure comes not from money saved—for frequently the home-made receiver costs more—but in the tangible evidence of the owner's knowledge and skill. No matter if the home-made set is not as beautifully finished or as substantially constructed, yet it carries with it the joy of a builder.

Because of this fact the manufacturers of radio parts have

enjoyed a greater volume of sales than the makers of complete sets. Although the demand for the assembled receiver is likely to be ultimately greater than the demand for parts, there is reason to believe that the parts manufacturers will be busy for many years to come.

Discussion of radio construction affords an excellent point of contact between the amateur and the broadcast listeners. Weekly meetings featuring speakers on the merits of various circuits, the advantages of different types of equipment, or the methods of construction procedure will be of benefit to both classes.

Such a plan has been successfully tried out by the radio club at San Diego, California, and a similar scheme has been used for two years by the radio section of the Electric Club of Chicago. Undoubtedly there are many other instances where a common meeting-ground has been found for all kinds of radio fans who are interested in how to "roll their own."

THE easy pleasure of listening to broadcast programs is likely to cause the average listener to overlook the greater pleasure to be derived from understanding and applying radio principles. While radio concerts afford a wonderful means for relaxation in the home, radio study gives an appreciation of many lines of recent scientific advance. The case is similar to that offered by any popular magazine which publishes serious as well as fictional material. The reader who skips the serious part gets as little real value from his reading as the man who is content to receive radio programs without understanding the why and how thereof.

While it is recognized that the great majority will always be interested in radio as a pastime, in what it brings rather than in how it is done, yet there will be a constantly increasing number, spurred on by the desire for knowledge which is the main-spring of all human progress, who will delve into the mysteries of radio transmission and reception. These are the ones who will derive the greatest benefit from this latest application of science to the service of man.

Radio brings us closer to an understanding of the secrets of Nature than any other popular science. The conception of the electron, upon whose motion the action of the vacuum tube is dependent, is the foundation stone of the new physics which finds matter to be but a form of energy. The action of storage batteries and chemical rectifiers form a good introduction to the study of chemistry. And any serious radio student knows more about the elements of electricity and magnetism than the average man on the street.

These studies have not only a practical value in this modern world, but also a cultural value. No person can be considered well-informed unless he understands the facts back of these applications of science to the welfare of mankind. Never before has there been such an opportunity for pleasurable study as is afforded by radio.