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Advertisers Like to Know That You Saw it in "A.W."

# DECEMBER 8 , 1933 <br> No. 339. Vol. XIII <br> The Leading Radio Weekly for the Constructor, Listener and Experimenter - Editor: BERNARD E. JONES <br> Technical Editor: J. H. REYNER, B.Sc., A.M.I.E.E. <br> Research Consultant: W. JAMES <br> Assistant Editor: H. CORBISHLEY 

## Broadcasting House-The Big Breezes-The B.B.C. Receivers-"Number Three"-Fultograph Change-No "Mess"-The £90,000 Announcer

Broadcasting House-So the B.B.C. is at long last to have a London headquarters in keeping with other Londoin buildings of big organisations. Britain boasts a broadcasting scheme comparable with any other in the world-and Savoy Hill is something of a reproach to an efficient businc̣ss body. But Broadcasting House will open up a new era.
$£ 560,000$ !-As a humorous B.B.C. official remarked to an "A.W." correspondent, listeners need not expect the licence fees to go up as a result of the cost $(6,500,000)$ of building Broadcasting House 1 The B.B.C.'s opinion is that listeners will, in 1931, reap the benefit of a more efficient broadcasting headquarters. So we must wait and see!

The Big Breezes-The recent storms played havoc with land-lines, and many broadcasting stations found themselves cut off from their programme source. Stations north of Leeds were particularly affected, while Belfast was also in difftculties. Bournemouth's áerial came down. Radio links took the place of land-lines when catastrophies occurred!

The B.B.C. Receivers-As a matter of fact Daventry rebroadzast receivers are standardised at all transmitters, and are used sometimes for ordinary S.B. work and nearly always when a land-line breaks. Except at Cardiff, the receiver is located a few miles away from the transmitter, but is remote-controlled so that there is no need for an engineer to stop at the listening post. Six valves are used : neutralised, resistance and tuned-choke H.F., bottom-bend detector, followed by two R.C.C. stages. The circuit is permanently tuned to Daventry $5 \mathbb{X X}$, and is quite stable in operation.
"Number Three"-Savoy Hill's new futuristic studio now has


This photograph shows how short-wave work can add interest to motoring on winter nights ! America is being received at 11.45 p.m. on the Chiltern Hills
its "jazzy" carpet, but the distinct eclvo, mentioned last weck by an "A.W." correspondent, has not yet been cured. A peep into "No. 3 " revealed B.B.C. engineers at work tracking the echo period -so soon the new studio will be in operation. It will
be another three years or so before Broadcasting House materialises and in the meantime, Savoy Hill is badly in need of this newcomer"No. 3 .

Fultograph Change-Very shortly a rather important chang. will be made in the transmission of Fultograph pictures. At present, a copy has to be made of the picture to be transmitted, and this is done so that intermittent contact can be made between the transmitting "pen" and the rotating cylinder. In the new system the original picture will be used, and a photocectric cell will pick up the light: variations. This should result in a better definition of the received pictures.
No "Mess" A second Fultograph development is promised. Paper will shortly be available to owners of Fultograph equipment which will obviate the somewhat messy business of "cloping" the paper belore it is clamped to the cylinder. The new paper will be sensitised and will need merely to be lipped in distilled water before wse. A distinct improvement which should make picture-receiving simpler than ever.

The $£ 90,000$ Announcer-The romance of the "mike," for spinsters, is increased now that the Hon. David Tennant, a regular B.B.C. announcer, has inherited a fortune and a mansion. He is not giving up bis radio job, so any voice may be that of the $f, 90,000$ man! Buthe is married,-to Miss Hermione Baddeley, the actress, who incidentally, is not giving up her stage work.

5SW The Continental Limited Canadian National Railways train, moving eastward from Vancouver to Montreal, recently picked up 5SW (Chelmsford) while it was passing Farel, Ontario. The recep--tion lasted fifteen minutes.


## The Critical, Practical, Lively and Severe Suggestions of a Number of Well-known People

Collected By PEARKES WITHERS
At the Editor's request $I$ have asked a number of famours people what they would do if they ran the B.B.C. programmes. They have responded gallantly, if in some cases evasively. But whether their replies are helpful or other. wise must be left to the judgment of AMATEUR WIRELESS readers-and to the officials of the B.B.C.

## H. DE VERE STACPOOLE

(The Famous" Author of "The Blue Lagoon " and many other delightful novels).

I would like more after-dinter speeches. There'is a lot of good stuff being spoken nearly
 every night in London and wasted on a few over-sluffed and halffuddled listeners.

Also, I would like less cabaret-or whatcever it is that sounds like a public-house blirst open when the sel is switched on.
Less modern music-more classical.- And more children's concerts, if it were possible; they are simply delightful.

## J. E. BUCKROSE

(Authoress of "Down Our Street" and more than thirty other charming books).

If I had ever attempted to run the B.B.C. programnes, $I$ should now be qualifying for the lunatic asylum, attived in loose leaves of Amateur Wireless, and with spare valves in my hair.

But as I only pursuc the easy and, apparently, congenial task of criticism, I suppose $I$ feel and think much the same as the average listener. That is, I really do find in wiveless an entirely extra and added interest and joy in my daily life.
But I. also say to myself every day and in every way-that if I ran the programmes I should eliminate the high soprano voice from all transmissions.

This is a cruel thing to be said by one who loves her fellow woman, and who enjoys true soprano singing in the concert-hall and in private life. But it is a view that I have heard expressed many times. I only advance this suggestion for what it is worth; and that-in the judgment of those who matter in musical affairs-is exactly nothing at all.
$I$ should like to have said something else, of course; but the plain fact is that, but for this, $I$ an satisfied and have no other. criticism to make.

## JOHN HENRY

(The Popilar Wireless Comedian).
A comedian-cven a wireless comedianshould not, I suppose, be taken too seriously. but theatrical stars who are really splendial on the ether could probably be counted oil one's fingers and one's toes: and for. this reason if $I$ ran the B.B.C. programmes (honestly speaking, 'I shouldn't much care for the job!) I should certainly book and star the various artistes, not according to their stage reputation, but according to their wireless ability.

Wireless technique is as different from stage technique as from film technique, added to which the ether (or something) seems to improve some voices and to min.
 others. Some of our greatest vocalists of the concert platform and the stage lose all their quality between the microphone and the loudspeaker, whereas a number of vocalists who do not scintillate in public broadcast wonderfully.

Some of the "outside" stars, whether vocalists or variety artistes, are very expensive, and if $I$ were running the B.B.C. programmes I sloould save a lot of money by leaving them to shine in their proper orbits, instead of coaxing them to the "mike." In their stead I should engage performers who were really suited to the medium and endeavour to train budding talent in those who promised well.

Perhaps, however, I should add that Blossom declares $I$ an all wrong in thisthat the public are impressed by big names, even when their owners prove disappointing. And she assures me that if $I$ were to rum the B.B.C. programmes the makers of wireless sets would be ruined and few listeners would
renew their licences. Maybe she's right, but Joe Murgatroyd sides witls me.

## C. J. CUTCLIFFE HYNE

(The Famous Creator of "Captain Kicttle.")
Wireless pervades one room of my house, and $I$ mostly get out when it is turned on, by reason of its being so exquisitely dull. I always seem to hit upon somebody who is talking in a flannel
 voice, a bed band, some bore maundering on the manufacture of music, with intervals of tiddley winks on the piano, or an official holding forth on the anti-somethings which influence the weather, or giving specifications of uninteresting printed matter which he seems to want to peddle.

The B.B.C. has, one gathers, an enormous income. I would like to see a balance-sheet selting out the details of its income on one side and on the other how much it has spent on programmes, and how much on political and other passengers who do not pull their weight.

## MAY EDGINTON

## (The Popular Woman Novelist).

If I ran the B.B.C. progvammes I should be very puzzled indeed as to how to please everybody. Howerer, I feel sure I should try to fill my programmens with topical and popular items only-and nothing dull or acadzmically informative. I should never, under any circumstances, invite any artiste or author to talk about himself, or herself, or to read selections from his or her works.

I should plump for music, especially vocal and orchestral; for church services; for political and ministerial. speeches; and for himorous storics

# SANTOS CASANI, COMPTON MACKENZIE, A. J. ALAN, ANDRE CHARLOT, MARK LESTER and VIVIAN FOSTER on the Programmes 

## SANTOS CASANI

(The Famous Teacher of Dancing).
It, always has been, and I fear it always will be, impossiblc to please everybody. It is difficult enough to please the majority. Therefoxe, I should not care to men the B.B.C. brogrammes, and $I$ sympathise greatly with the B.B.C. in its unenvialle task. But if $I$ lad to run the programmes $I$ think $I$ should do several things differently.

For one thing, I shoald cut out all talks of
 an educational or dreary description in the evening, lecause the evening is not the right time for thent. People who have been" at zeork all day desire entertainment in heir leisure hours. The lired business man natually saj's, "Oh, cut that off!" when somictody begins to tell himthrough the loud-speaker-about the habits of the gadflys. And I an not at all sure that I should broadcast plays. Most plays are tedious whien unseen, and for those to whon the play doesti lappeal most of an unrecapturable everining is wasted.
$I$ slowid go in for variely. A talk here, and perkaps-on rave occasions-a play there: bul variety always. Every kind of thing is righ at the right time, so long as it is $n 0$ overdane. The complaint I see most frequently in the papers concerning B.B.C. programmes is that things are overdone, that there are too mainy talks, that there is too miuch highbrow sluff, too much lowbrow stiff, too much jazz, too much Mozavi, and so on. The advantage of a variety show is Lia! there is something in it to please eieryone.

1 should encourage the rivalries of counties, foster local patriotism, and give Jolnn o' Groa.'s a chance of listening io Land's Eid.

But, as I hope I hawe made quite clear, $I$ aim entively a friendly critic of the B.B.C: It is so easy to find fault!

## COMPTON MACKENZIE

(The Distinguished Novelist).
If Iran_the B.B.C. programmes I should thank God if $I$ : could ruw then a quarter as well as they are rin al present.


## A. J. ALAN

(Whose Broadcast Stories are so popular with listeners).
I heartily approve of the wexy in which the B.B.C. progranmes are run and hate no suggestions for alterations to offer.

## ANDRE CHARLOT

(Thè Fanous Theatrical Manager). Althourgh I have a lof of ideas about willat I wowld do, and what I wouldn't do, if I ran the B.B.C. programmes, $I$ .am afraid the fact that I collributed thirly-lwo hours of the B.B.C. entertainments auring this year makes it impossible for we to express ny z'ieze's on the matter.


## MARK LESTER

(The Inimitable Comedian, now playing in "Blue Eyes" at Daly's Theatre).
Oh, what a lovely idea! Wouldn't I have a happy time-and wouldn't the listeners ! I'd cut out all' the talks, except those I vainted 10. hear myself: I'd insist on 'eiery funous musician having his hair cut before he cavie to the studia; I'd provide a real bar at Savoy Hill, where, all the staff and all the performers conld have a few whenever they felt really. thirsty (thus reducing the waterrate on the premises) ; and I'd pay myself fro,000 a year-at least!

Of course, the listeners wouldn't be any better off than, before-but I should be ; and, after all, what is a paltry ten shillings a year to a listener? There couldn't be any more complaints than usual; and, anyway, I shouldn't read the correspondence. The sort of people who are always full of complaints would have to take their medicine, and that's all about it.

I should go in for novelties, of course. The tired buesiness man ought to be catered for, and I should cater for him. The sound of champagne corks popping all over the microphone would wake him up, and that would be my tuning-note in the evening. Occasion-ally-I šhould get Mr. Bass and Mr. Worth-ington-to-provide a (not very) cross talk, and I shoild certainly broadcast the joy of a booknaker paying out on a 20 to. I chance. The noise of a gale in the Chamuel, on a really.stormy night, would reconcile a. lol of people to their own firesides, not to mention my programmes.

Music? Oh, lots and lots of music. Music is what the public want most of all. But only tuneful stuff. Like "In a Monastery Garden" and-well, like "In a Mosastery Garden"-you can't have too much of a good thing. Never anything highbrow. The people who want highbrow stuff could go to -well, wherever the people who want highbrow sluff conld find it. Personally, I prefer to lose it.

Bells? Oh, ves, of course-from Canterbury bells to the belles of musical comedy. But no saxophone stuff-except when there were plenty of atmospherics about to go with it. And I should sack every announcer who said things like "A depression off the south of Iceland..." or "In the issue of the

Radio Times pubtished to-morrow
I should go faither-a lot farther. I might go further now-but what's the use? It's a drean-an idle dream-one of those things that go-by contraries. I can feel it in my bones that $I$ shall never be permilted to vuis the B.B.C. progranumes. And perhaps, a!l things consideved, it's.just as well, for there are one or two people in the world whose friendshop I really value!

So tell me if you're heard this one, instead
There was a family who had a wireless sel, and each member used to sit up in tumu at , might getting various stations.. They bragged. about the achievements at breakfast nert morning-and no one believed them.

It came to Dad's tuin, who wasn't an experl; and all the olher mem-
 bers of the family were curious to hnow what he would say. he had gol the night before. Warsaw-Moscow-Iimbuctoo? No, nol one of them!
"Up to miduight," he said modestly, "I must-admit that I didn't get very fario But I tried hard, and just before one o'clock I got ——"
"Yes?" chorused the family: .. an ",
Their father looked at their eager faces and said triumphantly :- -1 ?

## 'Thoroughly light!'

It is more than possible that if I had to viun the B.B.C. programmes I might be almost as successful.

## VIVIAN FOSTER

(The Redóubtable Vicar of Mirth).
My programme would be diverse : one man's fish is another man's poison! Yes, 1 think. so!

There would be a studio audience, crealing " atmosphere," but no coughing, as good joke's are not to be sneezed at.

Wireless should be for, inslruction and pleasure, and the instruction itself shouldi make for pleasure.

The deepest subjects, handled with sportive spirit, woutd be delightfil. I alway's think religion one of the most joyful things in the world. Il's nol the parsons swho want to make it dull-it's the preconceived idea of the laity to treat it
 zuith ave.

I'd have political propaganda, with all sides heard-the listener could put on the lid.

The keynote of my programme must be laughter-langhter all the way. Millions would appreciate this-some wouldn't. To gratify millions is better than to bend the knee to a disgrunlled few. Des, I liank so! I think so!


# Straightforward Working Instructions by T. Thorne Baker, the Inventor of the System that made the Fultograph possible and Technical Consultant to the Wireless Picture Company 

P
DHOTOGRAPHS and pictures can now be picked up by the wireless amateur, and as time goes on all sorts of pictorial diversions will, without doubt, be arranged by different broadcasting organisations.

The Fultograph, which is being used in this country by the B.B.C., and has given such successful results, has been described in this journal, but in this issue of Amateur Wireless I am giving some practical wọrking instructions.

As described in a recent article, the system consists essentially of two metal drums revolving in exact step, or synchronism, with a stylus tracing a spiral path over the surface. On one of these, the transmitter, is a thin copper shect on the surface of which is printed a half-tone photograph in glue; on the other is wrapped a piece of moist sensitised paper.

The function of the transmitter is to send out a succession of signals, about 350 per sccond, varying in duration at each instant according to the light and shade of the photograph.

The function of the receiver is to utilise the signals to produce brown marks of corresponding size upon the sensitised paper, so that a facsimile picture is built up. The Fu'tograph can be used with any valve set that will fully operate a lond-speaker.

Each instrument is supplied with a panel as shown above; the panel requiring an extra valve (see below) and being provided with a milliammeter, with which can be seen the amount of current being supplied to the picture machine. The drum of the receiver is rotated by means of a small spring motor fitted in the base of the instrument.

## Synchronising

The receiving drum revolves slightly faster than the drum of the transmitter, so that it finislies up its revolution a little too soon. It is then automatically stopped, and only released when the drum of the transmitter has completed its own revolution.


The sensitised paper is secured to the cylinder by means of a clip
to the 12 -volt terminal of the grid-bias battery. The lead marked L.T. - is then connected to the negative terminal of the accumulator, which is also the negative L.T. connection of the set

If the wireless set is run from a 4 -volt accumulator, the L.T. + lead of the Fultograph is connected to the same terminal as the L.T. + of the wireless set. If the wireless set uses a 6 -volt accumulator, the L.T. + lead of the Fultograph should be connected to tap-off at 4 volts. If the set uses only a 2 -volt accumulator, an additional 2-volt accumulator must be joined to it in series and the. L.T. + lead of the Fultograph connected to the plus terminal of the additional accumulator.

The output terminals of the set are connected to the loud-speaker and also to the two sockets of the relay panel. This connects the picture receiver in parallel with the loud-speaker, the sounds of the picture transmission being thus made audible.

Before the set is switched on, the switch on the relay pancl is put to the "on" position; the milliammeter should be lcoked at and if the reading is higher than zero the grid bias should be increased or the H.T. voltage decreased. To satisfy oneself that the set is in correct working order, one of the leads of the grid-bias battery should be temporarily disconnected, when the pointer of the milliammeter should rise, and as it passes the figure 1 a click should be heard from the relay panel, showing that the relay is functioning properly. The grid-bias lead should then be connected up again when the milliammeter will again read zero.

All that remains to be done now is to wind up the motor and attach the sensitive paper to the receiving drum.

The arm carrying the stylus should be set so that the stylus is at the extreme right of the paper, care being taken that the guide wheel is in contact with the threaded shaft, as far as possible to the right.

Immediately before the transmission begins an announcement is made, following which a tuning note is given, which lasts for two minutes. This tuning note is, of course, reproduced on the loud-speaker.

In order to ture in the receiver so that the strength is correct for picture transmission, the reading on the milliammeter should be noted, and by rellucing reaction the milliammeter should be reduced to something between 2.5 and 3
When the tuning note has ceased, three V's are transmitted; after the last V there is an interval of five seconds, and during this time the brake controlling the motor is released by raising and giving a quarter turn to the round ebonite rod on the left side of the picture receiver. The drum only begins to revolve when the correct signal is received from the transmitting station. When the picture transmission is complete it.stops automatically. The speed of the motor must be such that the receiving drum always revolves slightly faster than the drum at the transmitting station. The speed should be 55 revolutions per minute. When the setting is correct, the drum, during transmission, should stop momentarily for a very brief pause, and start again once during each revolution. If the drum revolves continuously the setting is too slow.

## Finishing Off

When the picture transmission is completed the drum stops automatically; and
the switch on the relay panel should be moved to the "off" position, after which the motor should be stopped by the knob


This portrait of the King was ;ecelvel by a memter of our-siaff from 5XX on Nov. $2 \overline{6}$
on the left-hand side of the receiver. The paper, with the picture on it, is remored from the drum, and in order to make it
more permanent it' should preferably be dried fairly quickly by holding it in front of the fire. There is little doubt but that, as time goes on, both the brilliance and the keeping qualities of the pictures will be greatly improved.

It may be said, in conclusion, that the majority of amateurs succeed the first tinue in getting perfectly good reception, and that the ease of manipulation and certainty of result are outstanding charms of a delightful bit of apparatus.
Next week we shall give a selection of pictures as rece.ved by us, with further practical notes.

Have you heard 2 PB yet? It is the call sign of a B.B.C. mobile transmitter working on 288.5 metres. On a recent date it was in Norfolk and listeners were surprised to hear the call: "This is 2 PB the British Broadcasting station at Norwich testing." As the outfit is installed on a motor lorry and experiments are being made with a view to testing out various aerial systems, there is a possibility you may hear the call on any night, anywhere!

With the Scottish Nationalist Party having come so much into prominence latery, the B.B.C. has hit upon something topical in a new series of talks under the general title, "Scotland To-day." It is intended to provide a comprehensive picture of the present state of Scotland.

## For the Newcomer to Wireless. how can iget SELECTIVITY?

IAM not very satisfied with the sclectivity of my wireless receiving set; can you tell me how it may be improved ? The first thing to do is to get at the causes of unselectivity and to go for them one by one.

That seems a sound policy.
What is your.set?
A three-valver with one, high-frequency stage, a rectifier, and one notemagnifier

How is the aerial coupled to the grid of the first valve?

The tuner is of the single-circuit type, both the aerial and grid being connected to the "top" of the coil.

Well, there's a point right away. The easiest way of increasing selectivity is to substitute for your present plain coil one of the $\mathbb{X}$ pattern and to connect the aerial not to the "top" but to whichever of the two tappings gives the best combination of good signal strength and reasonable selectivity:

Is that the best method there is?
No, you may find it a further improvement to give the acrial a very small coil all to itself. Couple this to the grid coil, but don't tune it. Aperiodic aerial coupling, as it is called, is very selective if there are few turns on the aerial coil.

Do you think my aerial is all right?

It is thirty feet high with two parallel wires.

How long is the "roof" part?
About seventy feet.
You will get greater selectivity with a shorter roof and probably you will find that you will gain in this way without losing appreciably in signal strength by using one wire instead of two. Also it is often an advantage to have a fixed condenser with a capacity of from .ooor to .0003-microfarad in series with the aerial. This reduces the effective capacity of the aerial.

How can I find the best capacity for this condenser ?

Either use clip-in condensers and find by experiment which gives the best results, or fit a variable which will allow you to adjust things to a nicety

I wonder if the coupling between my high-frequency valve and the rectifier is good enough? It is the tuned plate circuit, which I have heard is rather out of date nowadays.

It is. Probably, too, you have got a potentiometer connected to the lower end of your H.F. valve's grid coil to enable you to obtain stability.

Yes, I have.
That stability is gained only by intro-
ducing losses into the circuit; you are holding the valve down by preventing it from working as efficiently as it should.

How can I improve matters?
Use some kind of neutralising arrangement in the circuit between the first and second valves-I will explain neutralising to you another time. Meantime you will find in Amitecr Wireless or Wireless Magazine particulars of the kind of circuit necded. Irstead of semiparalysing your H.F. valve by applying a damping positive grid bias you will find that you can give it a negative bias, which means that you are getting the fullest selectivity out of it. The alteration is usually quite easy to make in an existing set

Anything else that I can do ?
I expict you are using a grid-leak rectifier?

Yes, I am.
Well, you will find that an anode-bend rectifier is considerably more selective, though you will lose a little in signal strength unless your high-frequency stage is efficient. You can also improve matters by using high-impedance valves both for H.F. and rectifying purposes, provided of course that your couplings are suitable for their requirements.

WITH a complicated set a wavemeter is really essential, but it is not always realised how useful a wavemeter can be with a receiver in which there is perhaps only one tuning control.

There are several objections to relying solely on haphazard marks made on the tuning condenser scale with a set on which a large number of stations can be received. The most obvious snag is that if the aerial, coil, detector valve, or battery values are changed the settings may not be true

One of the difficulties usually associated with an amateur-made wavemeter is that of calibrating it, but in this instance calibration is not strictly necessary if the instrument is made up exactly as described.


The Constructional Details of the Meter

## Components Required

 diameter (Atlas, Wearite).A wavelength-dial-reading graph has been prepared for this wavemeter at the Furzehill laboratories of our Technical Editor, and this can be used with any wavemeter which is made up exactly according to these instructions. This graph is given on page 1002.
.ooo5-microfarad square-law variable condenser (J.B., Cyldon, Burton, Polar).

Ebonite panel, 9 in, by 6 in., from which a 2 -in. by $6-\mathrm{in}$. strip is cut for the coilsupport panel (Becol, Raymond, Ebonart). Coil former, 258 in . long and 3 in .

Two coil pins and sockets (Clix).
2 oz. No. 24 d.c.c. wire (Lewcos).
Dial indicator (Bulgin).

18 in. of thin flex (Lewcollex).
Quantity of $5 \cdot 8$-in. thick wood for cabinet.

The most important constructional feature is, of course, the coil, and this must be made up as described. It consists of 55 turns of No. 24 d.c.c. wound on a thin insulated former 3 in . in diameter and $25 / 8$ in. long. Actually the winding space occupies $17 / 8$ in., and this leaves "margins" of $3 / 8$ in. Two contact pins are mounted on the

A wavemeter such as this, of the absorption type, is simplicity itself to operate and is used in conjunction with a receiver in the following manner. The meter case is placed adjacent to the tuning side of the receiver, and a station, the wavelength of which it is desired to check, is tuned in at maximum strength. The dial of the variable condenser in the wavemeter is then slowly rotated until a faint click is heard in the phones or loud-speaker, and there is a slight diminution of signal strength.

This indicates that the wavemeter is exactly in tune with the receiver, and the station's wavelength can be located at once by referring to a simple graph which gives the wavelength readings corresponding to dial settings.
former, one on each side, and two small holes are drilled at each side through which the ends of the winding can be threaded to secure them.

Further to secure the turns, the coil should be lightly "doped" with collodion. This renders the cotton insulation impervious to atmospheric moisture, and the celluloid forming the basis of the collodion does not seriously interfere with the natural capacity of the coil. Shellac should not be used if it is desired


## IN PERIL AND IN PLEASURE

Now if the Exide Battery is used -as it is used-where the behaviour of the battery is a matter of life and death. If the Exide Battery is found-as it is found -in the Marconi Station on the coast and in the wireless cabin at sea. And if the Exide Battery
soars with the aeroplane and submerges-as it does-with the submarine-does it not follow that you, installing the Exide Battery in your own wireless set, are following the highest scientific example and making sure of the finest musical results?


Obtainable from Exide Service Agents and all reputable dealers.


Yes sir!' There's nothing like the old Friend-

They all come back for
 BRITAIN'S BEST BATTERIES

# On Cour Wavelenen! 

## Relics of the Past

$1117 / 1$
364
Do you ever go through your junk-box," you who are oldstagers in wireless? I went through mine the other day, and it had all the exciting interest of a geological excavation. The lowest strata gave up two old Marconi variable condensers in ebonite boxes, with thin ebonite leaves between the plates. They were of .oor maximum capacity, and quite useless according to modern ideas; but they are beautifully made and of "pre-war" brand. Next to them was a rather more modern "fossil" in the shape of a soft Dutch valve, with which remarkable feats of long-distance reception used to be donc. Then there was a test tube filled with many different kinds of crystals, which brought back many memories, amongst them the reception of one of the very earliest transmissions of the Glasgow station-on a crystal without amplification, in the heart of Surrey. There were "spiders" galore. Not the living sort, but those many-legged wire things on which we used to wind our coils.

## Neither Quality nor Quantity

The most interesting discoveries, though, were my two first radio frequency transformers and the remains of an old "Mark III" note magnifier. These were used early in 1922 -before 2 LO started up-to get the "Dutch Concert" and to listen to P. P. Ekersley making fun of the world from Wr-r rittle. With two H.F. stages, a detector, and three L.F. stages-all " $R$ " valves, if you know what they were, gentle reader of more modern vintage-we really could hear those Dutch concerts on a home-made loud-speaker, provided the room was quiet! And the quality? Well, well! They were great days; but I don't think I would like to go back to them.

## Police Broadcasts

圈On Thursday, November 22, the Scotland Yard authorities or the first time used the broadcasting service in their search for en important witness concerned in a recent murder. Although, on various occasions, descriptions of missing persons have been transmitted to the general public, it is the first time in this country on which the police have called in the help of the B.B.C. for assistance in the elucidation of a sriminal problem. The idea, however, is, far from being a now one, as on the Continent for over a year the Hilversum station in Holland has broadcast daily a police news brilletin, and nightly the German trans-
mitters put out announcements handed to them by the local police stations. If you listen to Hamburg in the course of the news transmission, you will hear in it sundry references to wanted criminals or descriptions of stolen motor-cars and other property.

On two recent occasions similar transmissions by Langenberg and the Rhineland studios resulted, firstly, in the capture, within six hours, of a particularly: brutal murderer and, secondly, in the discovery of the whereabouts of two criminals from a penitentiary, thus leading to their re-arrest without delay. With the adivent to-day of picture transmissions, some considerable development of this feature may be expected.

## The Long-wave Troubles



From the recent excitenient which has taken place on the high waves, it is difficult to gather whether the stations have besn playing at General Post or Tom Tiddler's Ground; but, so far as I can judge, the sport indulged in has not yet reached the finals. It all arises from the fact that it is impossible to put a quart in a pint pot, and the logical sequence and development of the decisions taken at the last Washington Conference, whereby "umpteen" highpowered transmitters are to be loclged within the boundaries of a comparatively small waveband! The result is a healthy crop of hetorodynes and general interference. The Danish high-power relay Kalundborg, apparently, was not allocated any position whatever, and for a few weeks jumped the 1,680 -metre wave, thus obstructing Zeesen, which, in its anxiety to avoid the usurper, clashed with Daventry 5 XX. To-day the Dane has abandoned this position, reverting to 1,153 metres, to which there is no objection, although the wavelength is not designated to a broadcasting station.

## Many Changes



In the meantime, further changes have been carried out, namely, Huizen from 1,870 metres has come down to 1.852 metres and Daventry to $1,562.5$ metres, thus reducing its distance from Lahti, which during the past few days has been working on 1,503 metres. Trouble in the long waveband is by no means at an end with these alterations, for into this section we must note the arrival of Angora, on I,600 metres, and Eiffel Tower, testing on I,480 metres. Whether the French station will remain there is a moot point, for I, 483 metres ( 202.2 kc .) was the position given to Moscow in the original scheme.

## On the Medium Band

To the already congested medium broadcasting band we record the arrival of Genoa, on 403 metres, San Sebastian in its immediate neighbourhood, roughly 400 metres and Madrid (Union Radio) EAJ7. which lately has lodged itself on $43+.8$ metres-immediately below Frederiksstad, with which on some nights it heterodynes.

Although some transmitters conscientiously maintain their exact wavelengths, this laudable quality does not apply to many, as may be noticed on evenings when PTT (Lyons), increased in power to some 5 kilowatts, interferes in turn with Berlin and Langenberg. Daily more stations are being added to the already unwieldy European list of broadcasters, and notwithstanding the fact that the number of programmes simultaneously on the air increases weckly, there are but few which can be held by the listener, without interference, for any reasonable time.

## SOS

 During the last few weeks hundreds of lives have been saved at sea through the agency of radio. The whole world has recognised its importance and has paused in admiration of the men who tap out the messages for succour. It seems strangely inconsistent, thercfore, that wireless operators, as a whole, are very poorly paid and that the gear they have to work is, for the most part, absolutely out of date. The great Atlantic liners and other first-class ships have very fine wireless equipments and adequate staffs of operators. But the majority of ships, many carrying passengers, have only one operator, and antiquated transmitting and receiving equipment. Transmitters are largely of the "spark" type, covering a large band of wavelengths and causing a good deai of jamming with other ship and shore stations sending out on adjacent wavelengths. Such jamming is, of course, an advantage when an $S \circ O$ signal is being sent ont, for a broadly transmitted signal is much moro likely to be heard than a sharp one. But when other messages are being sent on $n$ spark transmitter the jamming máy interfere with the reception of distant SOS -calls.

## That "Spark"!



All broadcast listeners who live near the coast have reason to be well acquainted with the spark: transmitter! North Foreland, Cullercoats, Newhaven, and other "spark hounds" buzz through many a loud-speaker which is trying to "deliver the goods"
$\therefore \quad$ : On Your Wavelength! (continued) $\quad \therefore \quad$ :
from 5 GB . Most of this "traffic" could quite easily be carried out with valve transmitters, if the ships had something better to receive on than a crystal. Yes, sir, I said a crystal! And if an operator dares to bring his own broadcast receiver on board for use in preference to a decrepit old ship's receiver, the wireless company's inspector frowns upon the enthusiast and possibly gives him "the sack"! By such methods as these are dividends paid! Scrap the "spark," except as an emergency transmitter, and scrap the out-of-date receivers, too ! If the same imagination and enterprise was turned to this side of radio as in the broadcasting section, more lives would be saved and less risks would have to be taken by radio operators.

## "Caravan"

(5)Cecil Lewis has donẹ it again 1 Caravan was a rather theatrical effort with a weak ending, yet it was none the less interesting. I'm not so sure that the play could be called entertainment for the masses, action being rather on the slow side and thrills being entirely absent. There were many good lines, however, and the fine voice of Frank Petley, who played the part of the merchant, Garilan, sounded very well on my loud speaker. I hope it won't be the last time I hear his finc voice via radio.

## A Queer Experience

My short-wave set went on strike the other day, signal strength being very feeble and the reaction control having none ol its usual silky smoothness. As a matter of fact, I had noticed that all was not well for some little time, but I had failed to find any reason for its not being quite up to the mark. When, however, reception became really bad I spent an evening investigating matters. The rectifier circuit is arranged with the grid leak and condenser in parallel, the low-potential end of the grid being connected to the slider of a potentiometer wired across the L.T. busbars. Thinking that the gridleak might be faulty I removed it, intending to try another. Whilst it was still out I happened to turn the knob of the potentiometer and found that so doing had a big effect upon the rectifier's performance.

## An Explanation Wanted



Since a fat shunting condenser was used between the slider and L.T.-, this could only mean that it still affected the grid potential and the obvious deduction was that the grid-condenser had broken down. On pulling it out and substituting another, the set at once returned to its normal good behaviour. Now what I want to know is this. The D.C. and A.C.
potentials across that condenser were tiny; it was of excellent make; how on earth did it come to break down? Is it possible that the enormously high-frequencies that are dealt with when one goes down to wavelengths of io metres or below have destructive effects that are not yet fully realised? I can see no other reason at present to account for the failure. Can any reader suggest one?

## Short-weight Batteries



Those who seek to economize by the purchase of cheap foreign high-tension batteries not infrequently come to wish that they hadn't. I have had one or two through my hands lately that have proved a revelation. One of them is really highly ingenious. It is beautifully got up with a very pretty case and a nice shiny black top. In length and breadth, and height, and weight, it conforms approximately to the usual standards. Still, for all that it is a short-weight battery as I will explain.

After opening the case I found that the cells within, though of the same diameter as those generally used in standard batteries, were about half an inch less high. Further, the zinc pots were not filled right up. The required height and weight had been obtained by the use of a thick bitumen seal and of a cardboard packing over the tops of the cells. Electrically these cells are just about half the size in a normal battery and tests soon proved that it had about a quarter the ordinary useful life. Those who buy such things are far from saving moncy. Still I suppose that they cannot really complain for they get what they pay for.

## False Economy

 Quite a number of people that I know nake use of ordinary flashlamp refills for building up their high-tension batteries. The idea is at first sight an excellent one, since "dud" bits of the battery can be removed and renewed from time to time with a minimum of trouble and expensc. But there is rather a bad snag. The average refill is not designed for the kind of work that it has to do when it is made to form part of a plate battery. Often its insulation is not good enough for the job. If you want to build up unit batteries you should always use not flashlamp refills, but units designed specially for the job.

## NEXT WEEK :

A SHORT-WAVE
LOUD-SPEAKER TWO

These are made by numerous firms and they cost little, if any, more than ordinary refills.

## Special Types Required



They have, too, another great advantage. Using flashlamp affairs, you must either solder the long strip connection of one unit to the short strip of the next, so as to wire them in series, or must make use of special clips for the purpose. Units designed for H.T. battery work are generally provided with special time-saving connectors.. One pattern has spring clips for both positive and negative connections, and units are easily joined together with short pieces of bare wire. In another type the positive connection has an ordinary wanderplug socket and the negative a rubbercovered wire provided with a wander plug. With these the process of building up a battery is simplicity itself. Another good tip is to use not three-cell units, but spacially designed single cells for making up an. H.T. battery. These again, are obtainable from numerous makers, and they can be parchased in a variety of sizes, Some have screw terminals, others clip contacts, and others again plugs and sockets.

## Watch the Insulation



But, whether you use units or single cells, you should always be careful to house your battery in a suitable container. Don't jam units or cells tightly up.against one another; leave a space between them. And don't forget that it is of the utmost importance to insulate the bottoms of the cells properly. One of the best tips that I know is to have a sheet of glass cut that will just fit into the battery box. Stand the units or cells on this with plenty of space between them, and you will find that your battery. lasts longer and gives quieter working thar if you lumped them together with nothing but cardboard or soft wood to stand on.

## A Grid-battery Tip



Here is a tip which I have found excecdingly useful. A 4B.A. tap can be turned easily into the average socket. It does not give a full thread, but it makes one quite deep enough to enable a screw to get a respectable grip. Tap each of your sockets and screw in a small piece of studding, locking each with a nut. You can then make secure connections, slipping the ends of your grid-battery leads over the appropriate studs and fixing them firmly with nuts. It does not take very long to carry out this little job, and it is very well worth while, for it removes a potential cause of noisiness and makes one pretty well secured from grid-battery troubles.

Captain Round on THE FUTURE OF THE MAINS SET

THE last word has not yet been said on the design of sets to work off the A.C. mains. The whole problem bristles with difficulties, both for the home builder and for the manufacturer. The latter has a really difficult proposition in England, for not only has he to contend with the two ranges of wavelengths-that is, from 200
ease greatly the valve inanufacturers' difficulties.

Unfortunately, 2 -volt filaments are not quite suitable for A.C. mains working, the hum being evident, particularly when a moving-coil loud-speaker is used.

A series of .8 -volt valves has been issued which satisfactorily solve the A.C.
hum problem, except as regards the rectifier.

The other solution is the independently heated cathode valve which, at a price, solves all the difficulties, and, in general, one of this type of valve must be used for the rectifier, efen if the .8 -volt filament valıes are used elsewhere.


## TWO EXAMPLES OF MODERN CURRENT SUPPLY A.C. MAINS UNITS

(Left) the Cosmos. (Right) the EKCO

to 600 metres and from 1,000 to 2,000 metres, with all the attendant switching difficulties-but he has to cater for different voltages and frequencies.

## Why American Sets are Cheap

One often marvels at the small price of American sets; for instance, I know of one 6-valve sẹt selling without valves for $£ 16$. It is a very sharply tuned set with single control and includes the whole of the gear for running from A.C. mains.

Now, this set can be produced at such a low figure because of the practical uni. formity of A.C. supply in America. The fact that a very large percentage of the population has mains supply makes procluction on a large scale possible.

## Why English Sets are Expensive

In England it is a very different matter, as the set must be adaptable to different classes of power and the market is very much smaller. We have, therefore, to be content with simpler sets. No one sees a real way of getting rid of the double range of wavelengths, but an effort can be made to standardise power units to some extent.

## The Varieties of Power

The supply of H.T, is comparatively easy; the use of either dry cells, D.C. mains, or A.C. mains does not necessitate changes in sets or valves. It is only the filament lighting part of the game that causes complications. I have advocated for some time now, a concentration on the 2-volt type of valve for all battery-supplied scts, 'and although one would prefer, perhaps, 6 -volt valves for the last stage, and for heating from D.C. mains, this would

## OUR CHRISTMAS COVER

A cover should speak for itself-and ours does. But I may be allowed a word or two of special explanation.

The "people at home" at Christmas are shown looking into a combined telephbry and television cabinet, which in itself is both transmitter and receiver. Surmounting the cabinet is the fret of a loud-speaker and in front, below the screen, is a lens forming part of the television transmitter. Speech and music come in from the uttermost parts of the world, and in full colour on the glass screen the "people at home" see their own" son of the house" whose duty has called him to the far-away places of the East. They not only sec him and hear him, but in addition, they read his Christmas message which spells itself out to them in the slot at the top of the screen.

And HE sees them, too, in HIS trains-mitter-receiver. And so those at home and the man at the other side of the world bridge the distance between them in an instant.
Fust an interesting and amusing idea-and nothing more will it be for a very, very long time; but he would be a rash man who would dare to say it is outside all possibility.

## WHERE'S THE FALLACY?

Frankly, though, there is one thing about our picture that apparently is quite impossible and we were inclined to condone it because we would rather ask our readers' indulgence than spoil the effect of the picture.

Granting the possibility of the radio and other electrical phenomena involued, what is the outstanding fallacy to be found in the picture? We zeill send a cheyue for One Guinca to the writer of the FIRST
letter opened by us on Mondary December 17, that Tetter opened by us on Monday, December 17, that
correctly explains the mistake. Keep your letter short: correctly explains the, mistake. Kepp your ber short:
fifty zoords is ample, and trenty-fiee can be made to serve. Please address your letter,:
"CIRISTMAS COVER,"
The Editor,
Amateur Wirpless,"
58/61 Fetter Lame,

- London, E.C.4. a.m. on the date mentioned. THE EDITOR.

Let us sce what all this means from the designer's and manufacturer's point of view.

## Difficulties of Set Design

The manufacturer has to make it set which will work satisfactorily on, say, 2 -volt valves, with one .8 -volt I.H.C. rectifier, or on all I.H.C. valves. Even if the set is not a neutrodyne the chances of ever getting ganging arrangements and stability to fit other changes of valves is small.

## D.C. Mains,

I am leaving out of the question any demand for series lighting from D.C. mains. D.C. mains lighting is a matter for a trickle-charger battery. Direct lighting from D.C. mains is attractive, but there is no satisfactory solution of the problem, particularly with sets with five or six valves.

It tends to introduce H.F reaction and thoroughly tangle up the grid-bias question. And D.C. mains, being on the wane, should not be excessively catered for. A trickle charger, then, or, if the user doesn't mind high consumption, by breaking down the volts with a lamp or a rheostat, are the only ways of handling D.C. filament lighting. Of course, H.T. supply from D.C. mains is quite simple, providing care is taken to prevent motor-boating; and the same care, of course, must be taken witt A.C. H.T. work.

## My Own Set

It may interest readers to know that I have at my house a Marconi of receiver, (Concluded at foot of next page)

## HIS OPINION

Mr. Highdome, who thinks he's all brain, Grinds his leeth when they switch on Jack Payne, And he says with a curse.
"This is certainly worse
Than that falsetto chatterbox; Jane I'
G. Gerrisif.

## MOSELEY (AGAIN)

De Courville and Charlot morosely
Perused "Weekly Comments" by Moseley; Said Albert: ' I'll bet
Something's wrong with his set,
For our efforts don't get through jocosely."
C. H. Sturges.

## HOT

Wrate a listener: "Your programmes to me Are old-fashioned and dult. Will you see

They are brought up to date
(To A.D., any rate!)
As a change they'll not then B.B.C."
A. Lovejoy.

## NOT YET !

The dull radiation from our local station Upon my intelligence jars;

So I'll alter my range
(Just by way of a change)
And receive S.B. items from Mars !
J.J. Kerfe.

## REALLY?

A senile old farmer named Vaughan
Said:"I.listens each night till the daughani: For they radio jokes
Makes Oi laff till I chokes-
For I heered 'em all 'fore I were baughan !'' Charles P. Parsons.

## GAPT. ROUND ON "THE FUTURE OF THE MAINS SET"

(Continued from preceeding page)
consisting of three screen-grid valvesanode bend detector, followed by two R.C. coupled stages-running satisfactorily entirely off the D.C. mains.

The mains supply: has heen adapted without altering the receiver, and there is no hum. .This is all by the way; and I will now go back to the general problem.

Granting that there is no need for any valve changes between batteries and $\mathrm{D}_{\mathrm{C}} \mathrm{C}$. mains, the voting is, two to one against the A.C., and we must look for a method which brings A.C. into line with other sources of power.

## Copper Rectifiers and Electrolytic Condensers

The recent introduction of the copperoxide rectifier and, still more surprising, clectrolytic condenser (I. mean in its present simple form) seems to me to
indicate a way of standardising which we should be foolish not to look into. So far, I have no practical experience of cither the rectifier or condenser; but as they are quite reliable, the continuation of the .8-volt or I.H.C. practice is not right
One or two rectificrs in parallel and shunted with a 1,500-microfarad condenser should provide suitable rectification and smoothing for any sct, with a power consumption far below that of the other nethods: The filaments pould, in effect, be lighted by D.C.-and can be

SAD
There once was a young cook named Lessing Who voted the reiveless a blessing;

But o'erconte by a ballad
She collapsed in the salad-
Now listen she can't, for she's dressing !Charles P. Pársons.

## POSSIBLE !

"This music's divine !" murmured Glupp:
"A symphonic poem!" said Thrupp,
But who's the composer?"
There ain't one," said Tozer,
"It's the orchestra just tuning up.",
Patsy Payne.

## MIXED

"Mixed progranmes" I always can get,
For I've just bought a cheap super-het.; Most B.B.C. stations,
With stray oscillations,
Come in all at once on my set ?
J. J. Keefe.

MARS
The programme? Yes, sometimes it jârs, Many talks very often it star's;

So many- we've had
That one bright, brainy lad
Reached out for a message from Mars !
Thos. G. Childs.

## BITTER

When we're freed from thè day'sloil and strains We switch on for some charniing refrains;

Then we heâr thai sieeel voice
Say: "IVe'll now broadcast the noise Made by lorries; and hooters, and traiks:" Ernest A. Vaughan.
"MORE PROGRAMME LIMERICKS" on page 986
treated as such-and the set itself neod differ in no way from the battery or.D.C. mains set.

This system would also be a great advantage to the home constructor, because it gives hinı a sct capable of being taken from place to place and does not limit him to his home current.

Here we have a method in sight which for a long time to come should suit the British conditions, and even if the initial cost is more (which I believe it will not be), there should be an enormous saving due to standardisation of set units.

The manufacturers will be able to concentrate on one straightforward set and, what is more, the valve makers will be able to specialise with fewer types of valve. Sets will, therefore, be cheaper, and valves will be cheaper and more reliable.

Station WCFL has purchased a 100-acre farm twenty-two miles directly west of Chicago for the location of its 50,000 -watt national super-power station.

## Reliable Resistances result in Rich•Reception

## MET-VICK <br> COUPLING UNITS complete for <br> 

The results obtained from Met-Vick Skeleton Resistance Units cannot be im. proved upon, even by using expensive wire-wound resistances. The values of the components have been carefully calculated to give maximum amplification per stage and as moulded resistances and leaks are used, their values are retained indefinitely and they are noiseless in operation. List MS 4761


Met-Vick Skeleton Resistance Coupling Units for Mains Opera. tion with Met-Vick A.C. Valves:Anode Resistance 200,000 ohms

Similar for Battery Operation:Anode Resistance 400,000 ohms Grid Leak $\frac{3}{4}$ megohm Coupling Condenser 005 mfds. if $5 /$ Extra for Moulded Base . $1 / 3$

MET-vick
DETECTOR UNITS complete for


The use of moulded resistances in 'Met-Vick'. Skeleton Detector Units, ensure freedom from 'rushing' noises often experienced with surface deposit leaks. Both the condenser and the grid leak components: retain their original values, quite unaffected by climatic or other variable conditions.

List MS 4761.


Met-Vick Skeleton Detector Unit for Mains Operation:-
Grid Condenser $\left.{ }^{\circ} 0003 \mathrm{mfd}: \quad:\right\} 2 / 6$
Similar for Battery Operation:Grid Condenser ©0003 mfd :
Grid Leak 2 megohmas

Extra for Moulded Base . $1 / 3$

Similar to those embodied in the Coupling and Detector Units 'Met-Vick' Moulded Resistances are available as separate components. They are chemically inert, the entire material being the actual resistance element. They 1. Carry heavy currents $\mathbf{5 - 1 0}$ milliamps without becoming noisy. 2. retain their values 3. Are non-inductive. They are ideal and inexpensive. List MS 4760


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## with interchangeable

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250-550 metres Ref. C.A.C. 5 ... Price $10 / 6$ 1,000-2,000 metres Ref. C.A.C. 20 ,, $12 / 6$ Interchangeable reaction coil (if required) $3 /$ extra

## H.F. TRANSFORMER

250-550 metres Ref. C.S.P.5 ... Price 1.0/6 Interchangeable Primary Coil $3 / \mathrm{m}$
I,C00-2,000 metres Ref. C.S.P. 20 , $12 / 6$ Interchangeable Primary Coil 4/ص

## 䁌 VACOS SUPER COIL

Obtainable from all dealers and
THE LONDON ELECTREC WIRE COMPANY AND SMITHS LIMITED, Church Road, Leyton, London, E. 10

Trale Counter and Cable Sales:
7 Playhouse Yard, Golden Lane, - London, E.C. 1
Full descriptive leafiet " $R 43$ " free on application.



THIS really original novelty presents no difficulty to construct, providing the details are carefully followed. The fact that wireless signals can be received upon it or that it is a crystal set is quite disguised, and much wonder will be caused by those who receive one as to how it works, for the tuning coils are cleverly concealed in a most inconspicuous manner.

First cut two pieces of card rectangular in shape measuring about 3 in . by 4 in . and in the


#### Abstract

Here is an opportunity to send your friends a Christmas greetings card which is both novel and unique, and which will afford them an agreeable surprise and much amusement during the festive Christmas season. It is, however, more than a novelty, it is a crystal set and, moreover, it works


## The Front Card

Paste one of the paper pieces on to one side of one of the cards, then insert one of the coils in the recess formed by the circular cutout. On the edge of the card fix two metal tags as shown and at one corner punch a small hole for the purpose of pivoting to the back card. Connect the beginning of the coil winding to both of the metal tags by soldering or securing under the tag. The other end of the coil winding is taken to the pivot when the two cards are joined together.

## The Back Card

On the outside of the back card paste one of the paper pieces and place the second coil in


Here are the details of the Christmas Card Crystal Set which is within the abillty of anyone to make
centre of each make a circular cutout 2 in. in diameter. Next cut four pieces of paper to similar dimensions.

## The Coils

The coils are wound in hank formation and No. 30 s.s.c. wire is suitable. There are two coils, each consisting of 35 turns and each may be wound around a former $13 / 4$ in. diameter and then slipped off when finished and bound with cotton. Now we can complete the front card, complete details being shown in the diagram.
the circular recess as before. This card is also equipped with two metal tags and the end of the coil is connected to the one marked $z$. At the back of the card on the tag is soldered a small

[^2]condenser spacer washer and into this is secured by means of woods metal a very small piece of crystal. A fine wire is taken from tag $y$ which terminates in a small catwhisker contact to the crystal. The beginning of the coil connects at the point where the cards are pivoted. Before going any further paste a piece of paper over each of the cards thus entirely concealing all the connections and coils, but leave a piece of wire projecting from each of the coils to make the pivot connection.

The two cards are pivoted together by means of a small' screw and nut and each of the wires from the coils are placed between washers between the cards to-ensure good contact and to prevent them from breaking. Our Christmas card is now complete.

The artistic member of the family now has an opportunity to shine by painting some pleasing design on the front of the card, or failing this, one could be pasted on from a suitable print.

The following doggerel can also be put on:
Fix me to an aerial,
Put me on an earth,
Give to me a pair of phones,
I will give you mirth.
Open me until you hear
The strains of music sweet
Coming through from far and near.

- It is a wondrous feat.


## Using the Card

This poetic outburst really explains how the card is used, for all that it is necessary to do is to join the phone across the tags marked so and join the aerial and earth to the other tags and gently rest the crystal contact on the crystal. The card is tuncd by simply slowly opening the cards until signals are lieard.

This novel Christmas card costs practically nothing to make and is most appropriate at the present season.

A dispatch from Shanghai states that the Chinese Minister of Reconstruction for the Nationalist Government, Chang Chingkiang, and Mr. A. B. Tyrell, representing the Radio Corporation of America, have signed a ten-year agreement whereby radio stations recently contracted for in China will be operated in co-operation with stations in North America, South America, the Philippincs, and some parts of Europe. It is expected that the new stations will be completed in eighteen months.





## A Weekly Programme Criticism by Sydney A. Moseley

P
DOLITICS is a great game. Yet what game are they trying to play with listeners? For the first time since creation we have an opportunity of regularly hearing all sides of the question-and yet one party insists on having two "go's" at the microphone to the other's one! This is a great idea of equality, is it not? If the Government-whichever party happens to be in power-thinks it should have two talks, in order to reply separately to the two parties in opposition, then surely each of these parties might make a similar claim based on the same sort of excuse? The average listener, unless he be a political crank, will know what to think of this attempt to suppress these efforts to give us truth from all angles.

Beware of talkers and artistes prefaced with a patronising "by kind permission of . . ."! You are always supposed to feel grateful in advance for this concession on the part of some modest theatrical or newspaper proprietor before permitting us humble listēners to share his gilt-edged monopoly. Invariably, however, it turns out to be a squib or some obvious and cheap form of self advertisement. There are innumerable gifted artistes and speakers who are dying for a chance to broadcast-the only kind permission needed being that from the B.B.C. Mr. A. P. Herbert (by kind permission of Punch, whose book, etc., etc.) would, no doubt, have sounded funnier without all this preliminary palaver. Get on with the job, say I, and we'll tell you then whether the permission was kind to us or not.

Our gibes at the child mimics are bearing fruit. Now we'll have to ask for a bar against songs and other references to announcers. This feeble playing up to Hibberd, Palmer, and the rest does not sound at all well across the mike. Perhaps it was for this reason that Angela Baddeley's entire turn fell flat.

The women are carrying off honours of late in the talks department. Miss Velona Pilcher is the latest. She spoke on theatres: Her diction is clear and she gave the impression of knowing what she was talking about. Very different from two male speakers, one of whom spoke from the pulpit
and the other in an appeal for funds. By the way, is this women's innings due to there being a woman in charge of the talks department at Savoy Hill? I can see men crying out shortly for equal rights ! y

Notice to artistes, producers, authors, and hangers-on : Isn't there another theme besides Love? I don't know for sure, but since we appear to be given dollops and more dollops about kissing, hugging, and sex backchat, you would think that life was made up completely of this kind of tripe. It isn't . . . Give us a little rest from it, for the love of weary Mike.

Schubert-we'll want a rest, too, from him for a while-depends on the mood. His song cycles, of course, are full of poetry and longing. Somehow, however, the synopsis read before each song sounded syruppy and insipid. Nor did is care much for George Parker. Perhaps it was that I was in a cave-man mood.

Jackie Coogan sure did put it over. It was the right dope. Other Americans have failed by reason of their: "Oh, you are too, too wonderfull I simply lurv London !" Those who wrote the Coogan stuff touched the right note. Good !

Barrington Hooper has a sweet, appealing voice, with perhaps just too much tremulo. He and Leonard Gowings know the songs to sing, too. Sullivan's "Once Again"-well, I had to send out and buy a copy, which is, after all, a good test of a singer's appeal.

Jix revealed himself not as son of D.O.R.A., but as a very human fellowa rare example of a statesman "going up one" after having been judged mainly from the newspapers.

Glad to see that one more hint of mine has borne fruit at Savoy Hill. The foreign. news', instead of being read at the end, all in a heap, is niow given out in order of importance. I also gather that my old fight against the studio claque is bearing fruit.

Mr. C. R, Adams, of Hull, spares my blushes to write to the Editor: "As an admirer and regular reader of your valuable journal, r find not the least interesting page that headed 'Without Fear or Favour,' by Sydney A. Moseley, in which I have been sorry to notice for some weeks past unfavourable notice regarding, the foreign languages talk.'

My correspondent insists that these language talks are "about the most popular and certainly the most beneficial of all talks given by the B.B.C." Apparently his son, who is attending a secondary school, finds them interesting. Now, here is a case where it is impossible to please everybody. He answers his own case by adding, "all kinds of talks are being broadcast to please the minority of people, who would rather have music, such as Ministry of Agriculture Bulletin, Market Prices for Farmers, Royal Horticultural Society Bulletin, Boys' Brigade Talk, Girls' Club Talk, etc., etc." Mr. Adams thinks that all these should be given before six o'clock, but opposes the earlier broadcast of a foreign language talk! What do you know about that?
"Harold" writes saying that he thinks the B.B.C. are overdoing the piano performances, pointing out that from November 4 to 10 there have been twenty-etght piano interludes or recitals. "No blame," he writes generously, " must be attached to the artistes, who are, without doubt, some of the finest we have, but I do think a little more variety should be given us when something is needed to.fill up a gap."

I don't agree!

Ella Retford-as our Cartoonist sees her


# MAZDA RESEARCH CREATED THE MAZDA LAMP-IT HAS NOW CREATED THE BEST RADIO VALVE 

MADE IN ENGLAND ALL BRITISH LABOUR



I
F you have A.C. mains and these BURNDEPT units you will never again be put to inconvenience by batteries that 'give out' just when you want particularly good results from your set. Instead, you will be assured of a constant supply of all the power you need.

JOHNSCATTERBY was wealthy, healthy. and passing wise. Yet, though the City knew him as "Lucky Scatterby" he deemed himself unlucky. Perhaps he knew best, but if, in a moment of abandon, he plunged

he rualked his Yevily retreat
to the tune of several thousands into some dying stock, the market promptly appresiated and he would clear out with the loot as easily as falling off a log. "Follow Scatterby," was a City maxim.

Yet he walked his Yewly retreat and bemoaned his ill-luck. He was in love with three women. At one and the same time. Not a pin to choose between them.

Itcm: "Auntie Ida," of 5 XP (Greater London).
Item: Miss Viola Prideaux, the professional pianist.
Item: The Girl over the Way.
A pretty mixed bag!
"Auntie Ida," represented the Voice of All Angels. Her voice seemed to him like meltéd diamonds dropping through mingled dew and honey. It was the vo:ce of Woman; not individual, but Woman as sung by the poets.
He used to leave Change early and shoot home to the Yewly retreat so that he might hear "Auntie Ida" talk to the children. His radio set was specially designed by Fogson. You all know what that means. IT.

His craze led him to make gramophone records of "Auntie Ida's" footling remarks to the children and when he was quite private he used to sit and bathe his soul in The Voice. But the scratching of the needle blurred the beauty and he regarded it as a slur on the idolised yocal chords. He tried to get an introduction to the lady, but found her shy of admirers.

He overlooked the fact that reporters do not go forth to propose marriage, but to acquire material for columns which "subs" cut down to inches. However, he sent her anonymousiy a box of chocolates at Christmas-which, I happen to know, she forgot, and was well and truly appreciated by several experienced ladies with

## $B_{y}$ E.BLAKE

brooms, pails, and inelegant button boots.
Miss Viola Pricleaux was a photograph. He had seen her in a Bond Street shop, price eighteenpence, complete with silver frame, price five guineas, and had bought both. A pretty face! Character! Unusual nose! Yes, but it "got him," somehow, between midriff and chin. These things are not explained, but experienced only.

The silver frame now encompassed a photograph of Admiral Jellicoe and Miss Prideaux was shifted into a golden setting, and hung over his dressing-table. He had little hopes of her, he confessed to himself. He felt that she had a Family in Putney, including a brother who sold cars on commission, and a Papa who had mysterious business in the City; a business which paid dividends with cheques dated the Millennium. Still, she got him, somehow, and there she was, nose, character, and all.

The Girl over the Way was real. She

lived in one of those edifices which represent the highwater mark of the modern builder's inspiration. One garage (or room for) and one noble, pillared porch; the rest mere vulgar plaster and wood (unseasoned). John Scatterby knew nothing of the poetry of motion, but that was what attracted him when she walked in her garden. A delicate, swinging gait! Gods above! Ye who fashion the waddlers and striders what did ye to man when ye fashioned this lithe and limber form and mechanism? You cooked Scatterby's goose!
The day he saw her trying to feed a lamb from a bottle he rushed into his house and in agony of mind set his gramophone to its work on the records of "Auntie Ida," gazing freanwhile at Miss Prideaux. What a problem!
He stated The Case on his blotting-pad on March 15, at II.I9 A.M., while Sir O. Cribber tried to "interest" him in Consolidated Radium (1927) Incorporated, as follows :

Let "Auntie 1da" = x.
Let Miss Prideaux $=\mathrm{y}$.
And, let the Givl over the $W a y=z$.
Then $\mathrm{x}=\mathrm{y}, \mathrm{y}=\mathrm{z}$, and $\mathrm{z}=\mathrm{x}$.
In other words,

$$
\begin{aligned}
& =X \\
& Y=Z
\end{aligned}
$$

Obviously a case for polygamy or spinning a coin. What a problem ! What a world ! Never The Voice, The Face, and The Figure all together.
"We have got to eliminate," quo Scatterby in the privacy of his Yewly retreat. " Let us consider what essentials should remain." The finding was that the Voice, the Face and the Figure were the essentials. Then Fate took part.

First, "Auntie Ida" disappeared. No word from the B.B.C. as to why and wherefore. This flung Scatterby back upon Miss Prideaux and the Girl over the Way; especially the latter.

Next, Miss Prideaux's photograph developed spotted fever or iron mould and had to be buried in a drawer, nose, character, and all. This was a terrific blow. The combination was breaking up and Scatterby felt very lonely, especially as about that time he realised that the Girl over the Way had not appeared in her garden for a whole week; seven daysseventy years. Also, he realised that he could not fix the image of her in his mind. Her face he had never seen properly, what with the distance and absurd garden hats.
"Eliminated, by thunder!" he said to himself. "Scatterby's luck!" Then he broke up the gramophone records, took a large glass of whisky and water, lit an unwholesome pipe and sat down in the rapt spirit of a crusader to do a little job he had saved up for the proper time-an impartial scrutiny of the assets, operations and results of Kansas Quicksilver Wells, Limited, and its subsidiary the Oklahoma


Tungsten Mining Corporation. Within the month Mr. Yakob Stein, who invented the name of those two swindles, was stoking the Olympia on her outward run, under the name of Rafael Bloom.

# 地 "SCATTERBY'S PROBLEM"一A WIRELESS STORY ${ }^{(1, C o n t i n u e d ~ f r o m ~}$  

But vanished was Scatterby's joy in the power which was his. He felt like a boy caught kiling a spider, and even a trifie sorry for Yakob. After all; the little beast was merely pitting his wits--such as they were -against the gullibility of the get-richquick crowd who were not strong enough to combine patience with four per cents.

Oh , for an arm round the waist of that slender swaying lily, the Girl over the Way! Employ a detective? Bah! ho could imagine the fellow's reports. "Pursuant to your instructions, I duly located the person nained and beg to report. . . ." Sordid and melodramatic! Hopeless ! Get the wireless people to broadcast an appedl?

-had a set installed at Miss Prynor's
Hopeless! Moveover, they-er-shewouldn't respond; he had neither rhyme nor reason to proffcr.

So Scatterby continued to pile up money and to nurse a queer empty kind of ache underneath his top left-hand vest-pocket.

Laleham was the partially-disabled exsoldier who looked after Scatterby and Yewly Lodge for a wage too big for the job, by ordinary standards, but only right for the man who hád crawled into a barrage to bring in the dying Lieutenant William Scatterby, John's young brother. He was a "noticing sort of blighter," as Scatterby had remarked on several occasions.

Laleham was sore troubled. He knew why the Girl over the Way had been absent from her garden so long; knew where sho was; knew her name. All of it knowledge which rightly belonged to Scatterby. But Laleham knew the Yewly doctor's chauffeur too. A sad case it was, the latter had said. " Kind of job the guv don't like, mate. No simtums, much. Nothing you could put your 'and on and say, 'This here is the rhcumatics or hairysippilars.' Says it's a speeches of general fungshional debility. No 'eart for nothing. Nice young gal, too."

Therefore Laleham muttered as he cleaned the spoons and swore he was in a first-rate fix. To tell or not to tell. Queer ! when a man's duty seemed to pull both ways at once. Laleham began to eliminate too, and, like all brave souls, he saw more virtue in the harder task. He told.

Scatterby could act, on occasion, like a bolt from heaven. He called the doctor and got the facts.
"That's all I can tell you," said the Doctor. "You are very good to trouble about a stranger."
"Fool," said Scatterby to himself.
"But," continued the doctor, "I have known cases like this completely curcd by the constant influence of some deep interest, cr-something which kept the patient luoking ahead. From day to day, you know. In this instance . . . " he pursed up his mouth and shrugged as he reached for his gloves. . . . "I'm afraid . . ." He left his fears unexpressed by words but seared on Scatterby's brain.
"Do me the favour, Wilson," said Scatterby, " to say nothing, know nothing. of my inquiry or of anything that-may happen. I am going to be-to try to bethe hand of Providence."

Scatterby could act like lightning. He bought the doctor's chauffeur, the chauffcur's sweetheart, who was housemaid at the house of the Girl over the Way, and he appointed Laleham as Chief Villain and Postmaster-General. He learned that She was Miss Prynor. That She had no radio set. Almost on the instant he formed the "Incorporated Invalid Alleviation Trust" -on a half sheet of notepaper-and on its behalf had a set installed at Miss Prynor's. Once a week Laleham's brother inspected it, asked shrewd questions, thanked the lady in the name of the Trust, and reported to Scatterby.

Every morning brought flowers to Miss Prynor; deceptive flowers, which could not possibly be real or in scason. As a matter of fact they were grown in special forcing-frames under the influence of artificial ultra-violet light and cost more than fine porcelain. They were accompanicd by a series of cards bearing puzzling mottoes. There was a "scene" when Miss Prynor ordered the housemaid to denounce the sender and was met with a bit of superb acting. Louise knew nothing. How should she know. Was it hor business to know? Hoity toity-and much more.

Gradually the Girl over the Way fell into step with the business and began to look forward to the morning announce-ments-"said with flowers." Nothing whatever could she extract from Scatterby's loyal minions; they were dumb.

The doctor watched the process as one who sees magic done and began to have doubts about the British Pharmacopoia; the girl mended daily and showed signs of argumentativenesṣ. Splendid! Then she. wanted to go into the garden, a proposal which was quashed in heavy "bedside manner." So then she got up and went
out-which was precisely what the doctor wanted. If she had thrown a vase at him he would have been the happiest M.R.C.S. that ever "listened-in" to a lung.

Laleham, releascd from his strange duties of the past few months, got a day off. He was nearly plimsoll under with the fruits of his labours, thanks to working for Scatterby, and saw need for a little relaxation at some place called-Southend-oil-Sea, I believe. So his boss was left alone to witness Miss Prynor's outbreak.

Scatterby got a step-ladder, one of the most dangerous contrivances ever made, and placed it against a tree from which he purposed to chuckle foolishly as the Girl over the Way undulated over her lawn. His Girl, saved by him, he said-to the step-ladder.

As he plunged about the garden with the ladder, the Girl was putting on that ridiculous garden-hat in front of a window from which she could see his demesne. She saw him plant the ladder and ascend wobblingly to the top. Then the ladder collapsed and he fell, and lay very still.

A broken ankle causes one of the sharpest displays of pain to which the human senses can respond. Hence Scatterby's faint can be excused. When he emerged from unconsciousness into a universe all ankle and


Then the ladder collapsed and he fell
shooting stars he groaned deeply; he would miss the show after all.

But he rubbed his eyes and cursed under his breath a moment later, because he was "secing things."

Item: "A untie Ida," of 5 XP .
Item : Miss Viola Prideaux.
Item: The Girl over the Way.
He murmured this list and groaned again. Then the compositc vision bent over him, very tenderly, and whispered, "I am all three, and you are the Unknown Benefactor. There-put your head-so."
"By James! How did you know."
"Laleham gave you away. That is why he thought he had better have a day off," said All Three.
"Did you jump that wall?" he asked.
"Like a bird."
"I am 'Liucky Scätterby,' then."


1HAVE always maintained (said Mr. John L. Baird recently to an Amateur Wireless Special Correspondent) that there is no essential difference in the difficulty of transmitting moving pictures by wire or by wireless. There are, I know, investigators who are pessimistic, to say the least, about the possibility of successful broadcast television. I have never believed this, and I may safely say that I have proved it to be wrong. It has taken me over five years to bring television in this country to its present state of develop-ment-a long time, but no time has been wasted.

Even before I studied at Glasgow Uni-versity-more years ago than I care to remember-I was experimenting with selenium cells, first with the idea of producing a talking film, and this lead to experiments in television; but the only thing I succeeded in doing with those early selenium cells was to burn my fingers !

## Early Attempts

Seriously, though, by 1922 I had worked out a scheme for practical television, which would work almost equally well sither with wire or wireless link, and in 1923 I was able to give a small private demonstration of shadow television at Hastings.
"What were the difficulties you had to overcome?"

Well, my chief trouble, up to that time, had been to obtain a sufficiently sensitive light cell. I had tried selenium cells of nearly every conceirable form. Seleniumcoated soap-stone cells of block formation numbered among the best, but, as is well known, selenium's "time lag" in electric response to light variations places a limit on the use of such cells for television.

I had tried colloidal cells and photoslectric cells of potassium, and also of rubidium in low-pressure argon or helium. Fach had merits and demerits for television purposes, but at last I devised a cell which gave reasonable results in a shadow televisor and which made the Hastings demonstration possible.

## Reflected Light

The success I obtained with that shadow transmitter and receiver in 1923 showed clearly that television could not rest there Shadowgraphs had a limited application,
and so I at once started experiments with apparatus that would transmit reflected light from an object, and not merely the variations of an intercepted beam of light emanating from behind the object.

This made it necessary immensely to increase the sensitivity of the apparatus; for, obviously, the variations of reflected light from an object are infinitely weaker and less clearly defined than is the case when moving shadowgraphs are being transmitted.

During 1924 and 1925, therefore, I was engaged in steadily overcoming the difficulties connected with operating by reflected light, and chiefly in testing every available form of light cell and devising cells of my own pattern.

The reward-if such I may term itcame in April, 1925, when the apparatus was so far developed as to warrant a demonstration in London at the Selfridge stores. In all, this lasted two weeks.
"Was a human face used for this reflected-light demonstration?"

No; the image used was a board shaped to represent a face. The "nose" and "eyes" were black-painted lines and circles, and by covering the "eyes" with a white card the object could be made to wink at the transmitter ! This gave a fairly clearly defined reflecting surface for the light-sensitive cell, and the received image, although crude, was easily distinguishable

## Synchronism

There is one feature of television transmission which I have not yet touched upon, and that is the essential synchronism between transmitter and receiver. For the Selfridge demonstration (already mentioned) of reflected-light transmission the viewing disc was kept in step with the scanning disc by means of a transmitted note of about 300 cycles per second. This was received, amplified by means of a Mark IV amplifier using LS5 valves, and fed to a relay of the P.O. type. The relay output was taken to a small alternator on the shaft of the viewing disc, and in this way synchronism was maintained.

A separate channel of communication was necessary, and still is with other systems of television. This offers several objections, particularly when a radio link, is used, for it doubles the frequency band covered by the transmission. In the case

of wire transmission this means an extra cable. These are serious practical objections, and since 1925, when reflected-light tclevision was proved to be possible, I have devoted considerable time to synchronism without a separate communication channel.
"This, I understand, you have accomplished successfully?"

Yes, this is now possible, and I have embodied my new system in the latest televisor receivers. On the front of the televisor is a synchronising control, which is rotated until the picture is steady.

## Recent Developments

The two most recent developments are daylight and colour television. Daylight transmission is rather important, because it means that television apparatus can be used for the wireless transmission of out door events without the need for special lighting; this has been made possible mainly by cell and amplifier improvements. Colour transmission is yet in its infancy, but present results are such that, with a human head before the transmitting lens, the whites of the eyes and teeth, and the prominent colouring of such things as flowers or fruits stands out in a striking fashion.

Television in the future must, of course, go hand in hand with wireless, for wired television has a certain limit placed on its scope of application. Now, in 1928 , it is possible both to see and hear a speaker in front of a television transmitter.
"Yes, Mr. Baird, that is, in brief, what you have accomplished after five years of hard work. Now what can you prophesy for the next five years?"

But Mr. Baird, who is, above all, the cautious Scotsman, merely shook his head and smiled!

Left is a 4-volt L.T. a ccumulator represen-
tative of the excellent range
made by the Tudor Accumulator Co.,
Ltd. They are substantially made and ""
long."


Right is the Igranic vernier drum control coupled to a "Lokvane" condenser. The drum control has become very popular lately Price


The Bowyer-Lowe six-pin coil base illustrated below is a very well designed, attractively produced, and inexpensive component. Can be

former (on right) is a very handsome instrument in bright nickel case. Very good reproduction. Avail-
 recommended.


Here, above, we have the Mullard P.M. H.T. unit-a H.T. current 'supply solver. Write to the makers, giving details of your mains supply.


The R.I. Eo Varley components that would makeexcellent Xmas presents are many. Above is the four-terminal former : good value at 25
 zuhich is 12 s .6 d .


The M.P.A. selfenergising movingcoil loud-speaker is a very excellent in-
strument, making a handsome gift. Mov-ing-coil loud-speakers, of course, are un-

The loud-speaker unit (for cone-speakers) seen on the right is that made by Gcodmans. It is priced at only 27 s . 6 d.excellent value indeed. The Bowyer-Lozve high-fre$q$ vency choke operates over the whole range of wavelengthsfrom 7d to 4,000 metres. It is a very neat component and is prised at 7 s.


The Lissen variable If the question is selectivity, condenser is an exa wave-trap of same kind is cellent example of the obvious solution. On the how a good comleft the Harlie wave selector, ponent can be inexpensively produced. Prices 5s. 9 d. to 6 s .6 d .


#  

IFIND there is often some confusion in the minds of amateurs regarding the effect of different high-tension voltages and grid-bias values on the anode impedance and amplification factor of a valve:

The valve manufacturers usually quote average figures-that is, when the hightension is 100 and the grid bias zero. Under ordinary amplifying conditions, a negative grid bias is almost invariably employed. What is the effect of this negative bias?
The chief effect is that the impedance of the valve is raised, resulting, of conrse, in a reduction in the anode current. The amplification factor of the valve may be altered a little, but usually not to any considerable degree. When the H.T. voltage is raised the opposite results. The impedance of the valve is reduced and the anode current increases.

Under working conditions the imperlance of a valve may be as much as 50 per cent. different from that given on the maker's instruction slip! It is well to bear this fact in mind! In the particular instance where the grid is given a large negative bias fcr anode:bend rectification the anode impedance may be four or five times that of the normal value.

## Valves and Howls

As components and valves are constantly improved, it becomes. increasingly necessary for more care to be taken in order to obtain satisfactory working.
In the particular case that I have in mind it wasfound that by employing a new power valve in the output position a high-pitched whistle resulted. The new power valve had a magnification factor of 8 and an impedance of 4,000 ohms, as compared with the 4 and 4,000 ohms of the original valve.

The coupling to the power valve was an inter-valve transformer of modern construction, and its manufacturers made a point of the manner in which it magnified the higher audio frequencies.
Here was a combination which was particularly liable to generate a high-pitched whistle. Thecinter-valve transformer itself had a fairly high natural frequency, and the amount of coupling through the valve was sufficient to set-it oscillating.


Fig. 2. Three ways of obtaining fine G.B. adjustments


In a the potentiometer is connected across the filament heating accumulator. The potential of the grid may therefore be varied from positive to negative; when the sliding contact is on the positive side, it is at the same voltage as the filament; ditto when the contact is on the negative side:

With the arrangement shown in $\mathbf{b}$, the contact may be given a potential which is more negative than the end of the filament of the valve, because there is a fall in voltage across the filament resistance. In c a dry cell is shown connected in the grid circuit, the result being that, while the grid potential may be varied by the amount of the voltage of the filament battery, the maximum negative potential is 1.5 volts. When a small negative potential is required the scheme of figure в can be used, but it is generally better to employ scheme c when a negative bias in excess of about I volt is needed. The arrangement of $A$ is suitable when a leaky-grid detector is employed and a potentiometer is provided to obtain smooth reaction or the greatest sensitivity.

## H.T. Accumulators

A little kindness cloes it; in the case of the accumulator-type of H.T. battery,
wire so as to minimise the inter-capacity. A valve has a certain grid-to-anode capacity, and this is effectually increased under working conditions by an amount which approximates to the magnification factor of the valve. It is not hard to understand why the whistle was caused; when the new valve was employed the effective capacity was greatly increased, and this was combined with the greater difference between the anode and grid voltages.

## Using a Potentiometer

Where a fine adjustment of grid potential is necessary, a potentiometer can be used. There are several methods of connection, three of which are indicated in Fig. 2. w

## Weekly Tips for the Amateur

A temporary cure was effected by connecting a damping resistance of .5 or $r$ megohm across the secondary winding of the transformer, but since it is always


Fig. 1. To prevent a howl
better to endeavour to prevent the oscillations, efforts in this direction were made by rearranging the circuit. (See Fig. 1).
The grid lead from the transformer was made as short as possible and the anode wire from the ralve spaced from the grid
anyhow. But without kind and constant attention this type of battery soon refuses to do anything. You cannot stow it away out of sight and forget it. Well, you can, but

These batteries must be fairly frequently charged and the acid level regularly made up with distilled water. This done, the accumulator H.T. battery is excellent.
For the filling business I always use a fountain-pen filler. Sometimes, when the hole in the top of the cell is too small to allow the air to escape as the liquid takes its place, this becomes quite an unattractive job. All that need be done is to provide an escape hole for the air. As the cells are usually pitch-covered, a suitable hole can be made with a pin.

The Northern Area B.B.C. Educational Advisory Council is very much encouraged by the step taken by the Scottish National Committee for the Training of Teachers in deciding to instal sets at the training colleges for experimental purposes.

## TEN STATIONS ANYWHERE

By J. H. REYN

finally a model of the receiver itself has been tested in no fewer than eight different centres throughout the British Isles.

A receiver which can come through such a test with flying colours is one which no reader need hesitate to make up, at any rate, on the score of performance. But when we add to this the fact that the whole receiver, including wire, screws, etc., can be made for less than $£ 5$ then it wilt be cleat that the design is something unusual.

A glance at the
the set can be released with safety. The difficulty is that readers in the more remote parts of the country experience conditions totally different from those under which the designer himself has worked, and they have, therefore, to sift the evidence presented regarding the performance of the set and to decide whether the receiver will deliver the necessary signals in their own particularlocality.

The "AllBritain Three" is an attempt to overcome this trouble. It
photographs and diagrams accompanying this article will show at once that simplicity is the keynote of the set. The baseboard carries few components and the connecting wires are few in number. The receiver can, indeed, be constructed with ease in an evening-I actually made up my first skeleton model, starting absolutely from nothing, in an hour and a-half-and there is no reason why the final receiver as shown herewith should not be made up in a similar time.


The circuit of the receiver is shown by the diagram. It will be seen to comprise a high-frequency valve, neutralised on the split-primary principle, a detector and a single transformer-coupled low-frequency amplifier. This circuit was chosen after many trials as being the most suited to the needs of the whole country. The straightforward detector followed by two L.F. stages has held sway for a considerable period; but there is no doubt that the discriminating public is beginning to require something better.
The advantages of the high-frequency stage are many, the most important being the increase in range of the receiver and the increase in the selectivity. Those readers who live some distance from a local station require to be able to obtain loud-speaker

reception without straining their receiver to the limit. The high-frequency amplifier exercises as much amplification as a resis-tance-coupled low-frequency stage, so that from the point of view of overall amplification we are no worse off than with the popular detector - resisfance - transformer combination of a year ago.
On the other hand; we have a greater factor of safety, which means that stations can be tuned in more easily despite the apparent extra complication of a second
the receiver will be seen to be arranged with one central control on the detector valve and two subsidiary controls on each side. The lefthand control is the aerial tuner, which is not critical, and the right-hand control is the reaction dial. In practice it is merely necessary to set the centre dial to the approximate position required, swing the lefthand dial until signals are at a maximum, and then adjust the reaction control, with a final retune on the centre dial, until the station comes up to the required strength. Operation, indeed, is every bit as simple as with the ordinary detector circuit.

## Selectivity

Apart from this question of strength, we have the most important factor of selectivity sto consider. Particularly in the provincial districts, the majority of readers live fairiy-close to a local station, and for any satisfactory reception it is necessary that they sha? l be able to cut this local station out fairly rapidly. Tris is achieved in the present receiver by virtue of the fact that there are two tuned circuits. It is a matter of comparative eace to cut out one's local station and receive distant stations without any interference whatever. The test reports
which will be given next week willillustrate .this fact adequately.

Added to this we have the advantage that, owing to the use of the now popular " $Q$ " coil, we are able to tune to both wavebands without any coil changing. It is quite impossible to obtain a circuit of the type shown in which a tight-coupled and therefore absolutely stable system of neutralisation is employed with any other form of dual-range coil, the particular feature of the " $Q$ " coil being that the same primary; neutralising and reaction windings are in use on both wavebands, the only changing of connections being that of the secondarysections, which are placed in series or parallel to cover the two wavebands required: Owing to the efficiency of this arrangement, which avoids all dead ends, the tuning is sharp and the performanice of a high order.


## Neutralising

The neutralising is of a foolproof variety. There is a wide latitude and the receiver will be stable over quite a wide range of setting of the neutralising condenser. Variable selectivity is obtainable, for the aerial is coupled to the first valve through a pre-set condenser, and the smaller the value

Two terminal strips, $z$ in. by $z$ in., with two Belling-Lee terminals ... ... Baseboard; 21 in. by 10 in. Filament switch with terminals (Benjamin)
Wire for wiring-up. screws, etc
Two terminat tags, and five wander plugs (Clix) '

## Construction

Coming now to the actual construction of the set, you will first require to purchase the rarious components necessary. These components are all shown in the list accompanying this article, together with the prices, from which it will be seen that the total cost is below the $f .5$ as already mentioned.
First of all, drill the panel in accordance with the diagram shown, or alternatively obtain a blueprint, price 1s. from this office, and with this the exact drilling position may be obtained: Next lay out the baseboard
of this condenser the greater is the selectivity.

Thus we have a particularly flexible arrangement. It can be adjusted to give exceedingly selective results where the reader is close to a local station, while the user in remote parts can sacrifice the selectivity to considerations of signal strength. The operation is simple in the extreme and there is no coil changing. The receiver has been tested in each of the eight centres shown on the map accompanying this article, and in every instance a test report of from fifteen to twenty stations was obtained. These facts speak for themselves.

## Components

Two .0005-microfarad variable condensers Polar No. 3 (or Lissen, Ormond, Burton)
s. d.

Small slow-motion dial (Ormond) ...
Knob for aerial condenser ... ...
. GOOI Reaction condenser (Burton) ...
"Q"A coil (Lotus, Levcos, Wearite, Finston) ...
"Q" S.P. coil (Lotus, Lewcos, Wearite, Finston)
Three valve, holders (Formo, or Lotus)
Formodenser, type F, .0000075-.0001 ...
Formodenser, type J, .000025-.0003 ..
Law-frequency transformer, type $\mathbf{F}$
Igranic, (or R.I. and Varley)
.0002-microfarad fixéd condenser (Lissen)
2-megohm grid leak (Lissen) ..
Combinator (Lissen)
High-frequency choke (Burndept) Ebonite panel, 21 in. by 7 in.
components in the positions shown on the layout diagrams. There will be no difficulty about this, there being only two points which require any attention.
middle. The other point which requires attention is that of the two pre-set condensers. Be careful not to get these two mixed up, as otherwise the results will be rather peculiar. The type F Formodenser, which is the neutralising condenser, must be placed in between the two " $Q$ " coils as shown. The type J condenser, which has a range of .0003 to .000025 , is placed in the aerial lead at the back of the baseboard, as shown. Provided care is taken with these two points no other comment is necessary, the components merely being placed in their positions and screwed down.

## Wiring

The wiring up may then be commenced, and this is simple in the extreme. Squared wiring has been used in the setishown in the photographs, but the wires may be taken direct from point to point if the constructc: prefers. All components are provided witli terminals, so that no soldering is necessary. If the wires are placedon in the ordershownnamely $a a, b b$, and so on-the whole wiring will be completed very quickly and surely, no wires being missed if a systematic method is adopted.

When the receiver has been completed it is ready for test, and detailed deseriptions of the operation will be given next week.
Some few notes will be of interest to those readers who finish their receiver before next week's issue. A high-frequency or resistance-capacity valve may be used in the H.F. stage. The former gives slightly better signal strength, the latter greater


These are as follows: The aerial " $Q$ " coil is placed on the left-hand side of the baseboard looking from the front and the split-primary " $Q$ " coil is placed in the
selectivity An H, E, valve should be used for the detector, or if desired one of the special detector valves now on the market
( (Concluded in third col of page 970)


The famous $8 / 6$ LISSEN Transand will never break down -

The famous $8 / 6$. LISSEN Transformer is suitatle for all ordinary purposes, and its huge sale proves it still supreme value. It continues to earn high pralse as "the transformer that never breaks down. Turns ratio 3 to 1. Resistance ratio 4 to 1 .


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(Managing Director: Thos. N. Cole)


ALL accounts that I have ever read have almost convinced me that the job of a B.B.C. announcer is one of the world's most charming pastimes. I say "almost," for once I was an announcer. No, I was not relieved of my post, but left of my own volition [sic]. Now I sit back and read effusions on the charming pastime of announcing, and am reminded of the speeches of defeated parliamentary candidates who invariably forget the missiles of the election in their thankfulness that all is over.

At last, the truth shall be known. My debut as an announcer was one of the most delightful moments of my life. After all, I was very familiar with studios, artistes (technically speaking), gadgets, and whatnots. I required no help on my first essay -at least, so I thought myself.

## Late!

Unfortunately, the night on which I first functioned happened to be unutterably foggy, so that niy tram refused to hurry, and no taxi, of course, could be found for love or-an announcer.
Humid within and without from fog, and anxious, I arrived late at the studio door, heralded by dozens of blinking red lights, which meant that the engineer, who was the only other official in the place, was signalling the fact that thousands of people were listening to the carrier wave only.

This increased my sense of comfort. To add to my sang froid, the diminutive waiting-room was packed with a medley of expensive artistes who, between inspections of their wrist watches, looked at me with tired detached expressions.

## Those Lights

Nevertheless, I greeted them, hurled off my coat and dashed to the control-room, gasped out to the engineer that I had arrived, and quickly closed the door to avoid hearing his reply, as I am-well, not an engineer.

All this time these infernal red lights kept blinking. I turned to the artistes, programme in thand, and murmured : "Pretty' lights, aren't they?" I thought that might cheer them up and cast an atmosphere of competency over my dcportment, but there was an entire lack of sympathy̆.

However, the first martyr followed me into the studio. Then the awful thing happened: I forgot how many times I should push the signal to stop these-erred lights blinking

Well, it occurred to me that I had better touch something, so, mincing of step, with absolute daring, I touched everything I thought might be the right button; and with some success, for the red lights stopped their blinking and remained permanently on. So far, so good!
Unfortunately, when I approached the

microphone a distinct pressure of a cramping nature developed in my middle which seriously interfered with my breathing. Completely drying up, I yet hissed sufficiently, and we sailed along. The only real trouble I experienced was a persistent old man on the telephone who inquired the name of the asthmatical foreigner announcing that night
Now, one has always on these occasions to be polite to, the outside public- so I laughed heartily, called him a:dear old frumpy, and wished his rabbits'a speedy death. I suppose he is now an oscillator.

I remember also one occasion when a dear old lady rang me up duririg a symphony programme and asked, rather tear-

## THE LETTS' 1929 AMATEUR WIRELESS NOTEBOOK DIARY 88-page Reference Sectioz <br> 1/6 Full of Useful Data From this Office

fully, if I could give her our official recipe for cooking tripe. She explained, between tearful sniffs, that, unfortunately, her last effort had produced a tough variety and her old man said he was sure that the B.B.C. would know all about tripe. Well, I told the old lady that she was a dear, but that her old man-well-he wasn't.

## Many Surprises

One never knows what is in store. I was doing my best to appear cheerful during a programme by a local party of entertainers, when the police insisted on my reading an SOS in connection with a fatal acciden: This cheered my band of troubadors immensely. It did seem to fit in with their material, for various 'phone calls asked me why the dear little souls in the studio were not involved in the accident.

How I loved answering these pertinent inquiries as to my froggy throat or Oxford accent; but one foolish man thoroughly amused me. He told me in enraged tones that his wife had just run off with someone else, and would I get her back by means of an SOS, adding that he was quite prepared to go as far as $£ 5$, but no farther. I comforted him by saying that as trade was bad he'd probably succeed; yet I had to decline his offer.

Then again I had hosts of charming offers, affectionate and otherwise. I have memories of wonderful-letters and messages. I am glad to think that an announcer can break the loneliness of many good souls.
'Microphile.

## "THE ALL-BRITAIN THREE" (Continued from page 968)

may be employed. For the last stage a good power or super-power valve should be used. Either 2-, 4-, or 6 -volt valves may be employed; the results being unaffected by whichever type is used.
Do not have the Formodenser in the aerial lead screwed right home. If this is done there will be found to be a consider-able-discrepancy between the positions of the aerial and H.F. tuning condensers.

This set will be on view in the Somerset Street windows of Messrs. Selfridge and Co., Ltd. Somerset Street lies behind Messrs. Selfridges, parallet to Oxford Street. AMatecr Wireless sets are displayed in these windows every week.为


Here is the cone loud speaker you have been looking for! Just thinkfor three pounds you can have a cone speaker of exceptionally good tone, giving sufficient volume for a large room, and having the all-round quality, finish and appearance of an instrument costing two or three times as much.

Ask your dealer to demonstrate
this wonderful speaker

AERIAL comes first, for it is the first thing in a receiver. But, being outside, it is liable to be forgotten, and both electrically and mechanically it is liable to "gang aglay." It would pay to overhaul the whole equipment before March rvinds arrive!

BATTERY ELIMINATORS for both A.C. and D.C. should be chosen to suit the receiver zuith zwhich they are to be used. Some eliminators embody chokes and resistances which can deal with an output suitable only for, say, a two-valver. Multi-valve sets and super-power valves necessitate a large amount of anode current, ant if the eliminator cannot supply this, distortion and L.F. howling may result.

CHOKES.-High-frequency chokes have to be chosen for the circuit in which they will be used, and the amount of wire, air spacing, and so on determine the wavelength range over which the choke quill work properly. Some chokes fail below about 150 metres, but work well up to the extreme wavelength limit, whereas others go down to about 20 metres, but fail above about 1,000 metres.

DETECTOR VALVES operate either on the leaky grid or anode-bend system. The former is more sensitive, but may introduce distortion and damping. Iust one point : always choose a detector valve for anode bend having an A.C. resistance of about a quarter of the desired value.

E
ARTHS.-If a proper earth cannot be obtained, a counterpoise, - consisting of a mumber of insulated voives beneath the aerial and near the ground, often proves efficient.

FUSES should be connected in both H.T. and L.T. circuits for " "safety first." Special fuses of the screw-in flash-lamp type can be obtained for H.T. circtits, while the L.T. fuse wire should be =onnected as close to the accumulator terminals as possible.
CRID BIAS values should be adjusted so that the greatest S possible G.B. voltage is applied without causing distortion or loss of signal strength. It is better to have too much than too little; for the greater the G.B. voltage, the longer the H.T. battery's life.

HIGH? Well there are several High's in zuireless, and highfrequency is the one you are probably thinking about. The thing to think about these high's is that they can "jump" through space, and H.F. leads need careful spacing in consequence.

IN
NDOOR AERIALS can give very good results if well insulated, vell spaced away from the walls and ceiling, and if there is not too much wire. A common fault is to use a large number of itretches of wire across a room.

J
AMMING from the local station, when trying to receive distant stations received at a close-up dial reading, can be cut out in most cases by a wavetrap. Tuners having a centre tap for the aerial, or an aperiodic aerial coil, also improve selectivity.

K
NIFE SWITCHES are most satisfactory as safety switches for earthing the aerial, and in similar positions where low capacity is essential. Quite considerable capacity can be set up in a svitch having large opposed contacts.

$L$OADING COILS added to a short-wave coil, in order to bring L in the higher wavelength bands, need not introduce "deadend " losses if carefully wound. Where possible, a D.P. C.O. switch should be used to cut the loading coil out of circuit when not required.

MOTOR-BOATING, a rather common form of L.F. oscillation, can be cured in most sets by an "anti-mobo" stopper. This consists of a resistance of about 30,000 ohms in series with the transformer primary of the anode resistance, and a 2-microfarad conin denser comected between this junction point and earth.


NEON LAMPS are useful as indicators in sets deriving H.T. or L.T. from the mains. They take very little current indeed, start to glow when about 160 volts is applied to them, and can be connected permanently across the mains input to show when the " juice" is on.

0UTPUT CIRCUITS in the anode circuit of the lasi valve of the set protect the loud-speaker windings from the D.C. current. The most popular output circuit consists of a choke connected between the porver-valve anode and H.T. positive, the loud-speaker being connected in series avith a 2-microfarad condenser between the anode and earth.

DICK-UPS with excessive reed damping should be avoided, as they cause excessive record wear, while too little damping results in loss of the low notes. Feeling the needle carrier with the fingers provides no real test of the amount of damping

O"COILS enable the long and the short wavebands to be covered merely by the movement of a switch, which puts the two windings of the coil in series or parallel. The contacts are usually self-wiping, and the proper tension of the spring leaves should be maintained.

RHEOSTATS are hardly necessary in each filament circuit, one master rheostat being usually all that is required. In some sets, though, a separate rheostat in the detector filament circuit enables this valve to be adjusted to the most critical point.

S
CREENING should never be carried out to excess in a set, for if metal screens are placed too close to the coils, condensers, and so on, the natural capacity of the set may be increased.

TERMINALS can be "the daniger points" of a set, for it is on the terminal panel that battery leads of different potentials are grouped close together. For this reason terminals should be fairly well spaced and there should be no stray wires at the ends of the connecting leads.

UNDERGROUND AERIALS are commonly used in America, vohere "static" is bad. Their pick-up efficiency is poor, of course, but they have use for amateurs living close by a broadcasting station and who are troubled by stray A.C. and commutator ripple interference.

VOLTMETERS should always consume as little current a possible for full-scale deflection. Very false readings can be given by cheap meters having little wire on the energising coils and taking quite a considerable anount of current.

WAVELENGTH, zwrong connections, wire-wound resistances, Wood's metal, and so on. Quite a gamut of "‘ W's." If "'Won't Work" is the most important "W" to you, why not write to "A.W." about it?

"X" "STOPPERS are seldom used in this country, where static interference is not bad, but a small spark gap between the aerial and earth terminal is always a wise precaution. Currents which collect on the aerial owing to lightning or charged rain-drops can discharge across the spark gap without straining the insulation of the set.

Y
ELLOW STAINS on accumulator plates are caused by neglect -usually neglect to charge the accumulator at proper intervals. If not extensive, they can be removed by a process of slow chargirg and discharging, having first refilled the cell avith new acid when the battery is discharged.

7 INCITE. Perhaps you c|ystal enthusiasts have almost for Litten it nowadays. But time was when zincite, with its partmer bornite, quas a staple friend in your set,


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ABIGGER brother to the marvellous Pentovox Two, the cxtra screened-grid H.F. Valve extending considerably the range of stations and satisfying metres, and 1,200 to 2,300 . There are no coils to change. the most ambitious valves tested and matchel to set. Log scales are pro "searcher." vided to chart the The Pentode amplify. 51.0 various statioñs.

Write for the full literature of
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# The Constructional Details of this Receiver were given in our issue dated November 24 

I$T$ is important that the designer of a wireless receiver so arranges the circuit that the desired results may be obtained with valves whose combined anode currents do not exceed the amount. which may be conveniently taken from the ordinary type of high-tension battery.
This, in practice, means that a limit is imposed upon the size of the output valve, for it is this valve which is employed to actuate the loud-speaker. A certain amount of power is required to drive the diaphragm of a reproducer and this is obtained from the high-tension battery and the last valve. When a small power valve is used the high-tension current is of moderate value, and it therefore follows that powerful signals will not be obtained.

## H.T. Limitations

If the high-tension supply is a dry battery the amount of current which may be taken from it is limited if the battery is to have a reasonable life. This is a point which is often overlooked, and many a receiver is blamed as being extravagant when it is the user's fault for not including a suitable output valve.
The total high-tension current of this receiver will be approximately to milliamperes when an ordinary output power valve is used, and it may be as much as ${ }^{5} 5$ milliamperes when a super-power valve is fitted in the output stage. These hightension currents are obtained with a voltage of 120 .
A pentode valve could be employed in the output stage when a mains unit or high-tension accumulator is available for supplying it with current. The average pentode seems to pass an anode current of 15 milliamperes at 120 volts and many of them pass as much as 20 milliamperes.

Dry batteries of the usual types will not supply such heavy currents for lengthy periods and, as a general rule, I feel it is better not to recomnend a pentode for this Teason.

The "James Special 3" gives excellent results when a pentode is employed in the output stage. In my experiments with a pentode, a choking coil was connected in the anode circuit and a two-microfarad condenser in series with the loud-speaker in the usual manner. By direct comparison with an ordinary output valve the pentode
gave much the greater volume, as was to be expected. Distant stations were strengthened, but I think the quality was not quite as good as when an ordinary power valve was employed.

## Using a Pentode

This is because the anode impedance of a pentode is much greater than that of a three-electrode power valve, and no doubt a properly designed transformer output is needed. Suitable transformers are not, so far as I am aware, on the market, and all the amateur can do is to employ a choke filter output with a choking coil of at least 20 henries and a 2 -microfarad condenser.
Those who care to try a pentode in this receiver will find it an interesting valve, but it must be handled carefully. Owing to its relatively complicated construction, a knock is sufficient to misplace the electrodes and to render the valve inoperative: The valves vary a good deal amongst themselves, some of them taking much more anode current than others. This is only to be expected, however, as the valve manufacturers have not yet so arranged the design that uniform results may be obtained.
When tuning the "James Special 3" it is advisable to make good use of the volume control. Selectivity appears to depend to a considerable extent upon the setting of this control, and by turning it back, in order to reduce the volume, the number of degrees on the dials of the tuning condensers over which a station may be heard is reduced.
Thus, when tuning to a distant station working on a wavelength near that of the local station, the procedure should be, first, to turn back the volume control, and then to tune the desired station at moderate strength. When once it has been heard free of interference from the local station it may be strengthened by means of the volume control and but little interference will probably be experienced.
If an attempt had been made to bring in the station with the volume control full on the local station would have been heard more strongly than the distant one, and it would have appeared that the selectivity of the receiver was not sufficient to separate them. But by tuning distant stations at little strength at first and then increasing the volume, it is possible to receive comparatively weak stations that work on

The "James Special 3"
wavelengths within a few metres of the local one.

The selectivity of the tuned circuits and the amount of the high-frequency amplification may be varied by adjusting the voltage of the shield of the high-frequency valve. As the voltage is increased above the normal value, the tuning becomes broader, because the impedance of the valve is reduced.

The reverse effects are obtained by reducing the screen voltage, and whilst the voltages recommended by the makers should be employed when first trying the receiver it is advisable to make minor adjustments afterwards, as it is quite possible the results may be improved.

Shielded valves vary a little amongst themselves, and those who do not mind a little experimental werk will usually find that worth-while improvements may be effected by adjusting the shield voltage.

## Some Minor Points

The mistake of allowing the aerial wire to pass round the back of the receiver should not be made, as it is possible that a small coupling between the aerial wire and the tuned anode coils may produce instability. A metal screen is employed to separate the aerial and anode circuits, anc there would be no object in using it if the aerial wire were allowed to run underneath the cabinet of the receiver or along the back or top of it so that it passed within a few inches of the anode coils.

A further point which should be noticed is that oscillation may be produced by using a lengthy connecting wire to the anode terminal of the shielded valre. This wire, which passes from the anode circuit through a small hole in the shield, should be cut short in order that only the minimum length is exposed to the aerial circuit.

Two aerial terminals are provided in order that two degrees of selectivity may be obtained. The best results will usually be secured when the aerial is joined to terminal AI, as a small fixed condenser is then included in the circuit. But when a small aerial is used, or an indoor one, it is generally better to connect the aerial to terminal A2. A test report of this receiver will be given in our next issue.


THREE TYPES

$\qquad$
Why Three Types? -


TYPE " $G$ " -Because it is the best transformer
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TYPE ${ }^{66} \mathrm{~J}$ " -Because it is the best transformer
ever of-
fered at
so low
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RULES.-Please write distinctly and keep to the point. We reply promptly by post. Please give all necessary details. Asls ons question at a time to ensure a prompt reply, and please put sketches, layouts, diagrams, etc., on separate sheets containing your nama

Loud-speaker Burnouts.
Q.-I have recently damaged my loud-speaker by either fracturing or burning out the magnet windings. Althoughthe manufacturers were kind enough to repair the damage free of charge, it was rather annoying to be without a loud-speaker for several days and I am now seeking information soncerning how such an occurrence can be avoided in the future. Will you advise me?-G. F. (London).
A.-If you will fit a choke-capacity output filter-circuit between your receiver and loudspeaker you will avoid an actual burnout in future. Quite apart from this, the fitting of such a device will most certainly improve the quality of reproduction from your speaker. Without the filter-circuit the whole of the H.T. current through the last valve passes through the windings of the loud-speaker and this, together with the amplified signal impulses, tends to saturate the magnets of the speaker. When a filter-circuit is used, the direct current due to the H.T. battery is by-passed and the loud-speaker windings have only to deal with the amplified signal currents. Consequently the magnets of the speaker have only to deal with a'small part of the overall current passing through the final valve and reproduction is materially improved. Complete choke-capacity output filter units can be purchased at a reasonable figure or they can be made up from a 20 -henry iron-core choke and a 2-or 4-microfarad condenser. The choke should be connected directly across the loud-speaker terminals of the receiver and the fixed condenser between one side of the choke to one of
the loud-speaker terminals, whilst the other speaker terminal should be connected to the other side of the choke. The polarity of connections to the loud-speaker when using such a device is immaterial.-C. L


## When Asking Technical Queries

PLEASE write briefly and to the point
A Fee of One Shilling (postal order or 8 postage stamps) must accompany each 2 question and also a stamped, addressed envelope and the coupon which will be found on the last page.
R Rough sketches and circuit diagrams - can be provided, but it will be neces. $\Rightarrow$ sary to charge a special fee (which will be quoted upon request) for detail layouts and designs.

## 

## Tapping the Grid-tuning Circuit.

Q.-I notice that in many present day receivers, especially in sets using screen-grid valves, that the grid-tuning circuit of the first valve is tapped so that the full voltage of the incoming signal is not applied between the grid and filanent. The explanation given is that this increases the selectivity of tuning, but surely if the inductance
across the grid-filament circuit is reduced and the voltage applied between grid and filament is reduced this tends to flatten tuning instead of increasing selectivily? I should like your views on the subject in case $I$ am on the wrong track: -S. A. (Exeter).
A. -No matter how selective a tuning circuit may be, there is always a certain amount of interference from other stations. If the tuning circuit itself is first made as selective as possible and signals from some station still interfere, then, provided that the required station's signals are stronger than those of the interfering station, one can afford to reduce the strength of the desired station's signals in an effort to climinate signals from the interfering station. By tapping the grid circuit inductance the voltage variations obtainable from a desired station are certainly reduced, but this also applies to the already weaker voltage variations of the interfering station and we ultimately get much more selective results. It is not detrimental to reduce the voltage of an incoming signal as applied to the grid circuit of a first valve when using screened-grid H.F a mplifying valves as the latter give such enormous amplification that some reduction in initial energy is permissible.-A. L.
Long or Short Earth Leads.
Q. - A short earth lead is always advised but I find that I get best reaction resulis with a long earth lead. Can you explain this?
A.-A short earth lead is best as long as efficiency is not jeopardised by the nature of the earth itself. The earth is of primary importance.-L. C.

MR. FLEX IS TOLD HOW A LOOSE JOINT IS DISCOVEIREB-

-AND IS LEFT GUESSING AS TO HOW TT LS MADE!



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## Tannoy Electrolytic H.T. Unit

VALV'E rectifiers for high-tension work are in such general use now that one is liable to overlook the properties of the electrolytic rectifier; this latter instrument does its work efficiently and has certain advantages over the valve type.

We have tested an H.T. mains unit incorporating a full-wave electrolytic rectifier which in conjunction with a suitable step-down transformer, smoothing system and potential divider, forms a complete H.T. mains unit.

Each unit is supplied with a packet of special salts, which can be dissolved in distilled water and poured into the glass cell. After this simple process, the eliminator is ready for work and will give a constant steady output with a backgroupd of silence.

The model tested is known as type 16 CH and sells at 75 s. Tested on a valve set, we obtained an output of 30 milliamps at


Tannoy Electrolytic H.T. Unit
150 yolts, which is above that supplied by the average eliminator. One of the most noticeable points about this eliminator was the absence of hum. Another model is also marketed, type 12 CH , which is capable of supplying from 30 to 120 volts at a smaller load. During our tests, we actually short-circuited the final output terminals of the unit, obtaining a discharge of approximately 100 milliamps without any harm occurring to the unit!-

The makers are the Tulsemere Manufacturing Co., of Tulsemere Road, West Norwood, S.E. 27.

## British General Transformer

THE British General low-frequency transformer markefed by British General Manufacturing Co., of Brockley Works, BWockley; S.E.4, kás bien on the market for a considerable period and is well known to readers. The latest model is a massive instrument having good characteristics and capable of efficient performance in low-frequency amplifiers.

The windings and iron core are housed in a nickel-plated container. Four large terminals are mounted on a brown moulded panel on which the necessary lettering is


British General Transformer clearly marked. The instrument has an imposing appearance.
Tested on the laboratory inductance bridge, the primary was found to have an inductance of $14: 5$ henries with a polarising current of 3 milliamps, and 11.8 henries with a polarising current of 8 milliamps. These figures are quite high when one takes into account the step-up ratio of $5-\mathrm{I}$, whilst there is no evidence of serious saturation even with a polarising current of 8 milliamps flowing through the primary
The component is priced at 18 s . 6 d . and can be recommended to readers.

## Gambrell Voluvernia

FOR adequate control of the volume of sound in a receiver, it is often desirable to use a variable high resistance. This must give a smooth variation over the whole range and should be steady and silent in action.
With the object of providing a reliable resistance for gramophone work and general volume control in a wireless set, Gambrell Bros., of 76 Victoria Street, S.W.i; have introduced their Voluvernia. This is a panel mounting component operated by' an


## Gambre:l Voluvernia

insulated knob which rotates an arm over a resistance element. Due to the design of this element a constant resistance is obtained at all settings, whilst there is no rapid decrease of resistance towards the minimum position, thus ensuring a fine control over volume output.

The component is smooth in action and
on test gave a reliable range varying from 500 ohms up to 2 megohms. This is quite a wide range and the component should appeal to readers.

## Aeron Centre-tapped Coil

CENTRE-TAPPED coils are used in a 1 variety of circuits and to facilitate the employment of such circuits with ordinary plug-in coils, special centretapped coils are made up by some manufacturers.

An ingenious coil and coil-holder have been submitted for test by Ronald $S$. Mann, of Dalmeny Road, Bournemouth East. This coil, which is known ás the Aeron coil, is of conventional construction as far as the standard plug and sockets are concerned. The socket, however, carries on its side a metal strip while in a corresponding position on the plug is a second metal strip connected to the tapping point


## Aeron Centre-tapped Coll

on the coil. The act of plugging the coil in brings the two strips into contact and a good rubbing action is obtained, so giving a self-cleaning contact.
The device is neat and satisfactory in operation. We think it should certainly prove attractive to readers as it obviates any necessity for flexible connections. The contact from the pin, socket, and centre contact strip of the socket are made with soldering tags. We think the component would be improved if terminals were incorporated.

The Minister of Communications at Shanghai has ordered all Chinese oceangoing steamships of 500 tons and over to .install radio equípment.

With the aid of the new wireless station at Louisburg; Nova Scơta, fishing fleets daily receive reports on the quantity of frozen bait in storage, quantity of fresh and unfrozen bäit arailable, iée conditions, etc.


Obtainable from your Local Dealer or direct from :BULITHONE 38, HOLYWELL LANE, LONDON


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MANUFACTURING CO. LTD., Brockley Works, London, S.E.4.


ANY reader who possesses a receiving set provided with at least one stage of high-frequency amplification will have a splendid chance this Christmas of making radio play a big:part in the festivities of the season. There will be carols, of course, from the local station, as well as from 5 GB and 5 XX ; but why not hear them also sung in other countries which celebrate Christmas as heartily as we do?

## A Wide Choice

In France, Spain, Italy, and other Latin lands Christmas is not regarded generedly as a season for great rejoicing; the chief winter festivals there are New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. For a real Christmassy Christmas we must turn with the wireless set to the Teutonic countries.

Luckily, these countries are well provided with wireless stations of medium and high power, numbers of which are very well received in this country. We have therefore a fine chance of seeing how Christmas is kept in countries such as Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, and Austria.

## The Christmas Programmes

At the time of writing, the Christmas programmes have not been published in detail. The star turns in the programmes of most Continental stations, though, take place betweety p.m. and so p.m., and we shall be sure of hearing carols and other Christmas ifems if we make a search on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, between these hours. It is likely, too, that

# Christmas Carols from Afar 

Stations to Search for at Christmas

By R. W. HALLOWS

in many cases a late night will be the rule on Christmas Eve; so that searching for foreign stations may continue until the liands of the clock are on their way towards midnight.

If you are planning a Cliristmas radio evening, avoid two errors that are frequently made. First of all, don't search olindly without having any idea of what you are going for. Secondly, whatever you do, don't treat your friends to a couple of bars from one station, a note or two from the next, half a verse of a carol from a third, and so on.

## Making a Selection

As regards the first point-that of going for definite stations-the wise man will spend an hour or two on evenings before Christmas in discovering which of the stations in the countries already named are best heard in his locality. He will find probably that some are weak, others are constantly heterodyned, and others again suffer, more often than not, from the effects of spark jamming or mush. These will be ruled out of the programme and no time will be wasted tuning them in when the great night arrives. On the other hand, he will discover, too, that there are many stations whose signal strength is excellent, whilst it is the exception rather than the rule for their transmissions to be spoilt by one of the various kinds of interference. These he will jot down, together with their wavelengths and-if he is really wise-.. their condenser settings.

Having selected, say, eight or ten probable stations, the next thing to do is to make out a little time-table as soon as the Christmas programmes are published. From these programmes the very best items should be selected and the stations giving them should be tuned in at the right moment. Unless a selection of the kind iș made, one may easily find oneself tuning in one of the strongest and best Continental stations just too late for the star turn.

But the time-table should be rather more elaborate than has been indicated so far. We cannot yet say: "On December 24, at 7.15 p.m., I will turn to (say) Hamburg and be certain of finding him coming in perfectly" Wireless still has its little uncertainties. It may happen that one of the 400 -metre group is working rather below his wavelength or that $5 \mathbf{X X}$ is rather strong in his fourth harmonic. In self-defence, Hamburg makes a little alteration in his wavelength, only to find that he is getting mixed up with Toulouse. Or, again, there may be spark signals about. .

Have, thercfore, at least two strings to
your bow; it is spunder policy to have three. Rule off your time-table into three columns, and opposite 7.15 p.m. show not only Hamburg, but also two other wellreceived stations whose programmes contain suitable items at that time. Then, if your first selection lets you down, there is always the second or third to fall back upon.

The choice of stations will depend considerably upon the locality in which the receiving set is situated. On or near the coast, for example, it is highly unlikely that a station such as Koenigsberg will be chosen, since his wavelength of 303.6 metres is rather too close to the lower commercial wavelength to be quite comfortable. Inland, however, Koenigsberg is often very well received. Southerners wilt find that the German and Dutch stations are, on the whole, better than the Scandinavians; in the north, Oslo, Stockholm, Motala, Kalundborg, and Copenhagen will appear in the first column of many timetables; in eastern areas the selection is a very wide one, since so many of the German stations come through with great strength; the farther west the receiving station, the more necessary will it be to make a selection beforehand and to confine oneself to the higher powered stations from the various countries.

## German Stations

Now for some of the stations which may frnd a place on various lists. Let us take the Germans first of all. Here it is most important to remember that there are very few German stations which have not relays on different wavelengths. If, therefore, the parent station is jammed or is badly received for another cause, one of the relays will often come to the rescue: The Berlin programmes are sent out not only from the Voxhaus station on 483.9 nietres, but also from Koenigswusterhausen on 1,649 metres, and sometimes on 1,250 metres. Breslau, on 322.2 metres, is relayed by Gleiwitz, on 329.7 metres; here it is interesting to note that though the parent station is rated at 4 kilowatts, the power of its offspring is no less than 6 kilowatts. Gleiwitz, in fact, is often much better received than Breslau.

## Relays

Similarly in many places in this country it pays to receive the Langenberg programmes from Cologne. The latter station has not the same power rating, but for some queer reason it comes in mucl more powerfully: Langenberg is relayed also by Munster on 250 metres, which is often
(Conlinued on page "ioo2)


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"It is a splendid instrument, absolitely silent in
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In the wide range of "A.W." and "W.M." sets all requirements are anticipated. Below details of a few of the most popular sets are given. If none of them is suitable for you, urite to us giving full particulars and we will-help you.


THE JAMES SPECIAL THREE.-This receiver, designed by Mr. W. James (our Research Consultant), has an exceptional performance. It incorporates new double-waveband aerial and H.F. coils-Mr: James's own design. Switching for the two wavebands is very simple. The circuit comprises screen-grid H.F., detector and transformer-coupled L.F. stages. Really inexpensive to build and run. The special coils can cheaply be made at home by the listener or can be bought.-Blueprint A.W. 156. Price $1 /$-.


THE TOUCHSTONE.--This very remarkable receiver is also the work of Mr. W. James-the designer of the "Everyman Four.' It is a four-valver, with only one tuning dial, and without adjustable reaction it will bring in, at great volume, at least thirty stations on the loud-speaker. Ordinary three-electrode valves are employed, although the coils are of special design. Ask for Blueprint W.M. 109. Price 1/6.


THE RANGER.-This set, on merit, has won a tremendous popularity. It is a four-with screen-grid H.F., detector and R.C. and transformer-coupled L.F. stages-designed for " ranging." It owes its special sensitivity to an improved tuned-anode coupling arrangement which, while permitting a very satisfactory degree of selectivity to be obtained, keeps the receiver stable when only a simple screening arrangement is employed.-Blueprint A.W.145. Price 1/6


THE HOME-AND-ABROAD TWO. This highly popular "A.W." receiver largely owes its popularity to its versatility. By means of three plug-in coils, the short, medium, and long waves can be brought in. The detector valve, to which Reinartz reaction is applied, is coupled to the I.F. valve through a transformer. Short- and long-wave chokes in series solved the problem of efficient choking for all waves.-Blueprint A.W. 77. Price 1/-.


THE SCREEN-GRID "Q "-COIL 3 was specially designed by our Technical Editor, Mr. J. H. Reyner, to fulfil the wide demand for a screen-grid threevalve receiver employing " $Q$ " coils. It therefore has the great advantages which the " $Q$ " coils give-long and short wavebands available by the flick of a switch and reduction of direct " pickup" are only two. The receiver is delightfully: simple.-Blueprint A.W. 150. Price 1/-.

## OUR blueprint SERVICE

For every published description of an "Amateur Wireless" receiver, there is available a full-size blueprint giving panel and baseboard dimensions and layouts, as well as point-to-point wiring instructions. The blueprints can be used as paneldrilling.templates and form a ready reference as to the sequence of wiring. Experienced constructors can build from the blueprints alone but others are advised to obtain the issue in which the set was described. Send a P.O. and receive the blueprint by return


THE METEOR TWO.-Here is a set for the beginner. It is a very simple to build and easy to operate two-valver of exceptional power for only two valves. On a small indoor aerial in London it will bring in 5 GB at full loud-speaker volume without interference from 2 LO . It incorporates a simple all-wave tuner. Valves : detector and one L.F., transformer coupled. A good set with which to start.-Blueprint W.M. 114. Price 1/-.


THE ALL-PURPOSE SHORT-WAVE THREE.-This receiver is a three-valve version of the "Home and Abroad Two." It has two L.F. stages employing the usual coupling. The design and layout are quite original and fully achieve their purpose. A very attractive Marconiphone ccil holder and adaptors for longand short-wave coils are used. A set tested and recommended.-Blueprint A.W. 147. Price $1 /=$

Build a Lissen S.G. 3 Receiver before Christmas, and you can hear the Christmas Greetings from practically every important station in Europe. Because this new receiver actually does "Span the Eastern Hemisphere." The stations mentioned in the column on the left are only a very small number out of those that have actually been logged.
Lissen have published a STEP-BY-STEP Chart which shows you how to build the Lissen Screened-grid Receiver in six simple steps. Every detail is explained to you and yet you are not tied down to buying "a complete kit of parts." If you already have in a previous receiver some of the standard Lissen parts required,
you can make use of then again for this latest development of you can make use of thenl again for this latest development of
radio. Lissen leave it to you to select your own cabinet, merely radio. Lissen leave it to you to select your own cabinet, merely cablnet damps the tuning; and you choose whatever make of valve you like. Panel, baseboard, aluminium screens and all the suniries you require for the Lissen S.G. 3 are sold complete in an envelope obtainable from any radio dealer for $10 /$. Ask for the FREE STEP-BY-STEP Chart of the Lissen S.G. 3 Receiver; or send the coupon on the left direct to factory for it.

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If you prefer it, you can buy
the Lissen S.G.3 receiver al.
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Please send we the FREE STEP-BT-STEP CHART of the S.G. 3 Receiver.
N.AME ADDRESS


THE variety hour, arranged for the London studio on December i3, will include turns by Cicely Courtneidge, Harry Helmsley; the child impersonator, and Florence Oldham; on the same evening listeners will be switched over to the Palladium Music Hall for a stár feature.

Moonshine is the title of a new radio show. now in rehearsal for transmission from Daventry 5 GB on December 22 ; for its interpretation well-known broadcasting artistes have been engaged.

Franz von Hoesslin, the present conductor of the Festiyal Theatre at Bayreuth (Germany), has been invited to London to direct the fifth of the B.B.C. Symplony Concerts at the Queen's Hall on December 14. The programime will consist mainly of selections from. Wagner's compositions.

La, Farel Bleike (The Blue Forest), an opera by Fràncois Aubèrt, produced at Geneva in 1912, will be heard for the first time in England when it is broadcast from ${ }_{5} \mathrm{~GB}$ on December 17; the London and Daventry stations will transmit a repeat performance on December 19.

Owing to a severe explosion which recently took place at the municipal generating station, the Rennes station, for lack of electric current, has been compelled to close down until December 10.
A relay of the Stockholm broadcast. programmes is now available to owners of short-wave receivers; although for the present the transmissions are not made nightly, but at irregular intervals, the highpower station at Motala broadcasts them simultaneously on 1,363 and 99 metres.

Alleged Spurious High-frequency Chokes-Robert William Coles (32), a traveller, of Angell Road, Brixton, was charged on remand at the Lambeth Police Court on November 24 with selling highfrequency chokes to which a false trade description, namely, "Lissen," had been applied. The prosecution alleged that the prisoner knew that the articles he supplied were spurious and that he was closely concerned in their manufacture, evell if he did not in fact manufacture them himself, and that the spurious product was a gross fraud upon the public, and a shocking fraud upon Lissen, Ltd., because their name was applied to an article that was absolutely aseless. The prisoner was remanded for a week, bail for his appearance being fixed at one surety in 6.500 or two in $f .250$ each.

A new wireless telegraphy and telephony station has been erected at Middlelkerke, near Ostend, reserved for aircraft traffic crossing the English Channel. Signals can be picked up of $900,1,400$ and 1,680 metres.'
FXCT is the call sign adopted by the

Major Court Treatt Sudan Expedition; the transmitter operates on 30 metres. It is stated that regular transmissions will be carried out on every Sunday evening between 6 and 8.30 p.m. G.M.T.

Pre-war Germany's only direct wireless communication was with the United States. Now Germany possesses direct communication with Argentina, Brazil, -Japan, Manchuria, Siam and Sumatra.

## BROADCAST TELEPHONY



 ROM Claude Lyons, Ltd., of 76 Old Hall Street, Liverpool, we have received a copy of a 20 -page booklet, profusely illustrated, dealing with the Clarostat. It is full of information and many useful circuits are given. This is free to any reader on

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The B.B.C. calls us all "howlers"
U's Sunday-night Continent prowlers: But us soon as it's dark
He get nothing but Bach-
Which is worse than the bite of the gromers I
B. Mrereditir.

CRUEL:
A bachelor fan, so 'tis said,
Fixed his set to listen in bed;
But the talks and wails
And the thrice-told tales
Make him think he's married instead
R. B. Darby.

HIGHBROW
There zras once a yourng mon who said: "Hark I Ther've transmitling this roar for a lerk.

But his neighbour "highbrow"
Shouted sladly':"I come"
'Tis that wonderful prolude b. Bach !'
G. Boshell.

## NOT IRE-LESS !

The programme director seems tireless In pushing out "school" on the vireless;

There's too many a programme
Sans Flotsam and Jetsam
And Squire-less or Clapham and Duper-less.
J. J. Livett.


## RESOURCE

Said the Doc. to the Nurse: "Oh, dear, dear" There's no chloroform left- that is clear

Switch on to the local
And. I're no तloubt, folk'll
Go under with 'ether' so queer! J. Gilmartin.

## ONE FOR

## REVENGE

If the B.B.C. gets through 10 Mars Look out for electrical jars;

For if Mastians should hear
Their progranmes-I fear They'll make this oid plonet see stars!

## II. E. Middeleton.


G. Jonis.

## WISE

A very' stern critic named Bonncing
IF as offered a job of amomeing By the wily B.C.,
But, wilier, he
Preferred to stick solely to trouncing.

## DISCORD!

A detector and two L.F. set
Received an " advanced" string. quartet.
Cried V2 : "' You're distorting !
The detector said, snorting
"This'd wreck an cight-valve superhet!" J. A. Gray.

## Buy a large capacity battery this Christmas

It never would do to take risks with your H.T. over Christmas. Make sure with a Marconiphone dry battery the extra large capacity means full strength reception over a surprising number of hours. One battery bought now will last you far on into the new year, and give sparkling


Marconiphone High
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9 -volt
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## BROADCASTING HOUSE

## THE PROPOSED NEW

 HOME OF THE B.B.C.THE new home of the London headquarters of the B.B.C. will, at last, be worthy of the broadcasting organisation of this country. Savoy Hill has always been a thern in the side of any B.B.C. development,


What Broadcasting House will look like for the present premises are too cramped and have been added to, as possible, cur-
rent with broadcasting progress. The result is that there is no architectural system at Savoy Hill, and some of the departments are housed in premises in adjoining streets.
By 193I, however, all this will be changed, for the new Broadcasting House at Portland Place, Oxford Circus, will be completed. It is estimated that the new building will provide more than 100,000 square feet of useful floor space.

The provision of studios is naturally the primary consideration. Of the nine studios, four will be more than double the size of the largest studio at Savoy Hill, which is 44 ft . by 25 ft . In addition to these, there will be a "super" studio, three storeys high, which, together ivith its gallery, will be capable of accommodating an audience of r,000 as well as a large orchestra. All the latest ideas of acoustical treatment are to be embodied in this studio.
The studios and their suites will be insulated from all external noise. They will be grouped one above the other in a vast central tower of heavy brickwork, ventilated artificially and shielded from street noises by the complete outer layer of offices. Wide corridors and thick brick walls will insulate the studios from the offices. In order to eliminate sound interference between studios, the central tower will contain no vertical steelwork.

To each of the four large studios will be attached a suite comprising a waiting. room, band-room, engineers' room, announcers' room, listening room, and echo room. There will be eight rehearsal


This map shows the proposed situation
rooms, six waiting-rooms, a reception suite and a special dramatic effects studio.

The cost of the new premises will be between $£ 400,000$ and $£ 500,000$, and the enterprise is being financed by a syndicate on terms favourable to the B.B.C., which retains an option to purchase.

TT'S the emission that matters - and the emission of the Triotron Dark Emitter filament is seven times greater than in


Cyldon Synchratune System specified for the Binowave Four


Mr. W. James' first Screenel-grid receiver, the Binowave ${ }^{4}$ incorporates Cyldon Synchratune Condensers. They
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Editor does not necessarily agree zuith the views expressed by correspondents.

## The Linen Loud-speaker

CIR,-I note your correspondent who $\checkmark$ signs himself L. P. (Launceston) asks for ideas in regard to decorating your linen loud-speaker.

I have constructed the improved model with baffle box, and permit me to endorse his remarks with cmphasis as to the quality obtainable from it.

The baffle I have had made of mahogany three-ply, and I am having it polished. On the front will be fixed a fretwork grill of a design similar to a church window. This will also be french polished, and immediately behind this will be a piece of amber silk. A. W. T. (Nottingham).

The "Three-Waveband 2 "
QIR,-You will be very pleased to hear that the set, "The Three-waveband 2 ," is a very remarkable set, and coming across the Bay of Biscay the stations on the medium wavelength simply rolled in.

I can with all faith recommend the set to anyone requiring a really good set.

> F. E. G. (ss. Petworth, Vigo).
[Owing to the demands upon our space in this issue we regret that it has been necessary to hold over a large number of letters.-Ed.]

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## "RADIO CAROLS FROM AFAR"

(Continued from page 980)
a fine transmission. Munich, on 536.6 metres, is well served by Kaiserslautern, on 279.4 mctres, and Nürnberg on $2^{2} 4^{2}$ metres. The last is, at the present time, one of the strongest and most reliable of all Continental signals.

Programmes from the Danish station Copenhagen are, on the whole, pretty well received in this country; but should there be jamming in the neighbourhood of 337 metres a change can always be made to $\mathrm{I}, 680$ metres, upon which wavelength Kalundborg, the 7.5 kilowatt relay, operates.
Sweden is very well off for broadcasting stations. Stockholm, on 543.t metres, has a very powerful infant in Motala, on r,363.6 metres, with 20 kilowatts behind him. The programmes are also relayed by Gothenburg, on $4^{16.6}$ metres; Malmoe, on 260.1 metres; and Sundsvall, on 545.5 metres.
Holland has two big stations-Hilversum, on 1,071 metres, and Huizen, which works on 340.9 metres until $5.40 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$. and afterwards on 1,875 metres. Vienna is practically the only Austrian station well heard in this country. Radio-Wein transmits upon two wavelengths-579.I and 517.2 metres.

It will be seen from what has been said that the choice of Christnas stations is a wide one.

## " MAKING A STATIONFINDING METER"

(Continued from page 942)
first locating the two points obtained from the known stations' wavelengths and wavemeter-dial readings, and then drawing a straight line between these two points.
If possible, a third check reading should


## Calibration Chart of Station-finding Meter

be obtained, and when located on the graph this point should, of course, fall on the straight line. The wavemeter can then be brought into use for checking the wavelengths of unknown stations.

## The first ROYAL AIR FORCE SALE for theee years has enabled us to acquire an emormous stock of the finest Wireless and Electrical Apparatus that has ever been available to the public. Al is of the highest possiblo the biggest bargain ever offered to "Anateur Wire less" readers. Call if you can. <br> The sale period is limited and crders should be placed early or you will be disappointed. Preliminary list below. <br> L.T. Accumulators, celluloid, 4 volts 40 amp., 107 . H.T.

 in ebonite, $1,000 \mathrm{~m}$. a. hours, 60 volis, 19/6; 90 volts, $29 / 6$ 120 volts, $39 /-03$ volis Inert Dura. 13 . Cell Fillers, $1 / 6$. Hydrometers, $1 / \%$. Thermomsters, $1 / \%$.Transmitters. R.A.F. 1 -in. spark, with A.T.I. and all fittings in polished mahogany cass. Cost £15. Sale 15/1C0 watts, $25 /=; 250$ watts, $50 / \mathrm{m} .2$ Valve Aircraft ditto, with Osram valves; speech or morse, $40 /-$ each. No. 1 Tapping with aluninium cover, double conlait. fine work, $7 / 6$ each With alurninium cover, double conlait, fine work, 8/6 each. Mors: Recordsrs, for making picture receivers, 35/- each. Spark Gaps, 2'-
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Meters, Milliammeters, all ranges, 15;- to 22/6; 0 to 500 volts, 45 / . Weston Meters, all ranges to 1,600 volts, all
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## Wireless Products



## THE DOUBLE RANGE TUNER

HAVING first wished all our many friends the Compliments of the Season, we will go one further and suggest one or two ways in which they can make it a successful Radio Season.

Successful radio is trouble-free radio, and that receiving set gives least trouble whose component parts have been designed by experts and made by people who understand their work.

Watmel components, as well as Watmel complete receivers, are en'oying this year a greater popularity than ever before, and they owe this popularity to a widespread recognition of their sterling merit.

The Double Range Tuner shown above solves all tuning problems and does away with all coil changing. It is ideal for sets designed to operate on the broadcasting ranges of 250 to 600 or 1,000 to 2,000 metres. Change from one range to the other is effected simply by a push-pull switch. Fine tuning and reaction controls are effected by two .0005 variable condensers.

Each of these highly efficient tuners is sold accompanied by a wiring diagram showing how it is only necessary to connect them up to two variables, two valves, and a transformer to have a complete two-valve receiving set.

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This Double Range Tuner is supplied complete with instructions and push-pull switch, for


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