

LONDON NOTES.

Television Tests Begin At Last

Unfortunate Muddle About Television and This Year's Olympia—Manufacturers Don't Know Whether to Exhibit—British Television Definitely Superior to German.

London, August 3.

TWO big events in radio will occur this month: The Alexandra Palace television station will at long last begin to transmit its first test programmes and the Olympia Radio Exhibition, the annual fair of Britain's radio manufacturers, will be held. There have been many disappointments and

as there were no transmissions, it was pointless to exhibit television apparatus. Privately, they admitted fears that the coming of television would stop the sales of sound receivers. This year they raised the ban and were prepared to give a demonstration of domestic television as it will be received in the home. But the B.B.C. could give no definite undertaking that the Alexandra Palace station would be ready in time for the show. So at the time of writing there is confusion and uncertainty in the trade. Manufacturers do not know whether to show their apparatus. If they do there is a possibility that they may have to do so with blank screens.

for this year's show a set with genuine one-knob control. Its single knob works on a ball-and-socket principle. Rotate the knob and you effect the tuning. Push it in various directions and you control volume, sensitivity, etc.

Survival.

RETURNING to the subject of television, I saw recently a demonstration of a most interesting kind. It was television on a screen measuring five feet by four, worked on a novel system called Scopphony. The most remarkable feature of this method of television is that it is a survival of mechanical methods of reception which, it was thought, had been killed by the electrical method involving use of the cathode ray tube. Not only is it a survival, but it is a very lusty survival. The optical principles involved make it easier to produce a big screen picture than when the cathode ray tube is used. The drawback appears to be that the picture is not so bright or, in my opinion, so detailed as the cathode picture. However, votaries of Scopphony dispute the contention regarding detail.

Only 250 Volts.

SCOPHONY receivers use only a small filament lamp as the light source, similar to that used in a car headlight. They require only 250 volts to operate them, compared with the 1000 volts or more needed by the cathode ray tube. The Scopphony picture is flat, not slightly curved like that thrown on the bottom of cathode ray tube. (It is, of course, the bottom of the "magic bottle" called the cathode ray tube which serves as the screen and hitherto this has been curved.) The Scopphony receiver marketed for domestic use will show a picture 16 inches by 12 inches. The marvellous little "scanner," one of its fundamental secrets is a tiny glass bar, only about an inch and a half long, with many facets. It revolves at 18,000 revolutions a minute. In the domestic models a small noiseless motor which requires no oiling is being incorporated. The motor and all the essential gadgets of the system will be contained in a box measuring four inches by two and a half. Apart from the mechanical side of the invention, new optical principles are involved.

A Long Job

Judging 390 Radio Play Entries

"IT will probably be three months at least before the judging is finished," said Mr. E. C. Hands, general-manager of the National Broadcasting Service, to the "Radio Record," when he was approached concerning the radio play competition which closed recently. "The response has been extraordinary, for the total number of entries is 390. Three judges competent to decide the qualities of radio plays in particular—the requirements are very different from stage plays—are needed."

Dozens of plays written in this country have already been broadcast by the national stations from time to time, and most of them were thoroughly appreciated by the listeners. With so many entries in this competition, however, it might well be expected that some outstanding works will be among them. Each of the judges will read each play once, and the best ones will have to be further sifted before the awards are decided upon.

The prize money will total £100—£50 for first, £25 for second, £10 for third, and three other prizes of £5 each.

delays with the B.B.C.'s high definition station at the old Alexandra Palace on Muswell Hill, but only to-day I saw that the aerial arrays on the 220-foot mast had been finished. Though all the transmitters are not yet ready, some are, and simple tests are certain to be heard, and seen, within a few days.

INCIDENTALLY, there has been a glorious muddle over television and the Radio Exhibition. Last year the manufacturers put a ban on television sets at the exhibition, declaring that,

AFTER my last visit to the Berlin Radio Show, where a whole hall was filled with working television receivers, I feel disgusted with the Olympia situation. And my feelings are aggravated by the knowledge that British television



is better than German, if only the public could see it! A dictator certainly has his uses on occasion. However, it may be that by the time these lines appear in print the situation will have changed for the better.

Allwave.

ACCORDING to present indications, the Radio Show will be an all-wave exhibition. Most manufacturers will be showing allwave sets of various kinds. There will also be a number of ingenious refinements. For years manufacturers have been striving to obtain one-knob control, and have claimed to have accomplished it in one form or another. I have already seen