

"HE who oscillates is lost" said a London magistrate recently when fining an unlicensed listener, detected as the result of an oscillation complaint.

**D**X-ERS will be interested in a recently-issued Soviet order which states that letters to Russian broadcasting stations need not be stamped.

**B**BROADCASTING station KMTR at Los Angeles plans to hold a radio auction. A new telephone switchboard is being installed so that bids can be accepted at the rate of 1000 per minute.

**T**HE cost of a proposed system of broadcast education throughout Czecho-Slovakia is £144,000. A wireless census just taken shows that 17 per cent. of schools in that country are already fully equipped with radio, while 13 per cent. are prepared to instal it at their own expense. The remaining 70 per cent. will require the sum mentioned if reliable apparatus is to be installed.

**T**HROUGH the agency of ultra-shortwave radiations from a special transmitter, Mr. Robert Pape, of Soest, Holland, claims to be able to arrest decomposition in organic products. The invention consists of a generator of waves of about twenty five centimetres in length, which produce, after about 10 days and within a radius of twenty metres from the machine, an electro-magnetic field in which no organic product can decompose. Eggs, broken on a plate, were kept for several months with not a sign of decay.



**S**HORTWAVE wireless has attracted an unusual number of inventors during the past year, according to the annual report of the London Patents Office. Attention has been concentrated on directional systems employing aerials of beam types. As usual, the problem of fading has also proved a draw. And now, who will tackle atmospherics?

**D**AVID EDWARD HUGHES, the British scientist who discovered electro-magnetic waves, was born on May 36, 1831, and several weeks ago the British Institute of Electrical Engineers held a Hughes' Centenary Commemoration meeting. Although it is now a well-established fact that Hughes did indeed anticipate Hertz in the discovery of the waves, the earlier discovery was at the time regarded as so impossible that it was not announced; to Hertz, therefore, is rightly accorded the honour of being the first publicly to make their existence known.

**T**HE question of adjusting the wireless license fee "in proportion to the privileges enjoyed" was raised recently in the House of Commons at Home, but did not draw a very encouraging answer from Major Atlee, the Postmaster-General. In his reply, Major Atlee said that, with more than 3,600,000 licenses in force, it was essential that the licensing system should be kept as simple as possible. Any arrangement under which the amount of the license fee depended on the type of apparatus employed would introduce many difficulties, and he did not consider that a change would be in the public interest.

**A** SUCCESSFUL demonstration of a new recording apparatus, the Blattnerphone, was recently given in the special recording room which has been set apart at the British Broadcasting Corporation's studios. The magnetised steel tape, which is less than a quarter of an inch wide, is slowly transferred from one drum to another, passing through a pick-up device which re-

sponds to the varying degrees of magnetisation, and reconverts them into current pulses in the amplifier system. Reproduction on the loudspeaker was up to the best gramophone standard, with, of course, the advantage that there was no scratch. Each drum carries enough tape for a twenty minutes' performance.

**B**BROADCASTING in South Africa has been well protected by the Radio Act, but in spite of the stringent provisions of this, considerable piracy is still carried on. Many of these pirates are difficult to trace, especially in a country so large as South Africa, and, although postal officials report on all aerials erected, the use of indoor aerials makes illicit listening possible. At the end of last year there were 25,121 subscribers in all parts of the country, the increase during the last nine months of the year being greater than that made in the three previous years.

**T**WO American amateurs, Carl Miller and Kenneth Smith, recently kept a 24-hour watch at their station, W5AUC, Brooks Field, Texas, with the object of determining how much useful work could be accomplished by a typical transmitter from sunrise to sunrise. According to the American Radio Relay League, they secured contact with every State in the Union, and also communicated with China, Cuba, Canada, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Hawaii, Mexico, Haiti, Tahiti, and Porto Rico.

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