

# Radio, the Home Builder

## Success of the Christchurch Radio Olympia



**DISTINCT** success has been achieved in the second Christchurch Radio Exhibition, held last week. This show, organised by the local dealers, was held in the Art Gallery, two halls of which were employed, one for the presentation of the concerts and another for the amateur transmitters, who had an interesting display.

A unique scheme was lit upon, and all the exhibits showed some aspects of the modern home and its relation to radio. The nine bays depicted radio in different sessions. Figures were displayed so that each exhibit might be a room in any home.

On entering the hall, says the "Star," the first stall on the left, No. 1, was that of Messrs. A. E. Strange. Here were to be seen all the "gadgets" dear to the heart of the crystal user, the one and two-valver and the man who, like Helen's babies, likes not only to "see the wheels go round" but also likes to make and set these same "wheels" in motion. Here were crystals, coils, transformers, valves, audio-couplers, variometers (almost forgotten by many), loudspeakers, etc.—a fine show, especially for the enthusiast whose wireless set has to be built little by little and after grave consideration of ways and means.

The next was bay No. 2—laid out as a drawing-room "scene" with several fine examples of console and table type Radiola receivers. The bay was that of Messrs. S. G. Clark, Ltd., and, with No. 8 (also devoted to R.C.A. products) was attractively laid out.

Bay No. 3—Messrs. Watkinson, Ltd.—was the home of the Kellogg. Here the scene selected was one representing children listening to bedtime stories, by means of a ten-valve Kellogg receiver, what time the little ones toasted their toes before the fire. The Kellogg on view comprised a three-stage screened grid outfit—console cabinet type with built-in dynamic loudspeaker. A table model Kellogg in mahogany (as was the console) was also on view.

### A Dance Hall Lounge.

**A**T bay No. 4—Direct Supplies, Ltd.—Philips products took the eye. Laid out as a dance-hall lounge—with man and girl complete—there was still room for several Philips receivers. Interesting sets were found in the "flat-dweller's friend"—the little A.C. Q.P.—an all-electric for the man or woman content to tune in the local station only; a very compact (10 x 4 x 8 inches) short-waver (also capable of extension to an "all wave" of 10 to 2400 metres); a console set of two stages of screen grid, detector and pentode, a balanced armature loudspeaker; and a "consolette" complete.

The fifth bay was that of Messrs. Newton and Fenton, Ltd. The stall was arranged to represent a woman's room—sewing-machine, workbasket, materials and wireless set complete. The receivers on view were the well-known Dayton Navigator, an 8-valve (and rectifier) outfit that was of particular interest in that the cabinet work of the console was carried out

by Messrs. Wilkinson Bros., of Colombo Street, in New Zealand walnut and beech.

The cabinets on view were beautifully made and lost nothing in comparison with the imported article.

**WITH** Mr. J. I. Small and his assistant, Mr. Vincent, in charge of bay No. 6, one knew at once that here would be found the local home of the Majestic. The stall was arranged to represent a dinner-room, with table set, maid in attendance, and cocktails on the side. Of course there were two Majestics.

No. 7 stall held the Rogers—the Britisher—presented by Messrs. A. R. Harris, Ltd. Two instruments were shown, the 550 "Highboy" and the 530 "Radio-gramophone console," both lovely instruments, made under ideal conditions by a firm which is Canadian owned and controlled. The bay represented that refuge of mere man, his study. Here Mr. Man was shown at home, with a pipe in full blast, "consolation" (in decanter form) handy, at ease in a chair with a newspaper across his knees and the "latest sports news" coming hot off the air through a Rogers.

### "Children's Hour."

**THE** next stall, No. 8, was devoted to R.C.A. products, the local agents of which are Messrs. Webley, Sons and Gofton Ltd., and Messrs. S. G. Clark Ltd. (stall No. 2). The scene here was representative of a children's room, with the little ones listening in to the "Children's Hour." Several Radiola sets were on view, as the wholesale agents in New Zealand are importers of Radiola chassis to be assembled and housed in consoles and cabinets of New Zealand manufacture, the examples shown possessed the additional attraction of appealing to those to whom "Buy New Zealand

Goods" is a slogan to be acted upon whenever possible.

Last, but by no means least, was the stall No. 8, wherein the Crosley, in several types, was to be seen and admired. Here the local Crosley agents, Messrs. L. B. Scott Ltd., had chosen a library (house) scene as the setting for their screened-grid outfits. Housed in well-finished walnut consoles with built-in "Dynacoil" (moving coil) loudspeakers, and fitted with the "non-puncturable" Mershon condensers that are a feature of the internal "works" of these sets, the receivers on show attracted considerable attention.

**A** GOODLY crowd around and in a doorway at one corner of the main room was evidence that something out of the usual listener's province was to be seen. And it was so. Here were two interesting features of the Olympia—the exhibit by the Radio Society of Christchurch and a short-wave transmitter in full operation. The Radio Society had sets old—very old, ancient in fact—and new. Cheek by jowl were to be seen tiny "peanut" valves, old W.D.11's, and giant 250-wattors. Then there were the aeroplane transmitters, with, nearby, a "wing generator" used for the supply of power—such as was used by Kingsford Smith on his famous Southern Cross; a Hartley transmitter, a tiny "portable" of that ilk (that "works" on 90 volts and has been heard in Auckland), other sets, gadgets, and cards and cards galore.

The transmitter's section was in the control of Mr. W. Toon (ZL3CM) and he was kept busy sending out greetings from visitors to the show to friends and relations in Australia and New Zealand who were within reach. Up to 10 o'clock last night Mr. Toon had taken in and dispatched by Morse code over 100 messages.

**THE** stage and audience chamber were, as might be expected, tastefully laid out, the former with due regard to broadcast requirements. Here one saw little to indicate that actual broadcasting was in progress. Two slim columns supported the inconspicuous microphones, the "control" man and his panel of instruments being hidden at one side behind the grand piano.

The microphones on the platform were used for individual artists or for small groups. When the band was put "on the air" these microphones were switched off, the sound being picked up by another microphone suspended well above the heads of the audience in the centre of the hall. Visitors were able to follow the whole process of broadcasting as it is carried out in an ordinary radio studio.

The stalls were made the subject of an interesting competition, the prize for which was a £40 radio set. This competition aroused much interest, the task being to place the various stalls in the same order of merit as the award of an expert window-dresser.

The official opening was carried out by the Rev. T. K. Archer, Mayor of Christchurch.

### The Mayor's Speech.

**IN** opening the Olympia, the mayor expressed his pleasure with the task which had been placed in his hands. From a glimpse of the exhibition he had gathered that there were many things of beauty and utility, and the firms responsible for the display deserved every encouragement.

Radio, Mr. Archer said, was serving a great purpose in the life of the community. In New Zealand four big stations were in operation with a rota so arranged that there was never a day when there was not at least three

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3YA Symphony Orchestra, which played last week at the Christchurch Radio Olympia. This very efficient combination is under the conductorship of Mr. Harold Beck.