

The Other Man's Station

G3KEP



THIS time our picture is of G3KEP, owned and operated by young David Pratt, of 27 Woodlands Grove, Cottingley, Bingley, Yorkshire—who is lucky enough to be but 17 years old. He has been licensed since January, 1955, and operation is almost exclusively on 160 metres, although transmission on Eighty is possible by doubling in the PA; on Top Band G3KEP has had more than 2,500 QSO's since starting up.

On the left in the photograph is the station receiver, a very much modified R.1224A; a mains power supply unit giving the necessary DC outputs for HT and LT has been built into the back of receiver cabinet, and the original valves are used because of their very low noise level.

The transmitter valve sequence is 6AC7 Clapp VFO into a 6AG7 untuned buffer driving a TT11 as PA, running the full 10w. on CW and phone. Keying is in PA plate and screen, the key itself being a home-constructed bug. The modulation side starts with an Acos crystal microphone into an EF50-EF50-6N7 speech amplifier driving a pair of 6L6's in Class-AB1, as described by G2AJ in the March 1949 issue of *SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE*—David was just 10 years old when this was published! On the right of the transmitter is the CC frequency marker, consisting of a 6J5 100 kc crystal oscillator and a 6SN7 10 kc multivibrator; this unit takes its HT/LT from the transmitter. The receiver, transmitter and modulator each have their own power supplies in their own cabinets.

On the immediate right is an ex-Army 19 Set in

the (inevitable!) process of modification. The 19 assembly consists of a 5-valve superhet receiver and a transmitter with an 807 in the PA, running up to 25w. CW and 10 watts on phone. As so far modified by G3KEP, anode modulation is used instead of the original grid control. With this rig, David hopes to go /P and /M on 160 metres—fortunate fellow!

The aerial at G3KEP is 260 ft. long and 25-30 ft. high, the coverage being NE-SW, and coupling to the PA is by means of a pi-section network.

All the QSL cards visible are for contacts on 160 metres; David has already gained his *SHORT WAVE MAGAZINE* WABC Award and hopes in the near future to be able to claim a second WABC for phone only. His Top Band counties score as at May 12 was 79C confirmed and 81 worked. No American contact has yet been achieved, but it is hoped that conditions during the next Trans-Atlantic season may be good enough to make that possible.

And to it all we can add that, still at Bradford Grammar School, David is honorary secretary of the school radio club, no less than five members of which took the last R.A.E. Bradford entered for the Tenth MCC in November, the station being G3KEP/A with David on the key. Readers will agree that with his very neat layout and the results already achieved, he has made a most promising start. With all the advantages of youth, he can look forward to many years of Amateur Radio activity—and we would hazard the prophesy that he is going to be outstandingly successful.