

# NOVEL RADIO BUILT FROM TOY SET

## Christchurch Man Devises Automatic Control Radio For His Amusement

- Home constructors of radio sets in New Zealand have various ways of expressing their artistic yearnings. One man in Christchurch, for instance, has built a receiving set which is neatly hidden in the internals of a tall grandfather clock.
- It is his whimsy to inform guests that he is about to "wind the clock up." Instead, he twists a dial, and lo! out pours music from any station he fancies.
- Something a good deal quainter than this, however, came to light, also in Christchurch, last week, through Mr. A. V. Butcher,

perfected a remote-control tuning device through which he can sit at the fireside and have a choice of any four stations and control their volume at will. A length of flex links the apparatus with the set, and the remote device is small enough to fit the palm of the hand. One big feature of the whole set is that it is built mainly of Meccano parts, Mr. Butcher having won several prizes awarded by the Meccano Co. for building original novelties.

The apparatus is about five feet high by one foot wide, with a base of one foot six inches. There are over 30 controls on the front panel, and over 2000 nuts and bolts in the make-up.

### Uses Four Motors

FOUR electric motors control the various movements,



The Comedy Harmonists (above), popular Austrian singing sextet, who were here in 1937, are returning for another visit in two months' time. They are the most popular broadcasting and recording artists ever to visit New Zealand.

## PLANS FOR NEW 1ZB STUDIOS NEAR FINALITY

PLANS are likely to be announced in a few weeks' time for new premises for 1ZB, Auckland. It is understood they will be built on a section now vacant at the back of His Majesty's Theatre.

Almost since the introduction of commercial broadcasting 1ZB has been seriously handicapped by lack of space. Various schemes have been suggested from time to time, the first that premises in Queen Street, adjacent to the St. James Theatre, would be converted to use as studios. City Council restrictions were said to have prevented this.

More recently rumour was current that new studios were to be built on the waterfront, near the Pan-American Airways building. This is apparently untrue.

Mr. B. T. Sheil, national advertising manager, was in Auckland last week, presumably to discuss plans. Commercial Broadcasting executives are making no definite announcement at present, however.

Cashmere Road, who has built a receiver almost entirely automatic in operation. Its appearance is along the lines of a modern model of the celebrated Strasbourg clock.

THE heart of the receiver is a synchronous electric clock, which gives the time in any part of the world. This drives an automatic switching device which will switch the set on or off at any predetermined time and also operate specially-illuminated indicator plates showing the more important shortwave stations on the air at any particular time.

A series of dial controls may be worked to give a whole evening's entertainment from a number of stations. Once the controls are set, the apparatus does the rest.

### Selects Stations

IF a special item is being broadcast from 3YA at 8 p.m., concluding at 8.15 p.m.; another from, say, 2YA, at 8.20 p.m., and so on, the receiver will tune itself to these stations at the correct time for as many stations as have been pre-selected. Push-button, as well as ordinary manual tuning is also provided for. The young constructor has also

and there are about 20 electromagnetic relays. It took a year to build, and the sole object of the construction was personal entertainment and instruction.

Mr. Butcher, who is only 20, is now in his second year at Canterbury College, where he is taking a degree course in electrical and mechanical engineering.

## Famous U.S. Jazz Orchestrator

FERDE GROFE is nothing if not original, and is one of the best of jazz orchestrators and composers. An American, he has been closely associated with Paul Whiteman, although he has an orchestra of his own.

Grofe's original works include "The Grand Canyon" Suite, "Mississippi" Suite, "Three Shades of Blue," "Wheels" Suite, and "Tabloid." This last work, typifying a day's work on a New York newspaper, depicted in terms of music those flaring picture-sheets, all crime and love confessions, which figure in racketeering films.

The Ferde Grofe Orchestra is listed at 1YA Sunday, August 20, in Ferde Grofe's "Wheels" Suite, a theme in which the composer's ingenuity is given full play.

## BBC Programmes History Of British Industry Growth Suggested That N.Z. Follow Suit

THE British Broadcasting Company has been sponsoring a series of broadcasts featuring the industries from various sections of the country. These broadcasts give the history of industrial growth from the time the first hand-workers began manufacturing articles in their cottages to the present, when immense factories employing thousands of workers turn out products for the world market.

One of the first of this series was titled, "Made in the West," and concerned industry in the English West country, where Wellington, home of Fox's serge, is situated. Fox's serge is a well-known cloth in New Zealand, and has been manufactured in Wellington, England, since Queen Elizabeth's reign.

The programmes have proved popular in England, and, given as they are by the manufacturers and industrialists themselves, have been inexpensive in presentation. The ZB stations in New Zealand have already given a number of such broadcasts, and the suggestion has been made that they be continued as a regular feature.

Several manufacturers interviewed by the "Record" have expressed a willingness to co-operate, and listeners have more than once shown their interest in learning first-hand the history of New Zealand industry. With the Centennial year broadcasts already beginning, such a series would be applicable and timely.

## Doctor Selects "What I Like" Programme

THERE is a closer connection between medicine and music than is perhaps realised by the lay public. One of the greatest modern Scottish composers was once an outstanding eye specialist. The next time you hear "Son o' Mine," and some other of William Wallace's Freebooter Songs, just remember this composer has already had one successful career in ophthalmology.

At 2YC Thursday, August 24, a doctor will present favourite items that he has arranged himself—but this doctor has just relied upon his own preferences, because the name of the series is "What I Like."

## Theatre-Man Returns To Home Town

ARTHUR GORDON, well-known in Dunedin's musical and theatrical world, has recently returned there. Mr. Gordon has been placed in charge of one of Dunedin's larger theatres.

One of Mr. Gordon's principal activities in the city in the past was his formation of an orchestra of 15 to 20 members which provided music for patrons at Wingatui racetrack. He was in charge of this orchestra for 4½ years.

Later he formed a dance band, was actually the first man to provide a full musical combination ready to play at any public dance, and he enjoyed a long spell of popularity before the picture-theatre world called.

In recent years he has been in charge of various picture theatres in different parts of New Zealand. For three years he was stationed

## COURSE IN ESPERANTO

THIS week we present another new feature—a section devoted entirely to Esperanto! This feature will appear fortnightly hereafter and will include, in about 20 lessons, a full course in Esperanto. Full details appear on page 39.

at Ashburton, and while there was pianist for the Ashburton Savage Club. When he left he was given a real "Savage" farewell.

## Stage Stars Were Glad To Go

THE Australian theatrical world has been intrigued recently by a publicised quarrel between the English stage stars, Henry Molison and Lina Basquette and the management of the theatre at which they were playing.

A series of violent disputes has ended in the stars leaving for England, and "Good Morning, Bill," the play in which they were appearing, continuing at the Minerva Theatre, Sydney, with a new all-Australian cast.

"Personally, I am very sorry to be leaving Sydney, but, professionally speaking, it is just the opposite," said Henry Molison before departing.

"I want to sail right away, but I won't know my movements until early next week.

"I have no row with my real employers, Australian and New Zealand Theatres, but only with with Minerva management.

"Overseas there is an impression that it's no use a good artist coming out here.

"After this recent unfortunate business, I am afraid I must admit that this impression is founded on fact."

## Shakespeare Club Finds Dunedin Slim Pickings

DIFFICULTY of getting young men and women interested in the amateur theatrical world in Dunedin has been causing some anxiety to different bodies who have these days less suitable talent to fall back upon than ever they had. The young women come forward in larger numbers than the young men, and it is the male roles which are constituting problems in filling.

One of the most badly-hit clubs is the Shakespeare Club, which has been going since 1877. The young man of 1939 does not show much interest in the Bard, which is a pity, but seems to be a reflection of the general trend which at present is towards more light productions.