

ONE of the "tallest" wireless stories on record is related with a due amount of scepticism in "Time and Tide." It appears that in the early hours of a recent morning a listener endeavouring to get America was surprised to receive, at exceptional strength a programme of classical music. This roused his curiosity, as American radio programmes at this time are usually devoted to classical music, and it was increased when he heard the items announced in English as spoken in England. He wrote down the particulars of the music performed with the object of identifying the transmitting station. The mystery deepened when he obtained proof that the programme had not emanated from any station working at the hour he heard it. His astonishment may be judged when, after what "must have been a weary search, he discovered that the programme 'tallied' exactly with one broadcast from 2LO in 1927, two years previously! Here, indeed, was an echo from the depths of space which might well frighten the boldest. For how many programmes could we endure twice? "

PROBABLY the best cables in the world for broadcasting purposes are those now in use in Germany. The German Post Office has worked hand in hand with the broadcasting authorities in the production of cables specially suitable for musical transmissions, and the result is the evolution of a new form of cable in the centre of which are several heavily insulated lines reserved exclusively for broadcasting purposes. It is stated that relays with the new cable, which runs from Berlin to Cologne, are singularly free from extraneous noises and distortion. The British Post Office is watching the experiment with interest, and it is highly probable that similar tests may be carried out over here.

ALTHOUGH doubts are frequently expressed as to whether television will at any reasonable date become a practical proposition, many of the leading radio and picture concerns in different parts of the world are taking time by the forelock and are forming alliances which will put them into a favourable position should television ever be called for by the public. According to the president of the Columbia Radio Broadcast concern, radio broadcasting and talking pictures, together with the development of television, will bring about a state of affairs between radio and movies similar to that which exists between the gramophone and radio; in other words, it cannot, in his opinion, be very long before radio, gramophone, kinema and the television interests are merged together. A merger of this kind opens up a tremendous vista as to what the future may hold in store. Already it is possible by radio, and in a perfectly simple and practical way, to "tell the world," and if it should become possible for a world audience not only to hear, but simultaneously to see, it would mean, in a very real sense, the annihilation of space.

A DISCUSSION has lately been taking place in some of the French radio journals on the question of multi-valve sets (up to seven or eight valves) as against the three-valve and four-valve sets which enjoy such popu-

larity in England. Apparently the contention of the French papers is that multi-valve sets are not really necessary, although French listeners seem to have been led into the belief that they are necessary owing to the broadcast system not being efficient. The French papers are now urging that these multi-valve sets are being forced upon the public by the manufacturers, whereas three and four-valve sets as used in this country would be amply sufficient for the needs of the average listener, notwithstanding anything that may be said about the broadcast system. The controversy has assumed quite a lively character, and it seems likely that the upshot will be that the manufacturers will have to accommodate themselves to the now enlightened public.

THE ordinary methods having failed, the South African Government has decided upon a drastic measure to secure adequate revenue for the broadcasting services. According to "South Africa," the Government have in view the abolition of the present licence fees, substituting a 25 per cent. duty on the importation of all wireless goods. While the Government will retain 8 per cent., the balance will in all probability be handed over to the African Broadcasting Company. It is felt that a system on these lines will not only popularise wireless, but compel the erstwhile "pirate" to contribute indirectly to the broadcasting service or give up listening altogether.

"WIRED RADIO" will shortly be a household term in America if success attends the plans of the new Wired Radio Corporation which is about to launch its scheme publicly at the Cleveland Electrical Exhibition. The company will there display for sale a small box-shaped attachment, containing a frequency filter, which can be attached to any existing radio receiver and permit its owner a choice of three programmes sent over the ordinary electric light wires by three-phase high-frequency transmitters. One of the inducements offered to the listener is the absence of all advertising matter in the wired radio programmes; it is also pointed out that the transmissions will be completely free from atmospheric and other forms of disturbance.

THE trans-Atlantic telephone service has just lately been extended in Canada to include Saskatoon, which is in the province of Saskatchewan. It is a comparatively short time since the service was extended at the European end to include Dublin, Belfast, and the Isle of Man. As time goes on this service will be extended to include various other parts of Europe not yet

accessible, and it is intended to bring into the scheme the more remote parts of Canada.

MUCH has been heard about the installation of radio receiving sets on long-distance Continental trains, but the latest from Berlin is to the effect that even the buses running out into the suburbs are to be equipped similarly with receivers and loud-speakers. One would have thought that the noise of the bus itself and also the general street noises would have precluded any chance of entertainment from loud-speakers whilst the bus was in motion. Possibly the buses are very silent, or the loud-speakers very loud.

A WELL-KNOWN American lighting engineer, Dr. Luckiesh, has worked out an ingenious system of lighting whereby, at the touch of a switch, he can apparently "convert" the scenery in the broadcasting studio, so that whereas at one moment it may represent the interior of a church, at the next moment it resembles an amphitheatre. U.S. broadcast engineers and producers seem to attach great importance to having the right "effects" in the broadcast studio, as, although these cannot have any direct effect upon listeners, they believe that they play an important part in giving the right atmosphere which indirectly affects what gets over the microphone.

ONE of the latest contracts secured by a well-known British radio manufacturing concern is for the erec-

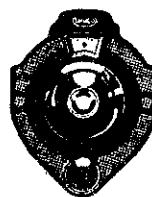
tion of a high-power broadcasting station at Reykjavik, Iceland. A special feature of this station is that it will be used not only for broadcasting but also for the transmission of telegraphy. The power in the aerial is intended to be 15 k.w., and the circuit is specially arranged for the dual function of broadcasting and telegraphy. Incidentally, the thousandth anniversary of the discovery of Iceland is due; and it is hoped to open the new station on this auspicious occasion.

WORK in connection with the construction of Broadcasting House, the B.B.C.'s new headquarters, is progressing rapidly. The studios will not merely be studios, but super-studios. The biggest will be a concert hall, where there will be room for 1000 people, in addition to an orchestra of 100 members. There will also be two more studios twice the size of the biggest now in use at Savoy Hill, as well as two suites of four studios, for drama, a suite of six smaller studios for broadcast talk, news, gramophone, etc. There will also be four large rehearsal rooms, which could be used, if the necessity arose, as studios. Direct telephone communication will be established with Brookman's Park, and, in all, Broadcasting House will be the finest example of its kind in the world.

ONE of the first hotels to have its own broadcasting studio is the Chateau Laurier, at Ottawa, belonging to the Canadian National Railways. The enterprising management of this hotel have had a complete broadcasting studio fitted up in the hotel, together with a public address system; this is intended in the ordinary way to provide a service throughout the hotel itself, so that entertainments enacted in the studio can be received by visitors who so desire. At the same time, however, the studio may be connected up with the Ottawa broadcasting station or with any of the broadcasting stations operated by the Canadian National Railways between Halifax and Vancouver.

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