

MANY amateurs use two earth contacts of different kinds under the impression that such an arrangement gives better results. If a copper and a zinc plate are buried in different positions and connected, an electric cell with its two plates of dissimilar metals is formed. The electrolyte is composed of the moisture and acid in the soil and the outside circuit consists of the earth leads. A microammeter (or even a milliammeter in some cases) placed in one of the earth leads will indicate a flow of current, and this current can be produced only by disintegration of one of the plates. Further, such an arrangement may quite possibly be the cause of background noises in a sensitive receiving set.