

## Electric Festoons

### New Lighting Decoration

LATELY there has appeared on the New Zealand market sets of miniature electric lighting bulbs of various colours distributed along a flexible cord, which can be utilised for truly effective decorative purposes not only in shop window displays but also in the home. These strings of lights are fitted with a bayonet-type plug which will fit into any ordinary household electric lighting socket. The workmanship and material of these festoons are exceedingly good. The bulb sockets are of an insulating material and can be handled with complete immunity from risk. The colours of the bulbs are varied, being mauve, blue, red, green, yellow and frosted white, and are pear-shaped. In a glassed-in balcony, porch or a dance-room, these festoons are novel and decorative.

### —And the Byways

A LONDON broadcasting company producer, walking along Piccadilly, pondering how to make more fairy-like and sylvan the Titania scenes in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," which the company was to broadcast the same evening, heard what he imagined to be canary notes. These, however, quickly changed to nightingale's, and then to thrush's, all distinctly heard above the din of London traffic.

The producer stopped, perplexed, and saw a typical navvy digging a hole in the pavement, whistling wholeheartedly. The producer immediately invited him to produce bird music to accompany Shakespeare's words.

The navvy, named Bill Sharp, climbed out of the hole, adjusted his choker, and went off to a rehearsal. He made a successful debut at night-time, whistling continually for 20 minutes, and is to repeat the performance at the next production of the play.

### Sleeping Comfortably

CAMERAS which snapped a picture every time a sleeper made an appreciable move were used recently in experiments to find the most restful positions for the average slumberer. The cameras were operated by electro-magnets connected to the bed springs. The photographs disprove the theories that greatest comfort is attained with the spinal column straight, because the average sleeper on an average night was found to change his position about every seven minutes. Some of the postures were both unnatural and uncomfortable, yet they did not affect the slumber. The more common positions assumed by the sleepers have been named the "swimming sprawl," the "kitten coil," the "kitten coil reverse," and the "cuddle."

# OUR SPELLING BEE

From 2YA, August 28

## ENTRIES RECEIVED TILL AUGUST 14

WHILE the evidence is overwhelming that great interest is being taken in our Spelling Bee, with its handsome prize of a £50 Radio Set for first prize and good supporting prizes, the plain fact has to be faced that individual aspirants for success are "very backward in coming forward." It is difficult to fully understand the marked modesty of those most expected to be interested. We are loath to think that the standard of scholarship is such as to make competitors afraid to face competition! There must be some other reason, and the most feasible explanation is reluctance to face a public audience. It may be admitted that that is not an insignificant ordeal, but our thought was that the prize would be sufficient to conquer that diffidence.

IN the upshot it would seem, however, that that has not been the case, and that either the modesty or the shyness of people has prevented their entering. With entries closing on Saturday night last, the actual position is that there is not enough to make a field, the total barely reaching double figures, with a majority of these mainly from the country. In these circumstances we have gone fully into the matter, and after consulting with the judge, Mr. J. Norrie, and the Director of 2YA, have decided to remodel the competition on a basis which will save competitors from undue publicity.

UNDER the revised arrangement, the Spelling Bee will be held from 2YA Studio on the evening of Thursday, August 28. The sections will be abandoned, and all competitors treated on an equal plane in one field, although if necessary they may be taken before the microphone in different sections for ease in handling. No names will be announced over the air except those of prize-winners. The public will not be admitted to the studio, so that competitors will all be "on the level."

The words that will form the original basis of the competition will be put into book form and will be on sale to competitors and public

We are given to understand that considerable interest in the Spelling Bee is being taken in Auckland. We are accordingly making the suggestion that a branch of the contest be held there, and the winner thereof be brought to Wellington at our expense in order to compete in the final of the big night on August 28. We will hope to have further news on this point next issue.

These words will be first used by the judge, but the right is reserved at need in the later stages of the competition to use other words from the dictionaries mentioned, always avoiding, as far as possible, merely technical and scientific words.

The prizes will remain as before: First, an order for £50; second, an order for £20; third, an order for £5. These orders will be available for exercise with approved advertisers in the "Radio Record." The entrance fee will be one shilling, and entries will be receivable at the office of the "Radio Record," P.O. Box 1032, Wellington, up to August 14.

IT will be necessary for competitors to attend at the 2YA Studio on the evening of August 28. There will be only the one occasion, so that competitors from the country may make their plans accordingly.

TO show that "to err is human" in the matter of spelling, as in other things, we have the confession to make that in our No. 4 List, published on July 11, no fewer than four errors occurred. Frank apology is made for this. Examina- (Concluded on page 40.)

## "The Set with the Punch"

THE secret of the popularity of the Stewart-Warner is the amazing punch on distance stations. This was illustrated at the Wellington Radio Exhibition, held in the Town Hall last week, by an attractive illuminated action sign of a record log of 100 stations obtained by Mr. S. R. Ellis, Okato. This wonderful list of stations was obtained by a standard Stewart-Warner Radio, and the amazing tone of this radio, too, compelled admiring remarks from the public. "Stewart-Warner tone" is becoming a by-word with music enthusiasts.

The junior member of the Stewart-Warner radio sales staff was attired in an attractive white suit with red pointings, picked out with white lights, which flashed on and off. This original idea attracted attention everywhere.

The Stewart-Warner stand was a magnet to all, with its soft amber electric illumination, stylish cabinets and novelty displays. The staff reported record business, and almost all Stewart-Warner dealers from far and near attended the Exhibition, and returned to their territories more than satisfied that Stewart-Warner was not only on the map, but was practically the map itself.

Five models were shown, ranging in price from the Combination at £82/10/- to the table cabinet model at £47/10/-.

The Gramophone and Radio Combination has an Elizabethan period console. Major surfaces are of American walnut with panels of Australian lacewood and Oriental walnut. Real wood carving, ornamental and antique rubbed lacquer finish, with sliding doors and prepared to contain 20 records. Equipped with gramophone pick-up and induction motor, incorporating change-over radio gramophone switch and a modulator for tone volume. The new Stewart-Warner electro dynamic reproducer is included.

Another model, the "Oxford," which has, in all probability, the finest cabinet of all Stewart-Warner models, is copied from original Hepplewhite design. The cabinet relies for its charm upon the grained figuring of the wood used, and upon simple conventional ornamentation of the same woods used in the combination. Fitted with the new Stewart-Warner screen-grid radio and dynamic reproducer, this is an exceptionally good model.

The "Woodstock" cabinet is a replica of early English design, which is dominantly simple, assuring harmony with other furniture regardless of the setting in which it is used. The centre panel is of figured hard maple, charmingly framed top and sides with decorated carved panels. Walnut surfacing is used for the cabinet top and sides, and it also has a dull rubbed lacquer finish. The same Stewart-Warner screen-grid radio and dynamic reproducer are used as in the two previous models.

The "Tremont," another model shown by Stewart-Warner, is characteristic of early Colonial furniture, suggesting dignity and delicacy, yet strength and enduring qualities are also apparent in its construction. Of compact size, the "Tremont" is ideal for the small home or apartment where floor space must be conserved. The cheaper model is the table cabinet of antique gold bronze finish, shaded at the edges with ivory black. The control knobs are of black bakelite, and the escutcheon is of an artistic pattern.

A feature of Stewart-Warner Radio is that all models, irrespective of price, have the same screened-grid chassis, and exclusive Stewart-Warner electro dynamic speaker, which are worthy of attention.