

S.R.R.A.

## Amateur Radio — GM3EDZ

Mr. Tommy Hughes, proprietor of the Glasgow Radio business of Fraser and Niven, 455 Great Western Road, and a member of the Council of the S.R.R.A. has been the possessor of an Amateur Radio Licence for over ten years, in which time he has made contact with many other radio enthusiasts throughout the world. His station call is GM3EDZ. A most elaborate and efficient aerial outfit is high on the roof of a four storey building, and the apparatus he uses for reception and transmission is of modern design—some units are home-built and others of best and somewhat expensive commercial design and manufacture.

Tommy agreed, with ready amiability, to transport and erect a complete outfit for the transmission and reception of shortwave in the Grosvenor and to give a demonstration lecture before interested fellow members of the Glasgow Branch of the S.R.R.A.

He began by explaining the extent of the hobby which has 9,000 amateur devotees of every walk in life with stations over the entire world. He spoke of the dedication and joy of the true radio shortwave experimenter who was always out of pocket with his pastime. There are very few retailers of this apparatus and he warned dealers not to indulge in stocking and supplying this field as radio amateurs were always looking for bargains. The supply of ex-Government parts, he thought, was pretty well exhausted, but this had been a wonderfully economical method of obtaining most efficient instruments.

There has been a most significant change now in the equipment which is much lighter and more compact than the heavy and complicated equipment of past years.

Mr. Hughes explained the requirements for obtaining a permit from the G.P.O. which entailed the possession of a C. and G. certificate, a 12 words per minute Morse certificate, three referees and a fee of £2 10s. The intending Amateur can attend a class—for instance in Glasgow's Allan Glen School—where tuition goes on during the winter.

On the blackboard he tabulated the various shortwave bands and in most interesting fashion told of the various difficulties in working on some of them by reason of interruptions from fishing and coastal radio, commercial and service signals and the necessity of ensuring that there could be no self inter-

ference or radiation on TV programmes. Great care had to be exercised on this latter point with filters, etc.; breaches were promptly punished with revocation of the Amateur Licence.

By means of a world shortwave map Mr. Hughes showed the tracks of the beam directed signals and described the ionised layers. This meant that special aerials had to be utilised to give low and distant angles of reflection.

He had erected an outside aerial on the Grosvenor roof although its efficiency had been much reduced by the neon and other disturbance in the vicinity. The motor driven aerial on the adjoining table was demonstrated in action on the receiver.

The complete receiving and transmitting apparatus was then explained and demonstrated in action. Communication was established with Mr. Alisdair Fraser, well-known to many in the radio trade as outside technical representative for Philips Electrical Ltd. who is also the teacher at the amateur radio classes in Allan Glen School. Mr. Fraser radiates on ~~as~~ GM3AXX and his conversation with Mr. Hughes on the methods employed at either end were clearly heard and understood.

Questions followed and it was 20 minutes after 10 p.m. when a hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Hughes for all the time and trouble taken. It was well on in the forenoon of the following day before the outside aerial and the extensive apparatus could be retrieved and transported home.

Again well done and thanks to Tommy Hughes! And we didn't hear da-de-de-da all evening. It would appear almost that Morse 12 words a minute learners have to go to the medium wave where GPK 'Portpatrick' so often blasts its dots and dashes.

### HOW TO USE REGENTONE AND R.G.D. TELEVISION RECEIVERS

The Push Button Receivers, i.e. R.G.D. Models 623 and 625, and Regentone Models 194 and 196, incorporate a Tuner which has satisfactory band width for 625 line V.H.F.

R.G.D. Model 624 and Regentone Model 196, are simply adapted by linking across the H.T. Tag Strip, and by the fitting of a special wide band biscuit.