

A RESEARCH development fund for the purpose of studying conditions above the Heaviside Layer, 75 to 200 miles above the earth, has been established in America. It is intended to shoot special rockets carrying recording instruments to the stratosphere to record conditions in the higher altitudes.

SEVERAL railway stations in the British Isles have installed loudspeakers for speedy communication of traffic news to passengers. Usually one microphone is installed in the main signal box, with another in the stationmaster's office. Loudspeakers are installed at platform entrances and in the booking hall. On the Continent this idea is in widespread use, and at the central station in Amsterdam a most successful installation has just been erected.

EXTREMELY short waves (between seven and eight metres) are being employed by the British military services for radio communication between armoured tanks and headquarters. A specially designed transmitter and receiver, mounted in a shock-proof teak case, is employed. A twelve-foot copper rod mounted vertically is employed as an aerial.

"WHAT salary do American announcers receive?" In reply to this question a representative of the National Broadcasting Company remarked: "The announcer's regular salary is purely nominal. For announcing commercial programmes, however, he may receive as much as £50 per week—from each advertiser."

IT is often somewhat aggravating to tune into a station to hear no sound and be left wondering whether



one has happened upon a prolonged interval or whether the fault lies in the tuning. On the Continent this difficulty is overcome by the use of a metronome, which is set in operation during breaks in the programme. The idea could with advantage be adopted by New Zealand stations.

WHENEVER a serious marine disaster occurs and the crew and passengers are saved through the medium of radio, we realise the immense importance of the latter as a life-saver, but it is perhaps not generally known how the loss of life at sea has been reduced since radio was applied to ocean travel. During the period 1871 to 1910, the average annual loss of life to passengers at sea was 231; for the period 1921 to 1928 the annual average was only 15, and in two of those years not a single passenger was lost!

BROADCASTING in Egypt is limited to a few transmissions of gramophone records by radio dealers owning small transmitters. Nevertheless, there is in the land of the Pharaohs a vivid interest in radio, although the nearest station, situated at Stamboul, Turkey, is 2080 miles away. This transmitter is regarded with pride by the major portion of the Egyptian listen-

ers as their "local station." Other stations listened to are Charkow and Moscow, while of the West European transmitters Berlin, Vienna, Breslau, Radio-Toulouse, Radio-Paris, Rome and Naples are favourite stations. Multi-valve sets, more often than not equipped with screen-grid valves, are chiefly used for reception, but special short-wave receivers are also extremely popular.

A RECENT development in Java is the installation at the Government radio laboratory at Bandoeng of a picture transmission apparatus. Experimental transmissions have already taken place between Bandoeng and Holland and have proved quite satisfactory. The Government wireless telephone services are extending rapidly, and conversations are now possible with almost every country in Europe. On his recent arrival in the Southern Cross Junior, at Sourabaya, Java, during his long flight from England to Australia, Kingsford Smith was quickly connected up by radiophone to Sydney.

AN exchange of ideas in broadcasting, and the adoption in one country of programme items which are the speciality of another country, are eminently desirable features of the international aspect of broadcasting. England has adopted and broadcast a great deal of American dance music. On the other hand, certain English ideas in regard to educational broadcasting have apparently favourably impressed American radio authorities, for a new National Advisory Council on Radio in Education has recently been formed there. Its object is "to further the development of the art of radio broadcasting in American education."

DURING a recent investigation into the financial situations of the more powerful American stations, the

Federal Radio Commission found that only one-half of them were making money. Of twenty stations applying for an increase in power, ten showed an average yearly profit of about \$5800. The other ten showed an annual average deficit of about \$10,800. It was found that as much as 70 per cent. of the programme service over these twenty stations is free, the remaining time being taken by commercial sponsors who pay for time. The average advertising rate per hour for a 5 k.w. station is \$62 during evening hours, and the monthly income from advertising sources averages about \$4300 per station. The average total monthly operating costs of each station are \$4400. Salaries account for nearly \$3800 of all expenses, artists' fees accounting for two-thirds of this sum.

RADIO announcing this year made its debut as a college study when the University of Iowa enrolled students for a course in broadcasting. The school's radio station is utilised to train each individual in diction, quality of voice and other requisites of the efficient broadcaster.

FOR the benefit of his customers, the driver of a horse-drawn bakery wagon in Buffalo, N.Y., has equipped the vehicle with a radio-receiving set. While soliciting orders, he also supplies his customers with the latest news announcements.

MR. H. G. WELLS, the celebrated novelist, gave a wireless talk to American listeners from his home recently. A circuit comprising land-lines and commercial radio channels linked Mr. Wells in London with station WABC and the Columbia network. Typically enough, he chose for his subject, "The World of our Grandchildren."

THE suggestion that wireless broadcasting influences the weather is difficult to entertain. The idea is not new. Even in the days when wireless was very young—before broadcasting was mooted, in fact—radio was blamed for bad seasons. Years before the Great War a deputation of Indian farmers presented a petition to the Viceroy asking that the Government radio station be dismantled, as since its installation the weather has been unseasonable and the loss to farmers excessive. Needless to say, the request was not complied with.

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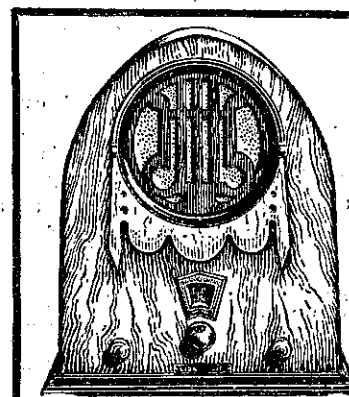
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