

This Week's Special Article

Radio Has New Marvels For "Home Service"

THE day is long past when the average citizen pauses to reflect on the scientific marvel of radio. For nearly 15 years we have been familiar with the principle and operation of wireless telephony and we have now settled down to await, while criticising programmes, the arrival from more populous countries of the physicist's latest entertainment toy, television.

But, by the time television arrives, the radio dealer will have other marvels to offer. If British and American scientists are to be believed, the day is not far distant when the average citizen will receive his morning newspaper in his home by facsimile radio broadcast, the news having been printed during the night on a teletype-like strip of paper. All he need do is attach his facsimile receiver—a neat little box about the size of a table radio—to the terminals of his radio loud-speaker before going to bed.

The copy sent from the newspaper office, whether straight news, photographs or line drawings, involves no printing. The material is inserted in the transmitter, where a tiny bulb, or "scanning light," moves across the page reflecting back to a photoelectric cell the light and dark values of each line. The electric cell in turn converts these light and dark qualities into electrical impulses which can be sent by the radio station through its regular broadcasting equipment.

HERE, culled from the radio news of the year, is a short account of two recent inventions which may, within 10 years, revolutionise radio programmes the world over.

The receiving set picks up these signals and, by means of a stylus moving across a roll of carbon-backed paper, reconverts them into the light and dark lines which form letters and pictures.

As if an attachment for a radio set to write a newspaper were not enough, science goes to the other extreme—a newspaper that provides a radio programme.

The talking newspaper is perfected—not a radio, but the usual sheet, delivered by hand at your breakfast table. Along the margin will be a strip that you can tear off and play. Children will hear the actual voices of characters in their favourite comic strips. Blind and illiterate people will be able to listen to the news of the day they cannot read, told by the men and women who saw it happen.

This Mr. W. G. H. Finch, New York radio and telephone expert, has made reality. With forty "sound" inventions to his credit, the "talking newspaper" is his latest marvel.

He has found a method by which sound-tracks, similar to those on a talking film, can be printed on the margin of a newspaper in the same way as the ordinary news.

Then the strip, torn off, is played on a tiny home reproducing machine, so simple that a child can operate it, and cheap, since, says Mr. Finch, it can be manufactured for as little as a shilling.

The reproducing machine—merely a revolving

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In the Wake of the Week's Broadcasts

There is nothing either very good or very bad to say about station 2ZB's "In Town To-night" session last week. The speakers were an actress-organiser of the British Drama League in New Zealand whose voice showed what a difference perfect

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GOOD
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voice production can make in a radio speaker, an astronomer from the Dominion Observatory, and a teacher of ballet who had returned from abroad. The speakers and the interviewer all did their jobs in good workmanlike style, but the session seemed to me to lack the touch of novelty that I have heard in it before. There was nothing in it of the odd and curious nature that I had hoped for: no man, this time, who collected spiders' webs as a profession, or caught rats for the city council. This, I could not help thinking, robbed the whole session of much

of its character and brought it down too close to the level of the ordinary newspaper interview.

Town Hall dance, biggest regular Saturday night dance held in Dunedin during winter months, was on the air last Saturday, 4ZB relaying a pleasant hour. The Savoia Dance Band proved

**BAND NOT TOO
PERFECT—
JUST HUMAN.**

itself quite capable of holding its own with most dance bands. It "lost" itself here and there, but those little lapses are generally to be associated with a flesh-and-blood dance band. Anyway, such lapses make the playing seem a little more human than the "too-perfect" performances of recorded bands. The feature item, the Paul Jones medley, played for the first time, was a splendidly-rendered number, the many tunes required for the different dances incorporated in the

medley blending well, and being played with just the right tempo. Vocalist Jimmy MacFarlane was in good voice, as he usually is.

Tired staff folk both at 3YA and 3ZB carried on with their usual duties on Thursday morning of last week after a night and part of a morning spent in giving the public the election results. Both stations dealt with a comparatively dry subject interestingly, for, in Christchurch at any rate, there was not the usual excitement. This is shown by the small poll recorded. Final results, as far as the city council was concerned, were not available until 1.15 a.m. Radio stations, naturally, are supposed to be information bureaux, but it must be distinctly annoying when, after results have been given out

**SOME PEOPLE
ARE NOT
CONSIDERATE.**