

New Yacht Launched

The auxiliary cruiser *Nerida*, which has been built for Mr. T. M. Hardy, was launched from the slips at Mr. R. T. Searle's boatshed, Birkenhead, yesterday afternoon, and christened by Mrs. Hardy. The boat, which is from the plans of Alfred Milne, the British designer, is novel in many respects. She is 45 ft. overall, 33 ft. water line, and has 10 ft. beam and 6 ft. draft. She will carry 1,400 ft. of plain sail, and be cutter rigged. The hull is of sturdy construction, heavy grown frames having been spaced at frequent intervals interspersed with Karri ribs, and five or six tons of moulded lead is embedded in a heavy jarrah keel. The internal fittings, while not elaborate, are pleasing to the eye. The main cabin, which occupies the centre of the little ship, is finished in polished Queensland maple; all fittings, including portholes, are chromium plated, and ample cupboard and locker space is provided. There are two settee bunks in this compartment, which is also the dining saloon. There is a forward cabin, white enamelled, with two berths, and another bunk is located aft in the engine compartment. A compact galley fitted with sink, cupboards, ice-box and a petrol air cooking stove is between the engine and the main cabin. The cockpit is self-draining, and deck fittings are chromium plated to keep polishing down to a minimum. After the boat had been named and slid into the water for the first time, Mr. and Mrs. Hardy entertained nearly 100 friends at afternoon tea. Mrs. Hardy's two small sons were aboard the boat as she took the water.