

of the Australian and New Zealand delegations in Moscow, I did not expect to hear anything very illuminating. Nor did I. There is possibly little to tell so far. Times are, as he pointed out, too abnormal for trade openings; scientific co-operation, already begun by the longer-established Australian delegation, would seem to be the most immediately profitable opening. Mr. Costello, of New Zealand, was the first British diplomat to enter Poland, where he arranged for release of prisoners. Mrs. Boswell, during a country drive, had a long technical discussion with a farmer who was driving home a cow he had bought at the market, and convinced him he had a bargain. Our delegation has frequent contacts with those from Great Britain and Canada, and is at last moving out of its hotel into a house which has been allotted to it. It was a talk that may have disappointed many interested people, both in content and in length (8 minutes only). We must remind ourselves that we sent an able delegation who will work hard and seize every opportunity; that more important than the buying or selling of a few hundred tons of linen, butter or hides is the necessity for us to understand and to be understood by the Russians. This will take more time and more people than we have already allotted to it, but it would go ahead more quickly if the public received more frequent and more comprehensive reports.

Disappointed

I MADE a point of hearing Gracie when she landed at Mechanics' Bay, Auckland, from the Sydney flying-boat. I heard the boat. I heard, also, two announcers almost speechless with emotion. After a few hesitant remarks about this and that—chiefly the boat's appearance—there were the expected references to Lancashire and Rochdale. Before Miss Fields reached the microphone listeners were treated to a shattering roar which the announcer naively wondered if we could hear. Then came the BIG NEWS in a feminine voice. Miss Fields, "a fair, lovely, gracious lady" (and why not?) was wearing a mink coat, a pink sequin collar, a gold brooch, and court shoes. And then there were two or three excited squeaks, including "Eh bah goom!" from Gracie, who told us that it was nice to be here. The announcers had a lovely time.

Letters Unposted

IN a recent programme from 4YA, entitled "Postman's Knock," Professor T. D. Adams produced some of the most diversely-sorted letters it would be possible to find, digging haphazardly into that odd post-bag of letters written by great men, often addressed to nobody with any tangible existence, very seldom actually posted, requiring, in most cases, no reply. Indeed, to the first of these particular letters no fitting reply was possible, since the unknown recipient must surely have died of bitter shame after reading the first few lines. It was from Thomas Mann to the Dean of the University of Bonn, which had just informed the famous author that, having lost his German citizenship, he must no longer use the degree conferred upon him. The reply, couched in scholarly, gentlemanly, but biting language, informed the Dean that the writer no longer required to use the degree, since

it had been supplanted by one from Harvard, conferred for those very qualities of militant anti-Fascism which the Bonn University so deprecated. A more moving letter could scarcely be imagined, and it is not difficult to believe, as Professor Adams tells us, that it was circulated underground in Germany and read with excitement, fascination, and danger. It was opportune of Professor Adams to produce, in the same mail, so to speak, some of the love-letters of Pierre and Marie Curie, since the film of their life was currently showing in Dunedin. The restrained and gentle affection of these letters showed, if anything were needed to prove such a point, that truth is often more quietly effective than Hollywood fiction.

POETRY

A BOOK OF NEW ZEALAND VERSE, 1923-45, Chosen by Allen Curnow, 12/9 posted.—This anthology of the works of sixteen poets is the first comprehensive collection of New Zealand verse to be made for some time. It is likely to become a standard work. Mr. Curnow has contributed a valuable critical essay stating the principles which guided his choice.

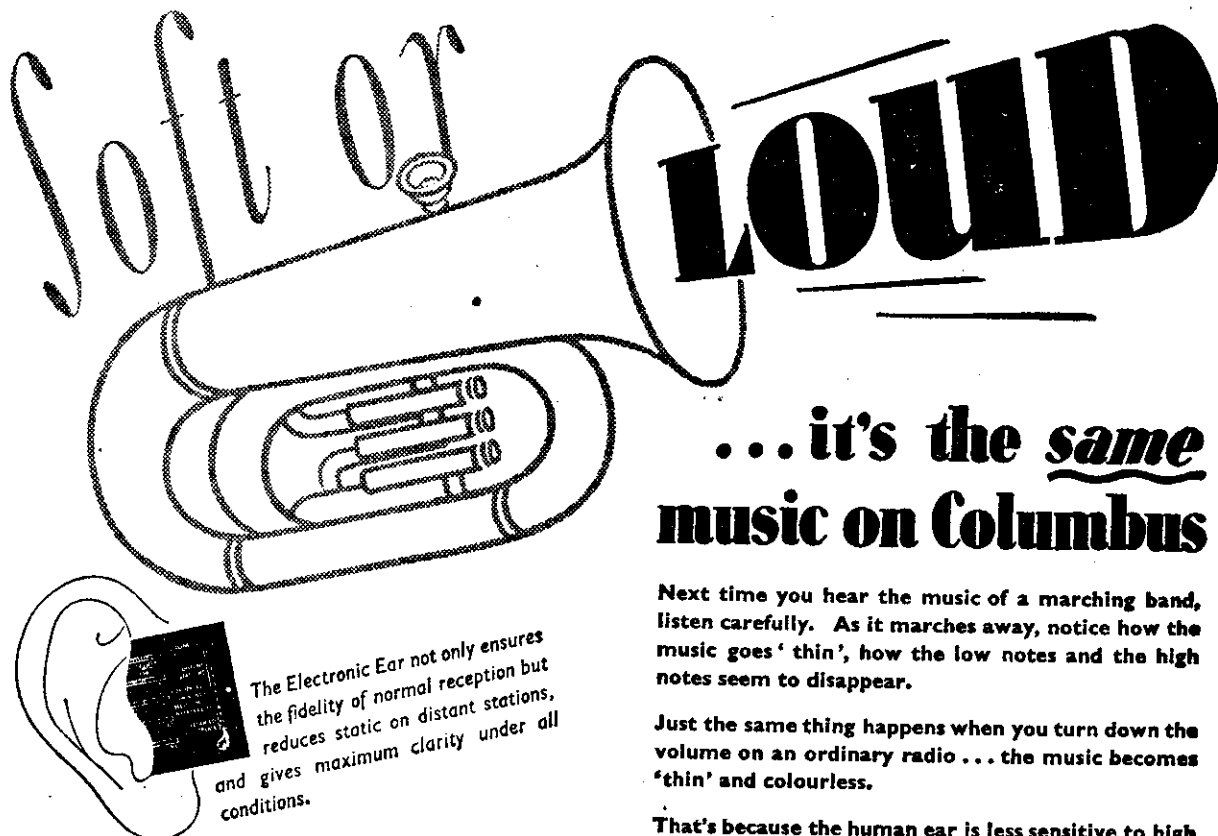
ENGLAND: An Anthology compiled by the English Association, 12/9 posted.—These poems are chosen to give a faithful picture of the outward aspect and the inner life of England and her people in works selected from poets of every period of English literature.

FIFTEEN POETS, 9/10 posted.—A book which contains a substantial sample of the best work of the major poets from Chaucer to Matthew Arnold. The selections are preceded by short essays of appreciation and by summaries of the poets' lives.

THE POET'S DEFENCE, by Dr. J. Bronowski, 12/9 posted.—The author turns to the established poets to find out what they themselves believed to be the essence and function of poetry. The ideas of such poets as Dryden, Shelley and Wordsworth are ably discussed and analysed.

WELLINGTON CO-OPERATIVE BOOK SOCIETY LIMITED.

MODERN BOOKS 48A MANNERS STREET, WELLINGTON, C.I., N.Z.



...it's the *same* music on Columbus

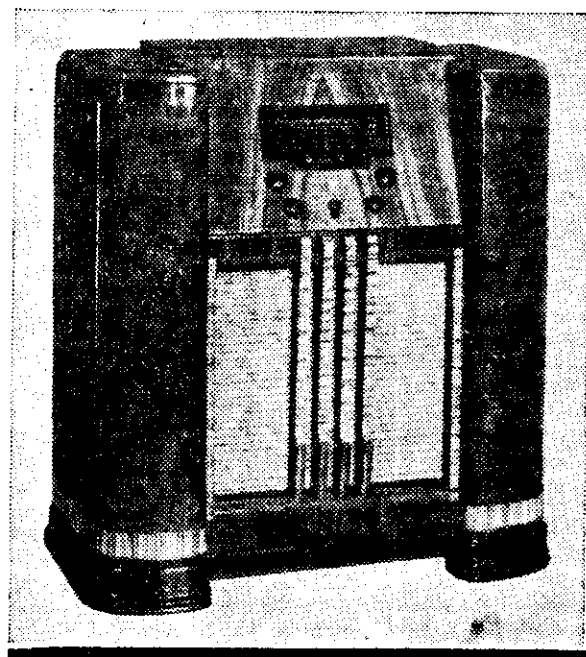
Next time you hear the music of a marching band, listen carefully. As it marches away, notice how the music goes 'thin', how the low notes and the high notes seem to disappear.

Just the same thing happens when you turn down the volume on an ordinary radio... the music becomes 'thin' and colourless.

That's because the human ear is less sensitive to high and low notes when music is soft in volume.

But... soft or loud... you hear the same music on Columbus Radio. For the Columbus Electronic Ear restores those missing notes... brings you perfectly balanced reproduction at every volume level.

The Columbus Electronic Ear gives a new meaning to radio fidelity... just as Calibrated Band-Spread Tuning brings new enjoyment to short-wave listening. You owe it to yourself to hear Columbus Radio.



COLUMBUS

RADIO

A TRIUMPH OF ELECTRONICS

A product of Radio Corporation of New Zealand Limited.