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A JUKE BOX IN THE HOME

The "Discomatic" placed on the market by a manufacturer of Renens near Lausanne, is a real juke box for the home. It makes it possible to preselect programmes of up to 80 numbers, which can be played at home or outside, wherever there is a 110 or 220 volt mains supply. It is a small, attractive looking instrument, which can be placed in any living room and is also available in a portable model carried like a suitcase. The Discomatic can hold up to forty records, which can be played on both sides or on a single side as desired, preselection being by means of eighty buttons without any other manipulation. Naturally, any programme can be stopped at any time, records can be eliminated or repeated, etc. As the record holder is easily changed, it is possible to plan a very large number of different programmes. The appliance can be supplied without cabinet, amplifier or loud-speaker for combining with a radio, as well as in a stereophonic version; it is also available in an attractive wood and plexiglas cabinet, with amplifier and loudspeaker, and also in the form of a portable suitcase. The instrument, with deferred starting and playing of both sides of the record, is essentially mechanical in design and has only one electric motor and a single contact. The quality of reproduction is excellent and the fully transistorised apparatus requires no time for warming up. A last detail: the price of the Discomatic is very much lower than one would expect for an instrument of this kind.

[O.S.E.C.]

EXTRAORDINARY SKI-ING

The grades of difficulty in mountain climbing have long been categorised by the numbers 1 to 6, with a grade of 6+ representing the ultimate in difficulty. M. Darbellay, the well-known mountain guide from the Valais who was the first to climb the north face of the Eiger alone, has now produced a breathtaking film together with his two Genevese colleagues, the Hostetter brothers, in which they demonstrate the "6+" level of high Alpine ski-ing. The techniques which they display on 60-70 degree slopes and in narrow *couloirs*, constitute a further development of technically superb acrobatic ski-ing and the *wedel*. Their work is the fruit of years of arduous training and is in no way meant for imitation by ordinary Sunday skiers.

[S.N.T.O.]

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