

The ABC Director of Drama (Frank D. Clelow) took the view that drama needed undivided attention. "Obviously," he said, "if there are people in the family keen on drama, it is hardly likely they will get an hour of uninterrupted listening to dramatic programmes; the other members of the family may want to hear something else, and one hour at a stretch is a bit long to monopolise the radio set."

"The solution is to have one radio set for general use in the lounge-room and another set in a separate room for special use. The person who wishes to listen to a play could then go to this room, switch out the light and listen undisturbed. A darkened room is an aid to drama as it helps the imagination to work."

The ABC's Acting Director of Variety (Hal Percy) commented:

"Being a family man I am most definitely in favour of two, or even more, radios in the house. Certain stations have a nasty habit of presenting serials round about dinner time, and as my son is an ardent listener to these potboilers, I am often forced to eat my food to the accompaniment of pistol shots as the hero shoots it out with the villain. Some of these thrillers I played in, but am I allowed to forget my sins against society? No sir, I am reminded with every mouthful."

"I can't even gargle my soup in comfort, and if by any mischance I venture an observation on the weather or any such mundane topic, I am immediately sshh-d into resigned silence. Am I in favour of two or more radios in the home? Yes, sir—yes, indeed."

## CHRISTMAS ON SHORTWAVE

THE advance in the publication date of *The Listener* this week, by which it is hoped that all subscribers will have this copy by Christmas Eve, should enable those interested in shortwave listening to take advantage of the special BBC Christmas programmes listed below. The Pacific Service (6.0 p.m.-10.0 p.m.) will be broadcasting these programmes at the most suitable times for listeners in New Zealand, on the following frequencies and wavelengths:

9.64 m/c	31.12 metres
11.82 m/c	25.38 metres
17.79 m/c	16.86 metres
9.69 m/c	30.96 metres
15.45 m/c	19.42 metres
18.025 m/c	16.64 metres

### Special Christmas Programmes:

Carols sung by past choristers of the Temple Church, London, Christmas Eve, 7.15 p.m.; Carols sung by the Musical Society of St. Mary's Hospital, London, Christmas Eve, 9.20 p.m.; The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College Chapel, Cambridge, Christmas Day, 6.45 p.m.; Christmas Message by His Grace the Archbishop of York, 7.45 p.m.; Letters at Christmas, 8.35 p.m.; Christmas Day Service, 9.30 p.m.; Christmas Talk, Boxing Day, 7.45 p.m.; Arthur Askey's Christmas Party, Boxing Day, 8.15 p.m.; "Bethlehem," an opera by Rutland Boughton, with the BBC Theatre Orchestra, December 27, 8.30 p.m.

The BBC's Empire Christmas programme, "At Home Again," will be heard on shortwave at 6.45 p.m., New Zealand time, on Boxing Day. The narrator is Robert Donat. (See story on page 9.)


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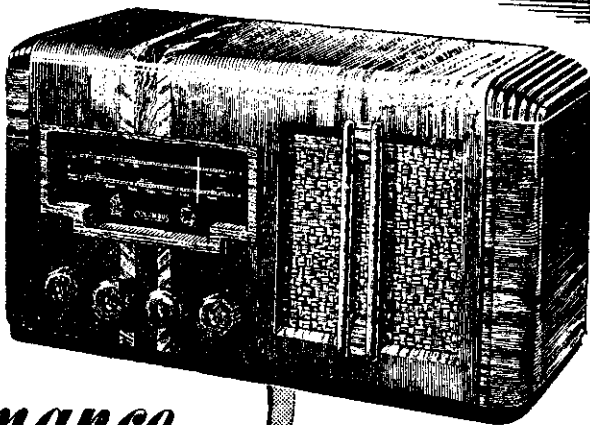
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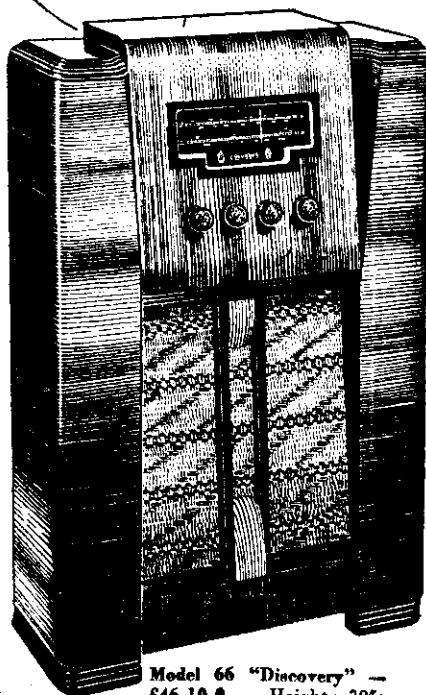


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