



MODERN FURNITURE FOR A MODERN STUDIO

On the left is one of the modern studios at Broadcasting House, London. The chairs are of the "nesting" type, and are similar to the ones which form a portion of the furnishings at the new IYA studio, Auckland.

IF you're one of those people who believe that there's no comfort in the new tubular steel furniture go and try some of the chairs and settees at the new IYA studio in Shortland Street. (On second thoughts the authorities mightn't thank us for extending such a sweeping invitation, so you'll have to take our word that this new furniture is every bit as comfortable as the old type—and far cleaner and smarter in appearance.)

A "Radio Record" representative who looked over the premises of the Auckland Bedstead Company in Ponsonby, Auckland—the factory where this new furniture was made—was much impressed with the progress that has been made in New Zealand in the building of this furniture that is destined to play a great part in the home life of the future. Steel furniture is not really new, but originated 30 years ago when its hygienic and simple structural qualities brought it into use in hospitals. It gradually drifted from hospitals to cocktail bars and many of Europe's and America's smartest night clubs used it to furnish their premises. To-day steel is being skilfully combined with such materials as wood, leather, fabric and glass to fashion furniture which is finding a ready sale among home-builders. In time, it will be no longer necessary to use the word steel as a prefix to furniture of that type. Steel and other metal will be accepted in the future as an ordinary essential of efficiency in furniture of all kinds without special reference to its inclusion with other materials.

In many homes and public buildings to-day the problem of maintaining the desirable appearance and

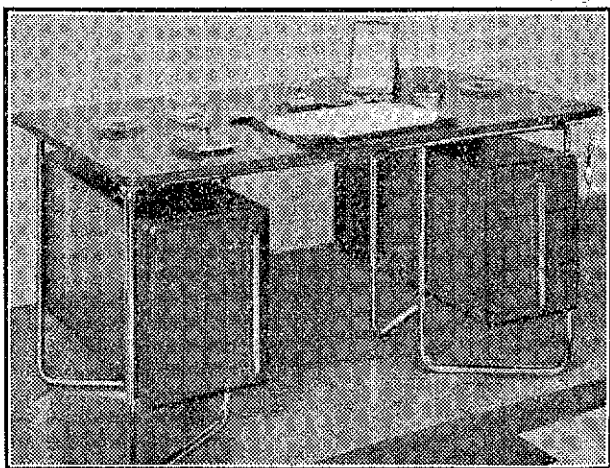
integrity of furniture and fittings has become accentuated by increased cost of labour. The contemporary home has its servant problem; the majority of homes are without servants, and considerably less spacious than were the homes of yesterday. In consequence domestic furniture is in closer contact with its owners than it was in days gone by. In theatres and restaurants the difficulty of maintenance is accentuated by the rough treatment given the fittings by patrons and cleaners. Here is where steel furniture has come into its own.

The furniture made for the new Auckland studio is characterised by simplicity of design—that simplicity that lends an air to anything smart and useful. The chairs for the concert hall are of the "nesting" type; that is, they can be fitted one in the other and stored away in a comparatively small space. Most of these chairs are chromium plated and upholstered in brown, but one or two have been finished in bronze. There are round and square tables, the majority of them have tops of black vitrolite glass. The main studio has furniture upholstered in various shades of green, two suites being finished in green suede. No. 2

studio is furnished in orange and black and black tape tapestry, while the talks studio is pleasingly decorated with furniture of steel and orange, black and gold tapestry. In the announcer's and control rooms has been used a cloth (with fine wearing qualities) not formerly known in New Zealand.

The desks for use in various parts of the building are of metal and walnut, and are designed for both hard use and good looks. A similar type of desk is illustrated on this page.

The Auckland Bedstead Company, which has designed and built all the furniture, was established about 40 years with the object of making iron bedsteads. But, with changing fashions, iron bedsteads waned in popularity and the company turned to other types of furniture. A large department was established for the making of wooden



All the furniture for the new studios and offices at the new IYA building in Shortland Street, Auckland, is modern and simple. Wood and chromium-plated steel has been skilfully employed as the above picture of one of the office desks shows.