

predominate and the programme sound unbalanced and blurred. This is because most speakers, receiver cabinets and rooms have natural resonances, usually among the lower notes, and increased volume brings them into play. Undue emphasis is placed on these notes in consequence. Anyone who has tried using an ordinary domestic receiver to supply, say, dance music for a ball will realise what is meant. The music becomes almost unrecognisable.

The placing of the listener's set can also have considerable effects on the quality of reproduction. The best results are usually obtained by placing the set diagonally in a corner of the room. One corner will often be found better than the others, but convenience is, of course, the final determining factor. The cabinet should always be kept a few inches clear of the walls of the room, otherwise unpleasant resonances are likely to develop.

High fidelity enthusiasts (commonly known as HI FIs) have in recent years developed some extraordinarily efficient speaker systems, but for the average listener their size and expense will be too great. The modest enthusiast will be content with one of the better standard receiving sets, or, if he desires a separate speaker, with one of the excellent 10 or 12-inch models available. The speaker is best mounted in a special cabinet with a low resonance or on a baffle board three or four feet square. This can then be placed in the most favourable part of the room with the receiver itself situated handy to the most comfortable chair. Music lovers will find that the bigger, separate speaker will give a better bass and often a better top-note response. With orchestral programmes, for instance, it has the effect of "enlarging" the orchestra, not in volume but in the clarity of tone and the number of instruments unmistakably heard.

History and Horticulture

WHEN T. D. Lennie retired from the 3YA Garden Session two years ago he did not give up his interest in either horticulture or broadcasting, and listeners who tune to this station at 7.15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 22, will hear the first of two talks by him on *The Origin of the Plant Species*. "I am convinced," says Mr. Lennie, "that many people will welcome information regarding the origin of our present-day plants and trees, and with that idea in mind have dug into the past to learn something of plant history. It has turned out a very fascinating experience." Mr. Lennie starts by pointing out that records go back to about 4000 B.C. The Eastern Mediterranean, he says, was undoubtedly the world's centre in those early days—after the Flood it became the nursery of many of our present-day fruits. Among these the grape, the fig and the apricot were of great commercial importance. Mr. Lennie goes on to discuss the distribution of these and other species. The second of these two talks will be broadcast on June 29.

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