

Laboratory Jottings

J. A. SMYTH, Ltd., Victoria Street, Wellington, have in hand units for the linen diaphragm speaker described in our column last week. These are the original units that were used with the speaker. They have one made up, and the writer was able to hear this performing. It proved to be an excellent speaker, reproducing the bass with unusual fidelity, while the top notes were very clear. A wide range of frequencies are covered in this manner, and the speaker being very simple to construct, should appeal widely to amateur constructors.

Electrolytic Condensers.

THE greatest number of electrodynamic speakers at present on the market and operated from a six-volt source require approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ ampere of current. If this is drawn directly from an accumulator, a fairly heavy drain is placed upon it and constant recharging is necessary. Most battery operated sets have as an accessory a trickle charger supplying about $\frac{1}{4}$ ampere. This is an admirable source of current for the dynamic speaker, and when not in use charging the battery, the charger can be applied to the field winding of the speaker.

In most cases a strong hum will be noticeable, but this can be very easily eliminated by connecting an electrolytic condenser between the two terminals of the charger which are connected to the field windings. Johns, Limited, Auckland, have sent us one of these for test, and we are able to say definitely that it will cut out dynamic hum. For some considerable time now we have been working a speaker under these conditions with perfect results.

Ferranti Speakers.

WE have received from A. D. Riley, Ltd., one of their latest Ferranti speakers, and have been able to test this under all conditions. The speaker is of English make and of the small curled exponential type. It is finished in a dark brown crystalline and is provided with a large unit with an adjustable screen. The tone is quite good for this type of speaker, and the range of frequencies covered causes it to compare favourably with our standard horn speaker. It is very sensitive and will stand ample volume for the average household.

Tristan and Chelmsford

TRISTAN DA CUNHA, known as the world's loneliest island, is now enabled to listen to 5SW (London). In January last the "African World" presented the inhabitants of the island with a shortwave set subscribed for by its readers. This was taken out by the Rev. A. G. Partridge in January last when he left to take up the duties of chaplain of this isolated parish. A letter from Mr. A. A. Bradley, wireless office, of the steamer Duchess of Atholl states:—

"We did everything possible to initiate the Rev. Partridge into the mysteries of shortwave reception. At Montevideo I unpacked the receiver and fitted it in the wireless room. Between Montevideo and Tristan reception of 5SW was constant each night—often at good loudspeaker strength and always at good 'phone strength. We were fortunate enough at Tristan to find a 50ft. mast erected by the Quest, and by adding a small spar to the chimney of the padre's house we were soon able to rig an excellent aerial."

"After connecting up the set many shortwave morse stations were heard at a strength equal to that experienced on the ship. I have not the slightest doubt that the islanders listened to 5SW as soon as he started up that evening."

"Any future shipments sent to Tristan please address to the 'padre' and not 'To the inhabitants of Tristan de Cunha.' This is on account of their method of distributing stores. We pointed out your form of address, otherwise it would have meant so many ounces of sal-ammoniac, so many jars, so many porous pots to each family."

"The space available is very small. The 'Vicarage' living room, two bedrooms and kitchen, could be contained in a decent-sized living-room of an ordinary house."

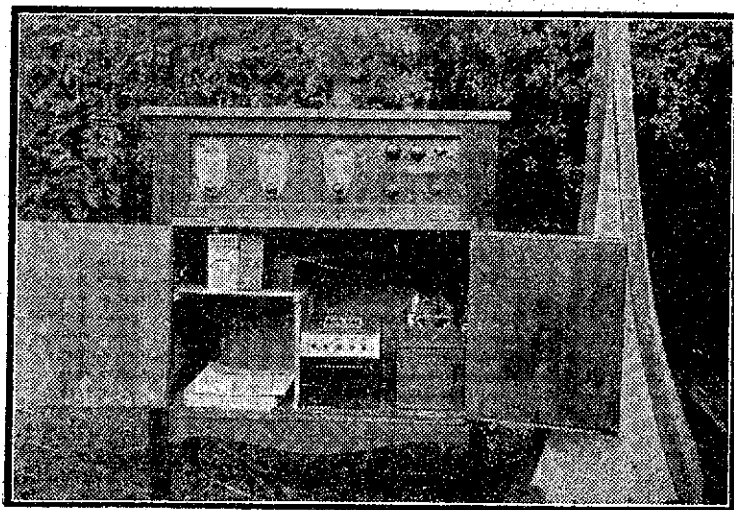
Parallel Feed Browning Drake

"An Excellent Receiver"

I HAVE constructed the 2RF Parallel Feed shielded Browning-Drake, and wish to say that it is an excellent receiver, thanks to the staff of the Radio Listeners' Guide for supplying such a fine circuit. I did not adhere strictly to the specifications as laid out in the Guide, but any alterations I made were

an A615 detector, PM6 first audio, and two PM256's in push-pull in last stage and also an output transformer.

I have given the set a good test for a month now, and the results are excellent in every way. It is very selective and exceedingly sensitive; I can tune in the main Sydney stations, all day with enough volume to be heard all over the house; in fact, last Saturday I and several friends were listening to the All Black match in Sydney on the inside antenna at 5 o'clock (this was direct, and not the rebroadcast). The tone is one of the main features of this receiver, especially with a moving coil or large exponential horn speaker.



The complete outfit made by "Parallel."

only on account of having certain parts on hand, which I used instead of having to purchase more. I used the original size copper shield boxes which were 11in x 7in. x 6in., and also the 3in. diameter coils and a .0005 and two .00025 tuning condensers. I also used Imfd. condensers in place of the two .5 condensers in the plate leads of RF stages.

The only other alteration I made was by earthing the 15th turn of secondary coils and neutralising off of the bottom of same which I found simplified neutralising considerably. I am using two 201A valves in RF stages,

There is only one trouble I encounter, and that is the volume, which is tremendous even in the daytime, but I will endeavour to seek a remedy for that by writing to the Question and Answer corner.

I can strongly advise anyone considering building a valve set to tackle the shielded 2RF Parallel Feed BD and get some thrills. I also wish to congratulate the staff of the "Radio Record" for publishing such a fine book as the New Zealand Radio Listeners' Guide, which, in my opinion, is worth several times as much as the small sum charged for it.—Parallel (Nelson).

Music for Wedding

3YA Greets Isolated Karamea

THE service which the Broadcasting Company has rendered in connection with the earthquake took a new form one evening last week, when a marriage was being celebrated at Karamea. 3YA received a request for special wedding music, synchronising with the bride entering the church, and again leaving after the ceremony. The request was duly complied with.

Karamea, as is well-known, suffered severely from the earthquake, and such damage was done to road and telegraphic lines of communication that it has been isolated, except for sea and radio connection. As well as broadcasting the music, 3YA sent appropriate greetings to the happy couple.

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