



Enthusiasts both young and old enjoy watching the model railway displayed in the toy bazaar at Suter's, Uxbridge High-street. Train sets will be scarcer this Christmas.

## MOST CHRISTMAS TOYS ARE DEARER THIS YEAR

### GERMAN TOYS ON THE MARKET

**A**LTHOUGH prices of toys are generally higher this Christmas bargains can still be found if shoppers have the time to look around.

A Gazette reporter this week saw in local shops a child's metal tricycle with bell attached for 17s. 6d., a remote-controlled car, 5s.; a car that will not run off the table, 4s. 11d.; a small walking penguin, 2s. 11d.; a scooter, 10s. 11d., and midjet cars from 1s. 11d.

There are plenty of dolls ranging from 2s. 9d., although the most expensive are £4 2s. 6d.

A "walkie-talkie" doll costs £2 10s., a flirting eye, unbreakable doll — its eyes move from side to side — £2 9s. 11d. Teddy bears which growl are cheaper this year at 5s. 6d. to 16s. 11d.

Novelties are generally expensive. Cheapest is a hen which clucks realistically when pulled along—6s. 11d. Others are a musical teddy bear, which plays a tune, £2 9s. 11d. and £3 3s. at one shop and £3 10s. 9d. at another.

#### CRYING PUSH-CAR

A pedal-car which actually changes gear costs £6. A novel push-chair that emits cries, so that when a doll is placed in it the doll appears to be crying, is priced at £2 9s. 11d.

A good bath-toy, a soap-sub., which holds the soap, floats and sails in the bath costs 6s. 9d.

Noticeable signs of the times were a doll's house with an outdoor H television aerial, at the breathtaking price of £7 7s. 9d., and model caravans.

Boxes of paints were reasonably priced from 2s. 11d., a see-saw although well made was rather costly at £2 5s.

Outrageously priced were a cowboy's outfit for 5s. 3d., consisting of only a hat and small belt with holster and a farmyard set for 7s. 9d., comprising a horse, pony, cow, calf, farmer, two chickens and a tree.

According to prices in another shop the total cost of the items in the farmyard set would be 4s. 6d. at the most.

#### NO WAR WEAPONS

Pleasing to note was the almost entire absence of war weapons. There were no army tanks or armoured cars, although one shop did have them on order. The only thing in this line was a Commando gun for 6s. 11d.

Of course, there were cowboy six-shooters, old-fashioned forts and ceremoniously-dressed soldiers. But no modern soldiers and, strangely enough, no aeroplanes were visible.

Some German toys made in the U.S. Zone have arrived for this Christmas market, but they are far more expensive than British makes. A German toy Christmas tree costs 8s. 11d. as against 3s. 11d. pre-war, a clockwork jeep is 19s. 11d. and a car 18s. 3d.

The German "Schuco" toys are about three times their former price. A clockwork motor-cycle and rider is £1; a car, £1 7s. 6d.

A few wooden toys have come from Sweden. Although they have a better finish than the British toys they are more expensive.

"British toys are beating the foreign makes," said one shopkeeper, "but the trouble is to get delivery because of the export drive. We have as full a range as ever but the difficulty is getting supplies through. There is a slight shortage of all metal toys."

He added: "The price of German toys is almost prohibitive."

Shopkeepers all agreed that there was a wider and better selection of toys this Christmas. One warned about next year. "The shortage of metal toys will be really felt then," he said.

"This year we are reasonably fortunate. Manufacturers stock up 12 months ahead and they got in a good allocation of metal before the ban.

"But we can't get repeats to-day. Nearly all the goods are supplied on a quota."

#### FEWER SHOPPERS

Sales are not very brisk at present; as yet there seem to be few Christmas shoppers about, according to the toy shops.

"People are definitely holding back this year," said one toy shop manager. "Trade has been very steady. It looks as if it will be a last-minute rush."

"People have not the money. They are waiting for their Christmas club funds to come out. Plenty of shoppers are making deposits on this and that. But last year people paid for the toys and took them straight away."

"It's difficult for us when people don't buy straight away because the toys are taking up valuable floor space which could be used to put more stuff on display."

## DENTIST'S FEE TO BE REPAID TO PATIENT

## 400 CHILDREN IN CAROL FESTIVAL

More than 400 children took part in the Middlesex area competition of the fifth annual Christmas Carol Festival organised by The Star, in conjunction with the Odeon and Gaumont Children's Cinema Clubs, held at the R.A.F. Cinema, Uxbridge, on Saturday morning. Choirs from the Odeon Cinema, Uxbridge, and the Ambassador Cinema, Hayes, were among those to take part.

The children were welcomed to Uxbridge by Mr. Frank Beswick, M.P., who attended the competition, and spent some time listening with apparent pleasure to the children's efforts.

Generally, the standard of singing by the children was good, especially as the test were by no means easy to tackle for choirs of children up to the age of 15.

Each choir had to sing "Ding Dong, Merrily on High" as the compulsory carol, and then a choice of three. The Uxbridge choir, in common with many of the others, chose "What child is this" (sung to the traditional English tune, Greensleeves). The other two carols, both in the minor mode were indeed difficult, and it was surprising that so many choirs undertook to sing them in competition. Those that did, however, made creditable attempts.

One of the most noticeable things about the children taking part was the overwhelming majority of girls over boys, and it was in fact the all-girl choir from High Wycombe that won the area competition.

Adjudicator for the festival was Dr. Thomas Armstrong, of Oxford.

G.J.P.

## HE RETAINS CUP

Mr. John Hollingworth, managing director of Harman's Brewery, Uxbridge, took back the silver cup for best bird in show last year to High Wycombe Show on Saturday only to find that he had won the cup for the second year in succession. His entries had won the first and four second awards. They were Modena pigeons.

Last week also Mr. Hollingworth's Modena entries at Birmingham Champion Show took two firsts, two seconds and two thirds; at Maidstone show, a first, two seconds and a third; and at Folkstone Championship Show, a first, two seconds and two thirds.

## No land 'take-over'

No further action is to be taken by the Middlesex County Council towards the compulsory acquisition of 1.12 acres of land adjoining Swakeleys Secondary Modern School, Ickenham. Previously, it was decided to acquire the land for