

TOP SILVERSMITH APPRENTICE IN BIG COMPETITION

A 21 YEAR OLD apprentice silversmith returned home to Croydon this week with a gold medal after beating apprentices from Germany, Switzerland and Portugal in the International Apprentices' Competition in Lisbon.

Mr. Brian Fuller, of Kimberley Road, West Croydon, was one of Britain's eight gold medallists in the competition which covered classes from bricklaying to TV engineering and from plumbing to his craft of jewellery. Britain also won five silver and two bronze medals. Twelve countries took part.

Mistakes are costly when working in silver—which costs about 10s. 3d. an ounce—but Mr. Fuller won his section in two and a half hours less than the allowed time of 28½ hours.

"An inspiration to all the young people in this country," said the Minister of Labour, Mr. James



Godber, in a telegram to the British team.

Put forward by his employers—Wakely and Wheeler Ltd., of Piccadilly—Brian's name was approved by the City and Guilds of London Institute.

A week of receptions, banquets and coach tours closed with speeches at a prizegiving ceremony.

"Unfortunately, it was all in Portuguese—I couldn't understand a word—but it was most impressive," said Mr. Fuller.

At the insistence of his mother, he showed our reporter articles he had made as presents for the family. Carrying the hallmarks and his personal mark of initials inside an inverted triangle, there was a rose bowl, valued at £200, and a cruet on a wood stand which could fetch £30 plus in a shop.