

## Interesting To All Radio Enthusiasts

### The December "Radio Times"

ALTHOUGH not a special Christmas number, the December issue of the "N.Z. Radio Times" is packed from cover to cover with interesting articles and news. All phases of radio are catered for—the serviceman, dealer, home constructor, dixer—each will find plenty to absorb his attention and acquaint him with the latest in his particular sphere of radio activity.

The feature set this month is a battery version of the well-known Exelrad "1936 Air-King Dual-Wave Six," which was described in the July issue. The battery model is identical with the A.C. one except, of course, that battery-type valves have been used in place of the A.C. ones. The best types have been used throughout, and although, valve for valve, the gain is not quite as high as in the electric version, this set gives excellent results on both wavebands.

Full constructional details are given of a motor-generator "B" supply unit which is capable of running any bat-

tery set from an accumulator at a very decreased cost. Even if the total cost of charging and maintaining an accumulator is taken into account there is a very big margin between this and the usual "B" battery cost. The voltage is steadier and more even than in the case of a vibrator type and does not vary so much with the current drawn.

Recent newspaper reports on television progress have been somewhat conflicting and have generally tended toward the opinion that there is a long way to go before television will be of a high enough standard for general use. However, from our monthly page on television progress and a special article on an interview with a radio engineer who was recently able to witness practical demonstrations in England and Germany, readers will see that it only remains for the necessary publicity to be given for television in the home to be the order of the day.

Other features are book reviews, an article on microphones, a further article of the series on judging reproduction, items of interest to dealers, and "something" to interest servicemen.

In the DX portion—the "Radio Log"—there is more than the usual quota of articles on dxing, reporting, stations, and general DX news. A complete revised list of the monitoring schedules of U.S.A. stations is published, and should greatly help dxers in the logging of low-powered and "daytime only" stations.

The "N.Z. Radio Times," published monthly and obtainable from all book-sellers (price 1/-), or direct from National Magazines, Ltd., Box 1680, Wellington, for 1/1 (posted) per copy or 10/- per annum.

### Radio Round the World

BIG BEN, probably the world's most popular broadcaster, now has a rival. Since July 1, London telephone subscribers have, by dialing TIM at any time of the day or night, been able to obtain the exact time. The subscribers are immediately connected to what is virtually a talking electric clock. Some months ago a competition was held, open to 15,000 telephone operators, and from these Miss Ethel Cain, known as "the girl with the golden voice," was selected to make gramophone records from which time signals would be reproduced. Her voice has been recorded on special glass discs and will be reproduced by means of a photo-electric cell. The discs will be synchronised with an electric clock.

SEEING the announcement that John Compton was to build a new organ for St. George's Hall an angry correspondent wrote to the B.B.C. and said (in effect) that the Compton organ in the Concert Hall at Broadcasting House often heard by Empire listeners, was a white elephant, and why wasn't somebody else given the job of

building the new one? As he assumes that everybody else feels the same way about it as he does, it may be worth saying that expert opinion does not bear him out. Under very difficult conditions, such as limitations of space, the Compton people are generally considered to have built an extraordinarily fine instrument, and it is very doubtful whether any organ could produce better results in this particular hall.

ELAINE STERNE CARRINGTON, author of the Pepper Young's Family, brought up a new problem for NBS sound effects engineers the other day and was presented with a solution quicker than she could sound middle A on the studio concert grand. Her script called for the effect of a gasoline pump—a sound NBC's noise makers had never before made. But they didn't let a little thing like that confound them. After a brief huddle, they announced they had a solution: a sewing machine motor and an ordinary desk bell. The effects man spun the motor and counted five slowly between each spinning. At the conclusion of the count he tapped the muffled bell. Not even your filling station man with his eyes closed could tell it was a manufactured sound!

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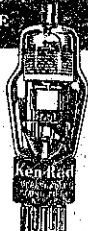
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