

Radio Round the World

IN a Bill recently brought before the Austrian Parliament there will be clauses making punishable the use of high frequency apparatus for message of other purposes in such a way that the reception of radio broadcasting is interfered with.

CHRISTMAS in Sweden began in reality with Sunday, December 23, the Christmas Eve traditionally being a holiday. And so did the Christmas-wireless programme. On Sunday a whole-day programme was offered, including a choir concert from Goteberg with old Swedish Christmas songs, culminating in an evening performance of Maeterlinck's drama, "Pelleas and Melisande," with incidental music by Sibelius. Christmas Day a whole-day programme of serious character was presented, and Boxing Day a light programme. In the former was a studio performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's Christmas Oratorio and a programme for Swedes abroad, including a talk by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernst Trygger.

ON Saturday, December 15, Ravag introduced a novelty in the shape of a "Subject" evening, that chosen for this occasion being "An Autumn Storm." At 6.15 there was a lecture by Dr. Robert Horsch, with musical illustrations of a storm over land and sea, followed by the full weather reports and prospects, which are of special interest at this time of year to winter sport enthusiasts, and then came a four-act drama by Ivo Vojnovic, called "Aequinoctium" (Equinox), the keynote of which is emigration and storms in foreign climes. Vienna weather reports are remarkably full, the snow-depth at all the Austrian sport centres of any importance, of which there are scores, being given regularly every Saturday night. These "subject evenings" are given fortnightly.

OBJECTIONS, in the form of questions, in the Second Chamber, have been made to the erection of the new Philips Holland-India transmitter at Huizen, now nearing completion. The chief of these objections is that with a high power, this transmitter will overpower the existing transmitters at Huizen and Hilversum. It is suggested that the granting of a license for such a transmitter is contrary to the Dutch Telegraph and Telephone Law which enacts that the available time for transmission—which is scarcely sufficient to meet demands—shall be divided between the various broadcast associations. At the same time it is asked whether, supposing the new transmitter to be merely an experimental one, the Minister is prepared to grant a similar license to the religious associations which own the existing station at Huizen.

THE whole of Canada is kept in daily touch with the farthest of her northern inhabitants through the radio apparatus assembled on the top floor of an inconspicuous building in the heart of Ottawa, amidst the clanging of street cars and the tooting of automobiles. Here the Department of

Marine and Fisheries have their radio installation, which is in daily contact with Cape Hope's Advance, Ungava Bay, Hudson Straits. Signals come in with enough volume from this Far North point to be put on the loud-speaker and heard through the greater part of the three-storied building. A short-wave receiver, especially adapted by the Canadian Government radio department to the particular needs of this reception, brings in the signals from the 500-watt station overlooking the Hudson Straits. A similar 500-watt transmitter stands in front of the Ottawa operator to transmit the orders and questions from the various Government departments to the Far North.

The Future of the Fultograph

GERMANY, France and Austria have now included Fultograph transmissions in regular broadcasting hours as part of the general service of broadcasting. The B.B.C., however, has not yet made up its mind, with the result that Wireless Pictures 1928, Ltd., is in a state of great perplexity.

The issue is coming to a head shortly, when it is believed that Savoy Hill will announce their intention to extend the experimental transmissions over a definite period long enough to encourage the public to buy sets. This step will represent the admission that Fultograph has come to stay in British Broadcasting.

THE month of December saw two important developments in Bavarian broadcasting. The one relates to an innovation in the programme. Every morning at 5.45 a well-known Professor of Biology and Physical Culture of the University of Munich gives listeners the opportunity of going through a series of systematically thought-out physical "jerks" to liven up the system generally and to give all parts and organs of the body an "airing." The second important development is concerned with the general attitude towards broadcasting in Bavaria. Up to December 1 the Bavarian Newspaper Publishers' Union had maintained a ban on anything relating to local broadcasting, including the printing of short abridged programmes as in other German dailies. This ban has now been removed, with the effect that the Bavarian Press will take an active interest in broadcasting and will also print short excerpts of the daily programmes.

THE Paramount Film Company, in conjunction with the Los Angeles "Evening Express," have fitted out one of their studios in Hollywood as a 5 kw. broadcasting station, known as KNX Paramount, Los Angeles (285.5 metres wavelength). The power is to be increased later to 50 kw. The first broadcast was given on Sunday, No-

vember 11. In addition to regular relays from concert halls and theatres, the new station will chiefly broadcast talks on film questions. It will also serve as a medium for replying to the numerous letters received from film enthusiasts. The relay of tone-films is foreseen as a future activity of this station.

AUDITIONS for the free concert-radio "debuts" offered by the National Broadcasting Company for young artists selected by the National Music League began with a list of 1500 applicants. An audition committee of ten was chosen by the League to hear and pass judgment upon the candidates. The final decision as to the winners will rest on a double audition heard by two groups of judges. One group, seated in the auditorium with the artist, will decide on his abilities as a concert performer. The other will hear the performance through a loudspeaker and judge the artist's broadcasting qualifications. Such a final test is essential, because the performances will be of a combined concert and radio nature. However, the

National Music League warns candidates that in its three years of experience with young musicians, it has found that only five per cent. are qualified to undertake musical careers as a means of earning a livelihood. The remaining ninety-five per cent. are doomed to failure, and they are obliged to advise them either to give up music entirely and enter some other profession, or to approach it from the teaching angle.

THE Bavarian stations relayed a ceremony in the Valhalla, near Regensburg, on the Danube, when the bust of Franz Schubert was placed in the famous shrine. The Valhalla is near Kelheim and overlooks the Danube. It was built under Louis I of Bavaria at the beginning of the last century. It is situated on a height and copied from a well-known Greek temple. Busts of all famous Germans are placed in the shrine. Not very long ago the Bavarian stations relayed the ceremony from there when the bust of "Turnvater" Jahn, the father of German athleticism and gymnastics, was placed there.

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