

## Have We The Courage?

(Concluded from page 1.)

The red flannel petticoat is, in fact, a curiosity as much a thing of the past as the debtor's prison at Newgate. "It passeth."

Even the NEW long skirts give us a greater freedom, since the decree of fashion is a slim silhouette, and many "undies" would spoil the effect.

One benefit in the longer skirt for afternoon, house, and evening wear is the greater quantity of material used. This must effect and help the manufacturer, for even one yard extra on each evening gown of the average wearer will make a great difference to the output. No! I am not good at statistics.

But what a picture for the imagination—millions of yards of extra material used to obey Dame Fashion's demands!

So let us welcome covered knees for street wear, longer skirts for afternoons, feminine billows for evening, and moderation in all things pertaining to dress. The law of fashion is one of unceasing change and evolution, and could we recognise that, we would be even more grateful to the artists who decree our changes.

It may take some months for us in New Zealand to adopt the new lengths, but I believe we will wear longer skirts. The difficulty seems to be that we have not sufficient courage to make the change. But have we?

## Laboratory Jottings

## Blue Spot 66R

A highly popular type of unit is the "Blue Spot," which is now well known in radio circles. Improvements are continually being made in these units, and the writer feels certain that great interest will be aroused amongst home constructors by a further addition to the "Blue Spot" family. This unit, the 66R (a useful addition to our laboratory equipment), has now been running on test for a month on broadcast sessions, and gives wonder reproduction. The high notes stand out clear and brilliant, and the bass is there, too, right down to the low notes broadcast or in gramophone records. Fed with the output of a power amplifier with two push-pull stages, 210's in the last stage, there is plenty of undistorted volume available, and the amount the speaker will carry without rattle is tremendous. The clarity of reproduction leaves little to be desired, and the quality is practically equal to average moving-coil quality.

Designed to work with the unit is a 13-inch cone mounted with a non-resilient "surround" in a metal chassis. The unit bolts to the back of the chassis, when the spindle automatically lines up to the centre of the cone, to which it is bolted. The whole is there ready to attach to the back of a baffle-board, in which is cut a circular aperture 13 inches in diameter. The outside diameter of the chassis is 14 inches.

The superiority of this unit is obtained by complete re-designing on improved lines. In order to carry heavy

## Should Licenses Be Cheaper?

IT is an apparently unknown fact to certain members of the Wellington Radio Society that the Australian Broadcasting Company is paid about the same proportion out of each license fee as is paid to the New Zealand Company, but in the Commonwealth the capital cost of the broadcasting stations and their maintenance are paid by the Government. In New Zealand the Broadcasting Company had to bear the capital cost of the stations, and has to pay the heavy maintenance and service cost of the stations. A statement was recently published that the Australian Broadcasting Co. had already lost some thousands of pounds in the running of their service.

volume without rattle, the armature has been made quite broad, and the gap increased. To compensate for the increased gap, the pole-pieces are built of numerous laminations to equal the width of the armature. This gives a powerful, yet more sensitive and efficient movement. The coils also are huge in comparison with those on the average unit, and contribute to the efficiency. There is an adjusting knob working through a wide range, but once set this needs no further attention.

When it is stated that the total height of the new unit is six inches its size in comparison with earlier types will at once be apparent. The chassis and cone complete solves an awkward problem for those who do not feel like tackling the construction of the actual cone.

Tests were carried out first in a 2ft. silk diaphragm speaker, and then with the chassis and cone in a 29 x 24in. baffle of three-ply with 6in. sides. If a baffle 40in. square is used, sides may be dispensed with. If sides are used, the back must be kept well away from the wall—6 inches or more.

Further test was made on a box baffle 2ft. square, with grille cut in three-ply, and 8in. sides of 7-8in. rimu. This proves to be the ideal where bulk is to be kept within certain limits.

A demonstration of this speaker quickly proves its exceptional qualities, and it is certain that many units will be replaced by the new one, which would also give a new lease of life to an indifferent factory-built speaker.

The unit has also been tested upon small amplifiers, where sensitivity counts for even more than with a powerful one. A surprising increase of volume with the same output was the result.

## Harmonious Lighting

(Concluded from page 38.)

We all know how hard it is to leave a comfortable, well-lighted dining-room—often the only one in the house that can be so described—for perhaps a chilly drawing-room. With the fitting over the dining-table (white-lined, for preference, for here again the idea is to concentrate light, not to diffuse it) switched off, a couple of wall-brackets or a reading-lamp at a convenient side-table turned on, he is indeed hard to please who would wander far from home in search of comfort.

Expert advice as to lighting is always obtainable for the asking, and good lighting, once installed, is a joy for ever, not only to the occupants of the room themselves, but to all who enter. A well-lighted house makes for harmony, and few people can be actively disagreeable in a harmoniously lighted room. The light itself makes for peace and harmony.



## O Sole Mio

—is a wonderful song when the dishes have been cleared away and you are sitting by a cosy fireside—but it isn't much of a help to the housewife preparing scones and cakes for the evening meal.

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