

(continued from previous page)

metrical paraphrase, and greater use was made of the Aria and the Chorus. (Handel, in his *St. John Passion*, reinstated the Biblical text.) The Passions of J. S. Bach are paramount in this period; they amalgamate the Oratorio-Passion and the Passion-Oratorio; combine Bible text and the Chorus; incorporate the lyrical Aria and the dramatic Chorus, engaging every effect that will harmonise with the Passion's spiritual content. Bach's two monumental surviving Passions (according to St. Matthew, and to St. John) are as fresh to-day as they were in the era that saw their first appearances. Perhaps the *St. Matthew Passion* may be considered the highest peak of attainment; its scoring is immense—soloists, double chorus,



double orchestra and organ. Ingeniously harmonised Chorales are introduced, as meditative points in the story, for the congregation. The Narrator is a tenor, and as the words allotted to the various characters come round, these are taken up by singers representing them. There are contemplative Arias allocated to an interpolated character, the Daughter of Jerusalem, while the words of Jesus are generally accompanied by strings only, so setting them apart. The Chorus sometimes portrays the crowd, and sometimes is more or less personified as a sort of meditative corporate body of Christendom. There are magnificent passages representing the cries of the crowd, the earthquake, and the rending of the veil in the temple—yet the writing is never theatrical or insincere, but always masterly, in perfect taste.

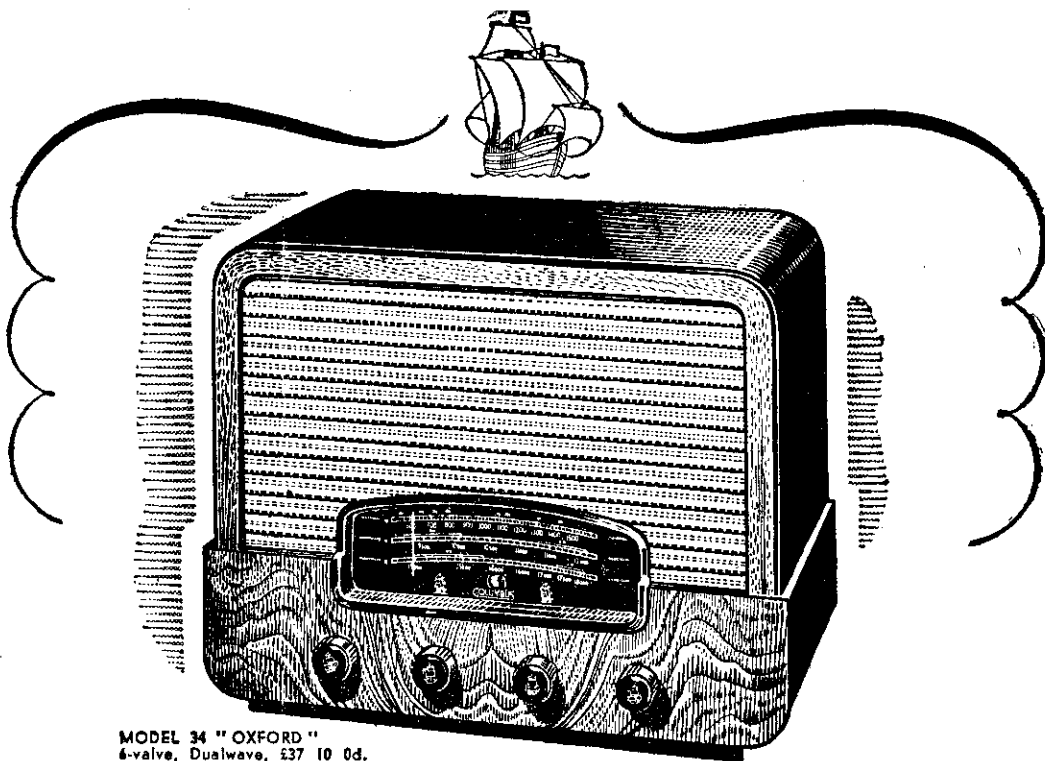
SHORTWAVE HIGHLIGHTS

WITH the Security Council of the United Nations in session at Lake Success, New York, the "Voice of America" has put at the disposal of UN four shortwave stations beamed to the Pacific area. These are: KNBA (9.65 mc/s., 31.10 metres), KNBI (9.70, 30.93), KRHO (11.89, 25.23), Manila (15.33, 19.57).

Transmission opens at 7.30 p.m. with the headline news in English, followed by two foreign language broadcasts, and at 7.50 p.m. comes the news and Information of the United Nations. At 8.0 p.m. a special actuality review of the day's proceedings is heard, followed at 8.15 p.m. by the news in Chinese. Frequently at 8.30 p.m. a special dispatch for the Australian Broadcasting Commission is heard. The programme announcements are broadcast at 7.30 p.m. and these transmissions are on the air daily except Monday.

PCJ Holland

Every night except Sunday PCJ Hilversum, Holland, may be heard at quite good strength in its late evening broadcast. The stations heard in New Zealand are on 15.22 mc/s., 19.71 metres, and 17.77 mc/s., 16.88 metres. Transmission opens with the programme announcements, followed by a half-hour broadcast of music by Netherlands composers. At 11.0 p.m. News of the Netherlands is broadcast, followed by a postscript on the news. On Tuesday evenings PCJ opens at 9.25 p.m. with the "Happy Station" programme, produced and presented by Edward Startz, answering letters and sending messages to PCJ's listeners abroad. Interspersed between messages some of the latest recordings are broadcast. Results of the daily matches in the International Chess Championships at present being played in Holland will be broadcast by PCJ after the news, at 11.10 p.m., until the final contest, on March 26.



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