

At the Hutt Hospital we saw more kitchens and more bedrooms, sun-rooms and recreation-rooms, and labour-saving machines. Here, one girl in the kitchen said: "I've had this job!" Then she followed it up by saying: "Oh, I suppose it's not so bad after all."

At Silverstream, taken over from the United States authorities and costing the Board £24,000 to adapt, the staff has single rooms and all the facilities of the other hospitals. The hospital sports a gymnasium, a theatre for weekly movies, a swimming pool, and a library supplied by the Country Library Service. One wing of the household department has been closed through lack of staff. It also has a chapel which can be used by any denomination.

Wages and Conditions

The tour over, we asked about wages and conditions. For the household staff at Wellington, we were told, the wages are: kitchen maids, £4/5/6 a week; wardmaids, £3/19/-; laundresses, £3/10/- Each member has four uniforms, laundered free. Holidays are 23 annually, with a bonus of £5 at the end of every 12 months' work. Sick leave is five days on full pay per year. Living-in accommodation costs them £1/2/6 a week. If staff members are living out of hospital they are charged 5/- a week for up to 10 meals, or 10/- a week. The hours are 40 a week.

Hamilton has vacancies for 39 girls—15 in the hospital and 24 in the mental hospital. Auckland Hospital needs 72, Greenlane 41, and Cornwall 32; Palmerston North, 25; North Canterbury, 47; Dunedin, 84, plus 9 for Seaclyff Mental Hospital.

Wellington Hospital has vacancies for 118 household staff (59 for kitchen duties) and 29 for the laundry. Divided in order of general household work and kitchen work, the figures of vacancies are: Main hospital, 24 and 15 (plus 29 laundry); Hutt Hospital, 7 and 7; Silverstream, 11 and 10; Nurses' Home, 6 and 13; Ewart Hospital, 4 and 7; Fever Hospital, 2 and 1; Central Park Hospital, 2 and 1; Kilbirnie Nurses' Home, 3 and 5.

A new feature of hospital staffing in Wellington is the appointment of a personnel officer—a woman whose sole job it will be to look after the general welfare of the staff.

Too Many Clockmakers

NOT long ago H. V. Morton received an invitation to lunch with the Clockmakers' Company. In a BBC broadcast he told listeners an amusing story about it. "The Clockmakers are almost modern—they date only from 1631 in the reign of Charles I. But, unlike the Talow Chandlers, who don't make candles and the Cobblers, who don't make shoes and the Fanmakers, who don't make fans—unlike all these, the Clockmakers, or many of them, are still connected with the trade that employed them in the time of Charles I., and before I had been in the huge ante-room for five minutes I was introduced to the foremost maker of chronometers in England. When the great crowd of members and guests assembled in the hall, I found myself standing near a screen which concealed two waiters. These two ancient gentlemen peeped round the screen and surveyed the company. Said one: 'Bill, are all these blokes clockmakers?' 'Yus, of course they are,' said Bill. 'Blimey,' commented his mate 'an' I can't even get me blinkin' alarm clock mended!'"

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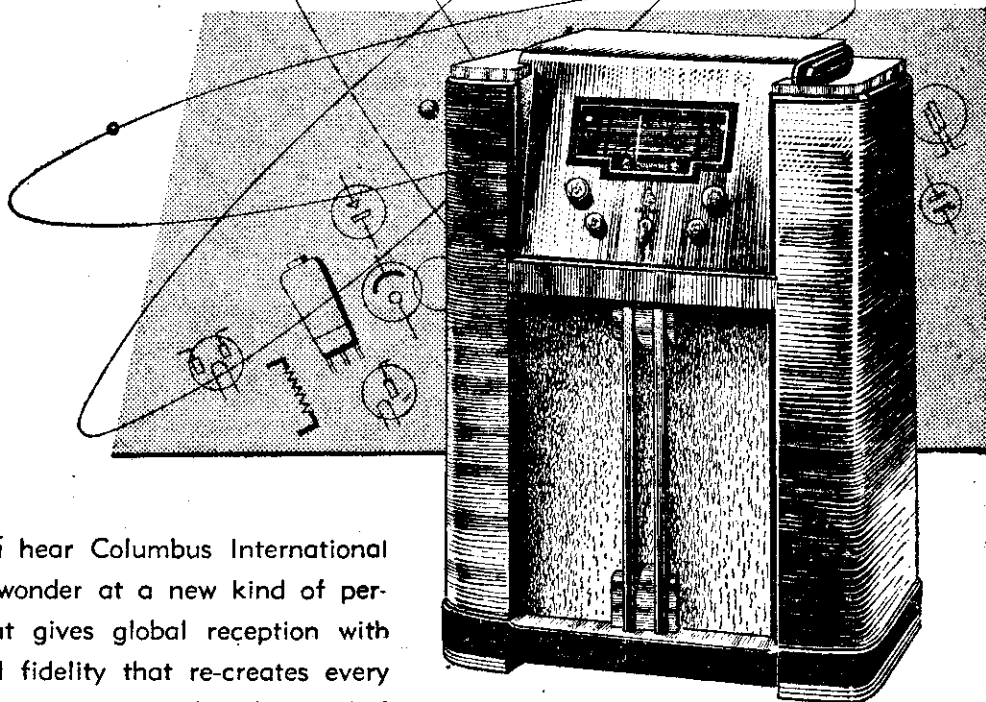
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