



OUT OF THE BOX

A CARRIER with two large packing cases—one labelled "Piano, keep upright"—drew into the kerb outside the studios at Waring-Taylor Street the other afternoon. Inside was the new harpsichord for the NZBS built by Thomas Goff, of London. Six men and a supervisor arrived to unload the crates, and James Robertson and other interested spectators were on hand to watch their progress up the staircase to the main studio. To get it up the stairs the men strapped themselves to the case and after some conflict between lifting and pushing it began to make slow progress. When the case was opened the instrument was still hidden under a complete case of tin. Lying outside this were small bags of moisture absorbent material. Thomas Goff had been advised by the Steinway piano

manufacturers on the best way to pack the instrument. The legs had been unpacked first, and were now waiting for the case. The tin was thrown back, the instrument lifted out and assembled on its base. Norman Booth soon had the pedals on, and had linked some of the couplers. Mr. Robertson touched the keyboard, and Janetta McStay, who was practising in a near-by studio, came and played a Scarlatti sonata. Surprisingly, it was very nearly in tune. The carriers departed, and Mr. Booth, who is to look after the harpsichord, assembled his instruments ready to start tuning. The harpsichord, which listeners have now heard played by Dr. Thornton Lofthouse in a studio concert, will make its first public appearance at the *St. Matthew Passion* in Wellington on October 3, with Dr. Lofthouse playing the continuo part.



National Publicity Studios photograph

TOP LEFT: One harpsichord, coming up—getting round the bend in the studio staircase was ticklish work. RIGHT: An anxious moment as the protective tin sheathing was cut away. BELOW, left: The beautifully finished instrument is set up in the main Waring Taylor Street studio. Right: Janetta McStay plays a Scarlatti sonata while James Robertson looks on

