

FOR RADIO FANS

By William R. Boehnel

SINCE November, 1920, when radio broadcasting started, the art of tuning and listening in has gained millions of followers. Radio was a new art and science and it aroused the curiosity of all. The mystery of the ether and manipulation of the instruments led a host of enthusiasts to ask

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questions in order to learn how to get the loudest and clearest concerts and cover the greatest distance. It has been said that the easiest way to learn is to ask questions. This is the way a child learns, and a child learns faster than anyone else. Millions of radio listeners adopted the child's method of learning and swamped radio editors of newspapers and magazines with questions pertaining to the new science.

In order to satisfy this newly created and rapidly increasing interest in radio, a number of books dealing with the subject have appeared. Of the more recent books, "The Radio Manual" by Orrin E. Dunlap, Jr. and "The Home Radio", revised edition, by A. Hyatt Verrill are designed to meet the requirements of all types of radio fans.

"The Home Radio" is written in simple, non-technical language, and is abundantly illustrated with descriptive diagrams. It is intended primarily for the person who wishes to build his own set and contains information that should prove of interest and value to amateurs and experimenters. Some good advice is given concerning the construction and operation of sets and the purpose and principles of the various units.

Mr. Dunlap, on the other hand, in his "Radio Manual" has dealt with the historic and romantic as well as the technical aspect of radio. In his capacity as radio editor of the New York "Times" he has answered thousands of questions on the subject, and he evidently had the answers to these questions in mind in planning his book. It will appeal to every type of radio follower from the casual listener to the man who sits up most of the night to get the greatest distance from his receiver. Sections of the book interesting to one or the other class are

skillfully alternated, and emphasis is shifted from time to time to satisfy each type of fan.

The material is up to date and offers a vast reservoir of information for the new radio fan as well as the experimenter who gets his greatest pleasure from radio by assembling and disassembling sets. It answers many questions about the operation of a receiver from a crystal detector set to the latest superheterodyne. The art and technique of tuning are clearly explained in a popular manner. It is not necessary to know the technical or engineering side of wireless to understand broadcasting and receiving as presented by Mr. Dunlap.

The opening chapter deals in an interesting manner with the history of radio. It tells of Marconi's early experiments; the first transatlantic radiogram; the history and meaning of the CQD and SOS calls. The author then describes the ether waves, the creation of wave lengths, antenna construction, types of antennæ, and how the wire should be strung for most efficient reception. Crystal detectors, vacuum tubes, coils and condensers and their function in the radio circuit are also explained.

The concluding chapters deal with topics whose appeal is to the general public. The routine of a modern broadcasting station is clearly described. Remote control broadcasting, that is, broadcasting of events away from the studio such as prize-fights, football games, and theatrical productions direct from the stage, is interestingly explained. The method of transmitting time signals and weather forecasts, the operation and installation of a radio compass station and radio beacons, are treated in lucid fashion.

Clearly Mr. Dunlap has demonstrated that it is possible to explain

radio in non-technical language and that it is possible to write a book on the subject which will appeal at once to the most ardent fan and to the casual listener whose sole interest in radio lies in the material that is broadcast.

The Radio Manual. By Orrin E. Dunlap, Jr., B.S. Houghton Mifflin Co.
The Home Radio, How to Make and Use It. By A. Hyatt Verrill. Revised edition including 1924 developments. Harper and Bros.